

Delta State University Music Theory Assessment Sequence – Fall 2009

All exams sequences have a written theory and an aural theory component. Some aural parts may be given individually by the instructor.

1. Entrance Exam for freshman given on first day of class during fall semester covering basic music fundamentals, notation, and aural skills. The purpose of this exam is to evaluate the knowledge of new music majors.
2. A Freshman Advanced Placement Exam for MUS 151 and 152 is available for incoming freshmen with a background in music theory. Students who wish to be considered for advanced placement in theory courses may take this exam during fall registration.
3. Sophomore assessment exams covering material from MUS 150, 151, 152, and 153 will be taken during the first day/week of class. The purpose of this exam is to note the progress of students as they pass through the theory sequence. Students showing deficiencies will be given recommendations for remediation.
4. Sophomore theory validation exams taken by Community College transfers:
 - a. Used to confirm a student's knowledge of the material covered in MUS 250, 251, 252, 253 at Delta State.
 - b. A student must score a 70% or higher on each of the content sections to receive credit for sophomore theory coursework completed at a junior/community college. (*According to the articulation agreement between the Mississippi IHL and the Community College Board, only the credits from first-year theory courses will be automatically accepted to transfer from the community colleges to any public university in Mississippi.*)
 - c. Administered by computerized testing for most sections.
 - d. Sample exams available online on the DSU Department of Music web site at <http://music.deltastate.edu>
 - e. Remediation is the responsibility of the individual student, through self-study or by enrolling in one or more theory courses recommended by the music theory faculty.
5. Major Field Test – This standardized test of core music content published by Education Testing Service (ETS) assesses undergraduate music theory, listening comprehension, and music history and literature. The MFT is given at the completion of music history, MUS 301/302, and MUS 450 Form and Analysis as a means to evaluate program effectiveness and trends in learning outcomes.

Technology: The study of music theory at Delta State University involves the use of appropriate computer technology. Students are required to use and become proficient with Blackboard; Sibelius notation software; a variety of ear training software; Internet Resources such as Musictheory.net and teoria.com; Sibelius Instruments, GarageBand, and iTunes software and the Naxos Music Library.

FRESHMAN ENTRANCE MUSIC EXAM

Knowledge of basic fundamentals and notation of music:

- Clefs
- Staff notes
- Time Signatures
- Dynamic markings
- Tempo terms
- Rhythm values
- Melodic recognition
- Rhythmic recognition

FRESHMAN MUSIC THEORY

MUS 150

- Pitches (treble, bass, and C clefs.)
- Key signatures / relative keys
- Major and minor (natural, harmonic, and melodic) scales
- Intervals
- Enharmonic tones
- Triads and seventh chords (both Roman numeral and macro chord symbols)
 - Root position and inversions
- Cadences
- Non-harmonic tones
- Transposition
- Melodic organization: motive, phrase, sequence, and periods
- Texture

MUS 151

- Roman numeral analysis and four-part writing
- Modulation
- Voice leading in four voices
- Harmonic and Melodic Analysis of simple musical excerpts from 1600 - 1900
- Harmonic progression and harmonic rhythm
- Introduction to binary and ternary forms

MUSICIANSHIP (FRESHMAN AURAL THEORY)

MUS 152

- Use of moveable “Do” solfege with minor “Do”
- Intervals
- Scales (Major, minor, chromatic) and modes
- Triads
- Bass and treble clef notation
- Rhythm in basic simple and compound meters
- Diatonic sight singing in major and minor keys
- Rhythmic dictation in simple meters
- Melodic dictation
- Melody and Phrase structure
- Basic composition

MUS 153

- Triads in inversion
- Seventh chords
- Rhythm with more complex subdivisions
- Alto and tenor clef notation
- Diatonic sight singing in major and minor keys with chromatic tones
- Rhythmic dictation in simple and compound meters
- Melodic dictation in major and minor keys
- Harmonic dictation using primary triads and common cadential figures
- Melody, harmony, and Phrase structure
- Variation techniques
- Use of moveable “Do” solfege with minor “Do”

SOPHOMORE MUSIC THEORY

MUS 250

- Secondary dominants and secondary leading tone triads and seventh chords
- Modal mixture/borrowed chords
- N6
- Augmented 6th chords (It6, Fr6, Gr6)
- Chromatic mediant
- Altered dominants
- Part writing
- Analysis of music of the 18th and 19th Centuries

MUS 251

- Enharmonic chords
- Enharmonic Modulation
- 9th, 11th, 13th chords
- Modes and scales (pentatonic, octatonic, whole tone)
- Basic Formal Structure
- Romanticism/Late Romanticism
- Impressionism
- Basic Jazz Chords
- 20th and 21st C. Compositional Styles and Techniques

SOPHOMORE AURAL THEORY

MUS 252

- Melodic Dictation: Accidentals in context of:
 - secondary dominants
 - modality
 - modulation to closely related keys
- Harmonic Dictation:
 - four part diatonic chord progressions
 - secondary dominants and modulation to closely related keys
- Sight Singing
 - melodies in a major key
 - melodies in a minor key (natural, harmonic, and melodic)
 - modal melodies
- accidentals in the context of:
 - secondary dominants
 - modulation to closely related keys
- Rhythm
 - irregular meters
 - changing meters within one example

MUS 253

- Melodic Dictation:
 - highly chromatic melodies with tonal center
 - melodies with shifting tonal center
 - atonal melodies
- Harmonic Dictation:
 - highly chromatic examples with up to four voices in polyphonic texture
- Sight Singing
 - highly chromatic melodies with tonal center
 - melodies with shifting tonal center
 - atonal melodies
- Rhythm
 - musical examples without meter