



Music Theory Diagnostic Examination

All incoming graduate music students must take this exam. It is in two parts: Tonal Theory and Post-Tonal Theory.

The online exam dates will be sent to all accepted graduate students in May. An invitation to the Canvas Course *Music Theory Diagnostic Exam* will be sent to OU email addresses. Students must accept the invitation to gain access to the exam.

Students who do not pass the tonal section of the exam will be required to take MUTH 5883 *Analysis of Tonal Music*. Currently offered every Fall. May count toward the degree as a required music theory seminar.

Students who do not pass the post-tonal section of the exam will be required to take MUTH 5833 *Analysis of 20th-Century Music*. Currently offered every Spring. May count toward the degree as a required music theory seminar.

You should be able to:

- Define basic terms
- Label/produce/identify fundamentals: intervals, chords, key signatures, scales, enharmonic equivalents, scale-degree names
- Perform tonal and chromatic Roman-numeral analysis (on modulating and non-modulating passages; this necessitates their location of pivot chords and a knowledge of chromatic harmonies such as applied chords, bII, and +6 chords)
- Label nonharmonic tones.
- Identify and analyze phrases and phrase structures (most notably, the sentence and period)
- Analyze, tonally and formally, large-scale forms (Binary, Ternary, Sonata)

Prior to the Exams

- Prepare a space for yourself to take the exam. You should find a place free from distractions with reliable access to power and internet. You may want headphones if you will not be able to use audio through speakers during the exams.
- Internet Explorer and Safari are NOT compatible with Canvas quizzes; use Chrome or Firefox

Recommended texts for preparation:

- Any undergraduate music theory text
- Burstein, L. Poundie and Joseph Straus, *Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony*, 2nd edition, Part 6 “Post-Tonal Theory”
- Caplin, William, *Classical Form: A Theory of Formal Functions for the Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven*.
- Kostka, Stefan, Dorothy Payne, and Byron Almén. 2018. *Tonal Harmony, With an Introduction to Post-Tonal Music*. New York: McGraw-Hill. 8th edition, chapters 26-27
- Laitz, Steve, *Graduate Review of Tonal Theory*.
- Laitz, Steven G. 2016. *The Complete Musician, An Integrated Approach to Theory, Analysis, and Listening*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Straus, Joseph. *Introduction to Post-Tonal Theory*, any edition.

Online resources that can help you drill skills and review topics:

- <http://openmusictheory.com/>
- <https://www.teoria.com/>
- <https://www.musictheory.net/>