Graduate Placement Exams

Degree-seeking applicants are required to take placement exams in **music history** and **music theory**. Each test is multiple choice, and takes approximately 50 minutes to complete. The tests should be taken on campus during the time of your audition/interview; rarely do we permit them to be given by a proctor in a remote location. The tests must be completed prior to registering for regular courses in history and theory and at least 2 weeks before the start of your first semester of music enrollment. International applicants who may need English study usually will wait to take the placement tests until English study is completed.

**Scheduling**

To schedule these tests, please call our office at 765-285-5502 or email the music graduate secretary, Kathryn McPherson at gradmusic@bsu.edu.

Applicants interested in teaching in the areas of music theory, ear training/sight-singing, or music appreciation as part of their assistantship, should complete these tests by **February 1**. Scores from the tests will be considered in decisions concerning graduate assistantship awards.

**Test Preparation**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review their undergraduate theory and history materials. Websites for review include the excellent pages maintained by W. W. Norton: [www.wwnorton.com/musichistory](http://www.wwnorton.com/musichistory). A helpful site for reviewing theory fundamentals is [www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com).

Applicants should also consult a recent edition of some of the texts and resources listed below.

**Theory Texts**

**Tonal Harmony and Voice Leading**
- Laitz, Steven. *The Complete Musician*.
- Kostka, Stefan, and Dorothy Payne. *Tonal Harmony with an Introduction to 20th-century Music*.

**Musical Form and Musical Analysis**
- Caplin, William E. *Analyzing Musical Form*.
- Mathes, James R. *The Analysis of Musical Form*.
- Berry, Wallace. *Form in Music*.
- Spencer, Peter, and Peter M. Temko. *A Practical Approach to the Study of Form in Music*.
- Stein, Leon. *Structure and Style*.

**Twentieth-Century Music**
- Roig-Francolí, Miguel. *Understanding Post-Tonal Music*.
- Lester, Joel. *Analytic Approaches to Twentieth-Century Music*.
- Simms, Bryan R. *Music of the Twentieth Century: Style and Structure*.
- Williams, J. Kent. *Theories and Analyses of Twentieth-Century Music*.

If you work your way systematically through just one book in each category, making sure you understand all the material that is presented, you will be prepared for the theory placement test and for your graduate theory courses.

**History Resources**
- Burkholder, J. Peter, Donald Jay Grout, and Claude V. Palisca. *A History of Western Music*.
- *Norton Anthology of Western Music* (scores; multiple volumes).