The Music Theory Placement Exam

The University of Central Missouri - Department of Music

As a new student in the department of Music at UCM, you will take a placement exam in Music Theory during Freshman Orientation. This exam allows us to place you in the appropriate class to ensure academic success. If you score 70% or above, you will be eligible to enroll in Theory I, which is offered spring semester. If you score less than 70%, you will enroll for Mus 1100, Fundamentals of Music, offered in the fall. Keep in mind that Mus 1100 is a remedial course, and does not count toward your degree credits. This pamphlet is designed to make you familiar with the topics covered on the test.

Things to know

• The following symbols: ♭, ♮, ♯, ♪, ♬

• Note names in treble and bass clefs

• What the numbers in a time signature mean

• How notes are related rhythmically; for example, how many sixteenth notes are in a dotted eighth note? How many quarter notes are in a half note?

• How beats are related to note values and to measures

• Major and minor key signatures (and the order of flats and sharps)

• Intervals: how to write intervals above or below a given note, and how to identify intervals

• Major and minor scales in both clefs without a key signature

• How to spell and recognize triads – major, minor, diminished, augmented

Resources


Harder, Paul O. Basic Materials in Music Theory: A Programmed Course (Prentice-Hall, 2005)


www.musictheory.net

www.teoria.com

For more information, please contact:

Dr. John Check
Coordinator of Music Theory
Associate Professor of Music
check@ucmo.edu
(660) 543-4587