

The Music Theory Placement Exam and Aural Skills Survey

Music Theory

As a new student in the Bower School of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University, you will take a placement exam in Music Theory. 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, offered in the fall semester. If you score less than 70%, you will enroll for MUT 1001, Fundamentals of Music, also offered in the fall. In some cases, if your score is on the borderline, you may be granted the option of retaking the exam at the beginning of the semester. Keep in mind that MUT 1001 is a remedial course, and does not count toward your degree credits. Additionally, having to take this course may add a year to your degree program. This sheet is designed to make you familiar with the topics covered on the test.

You should know...

- 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 identify and write simple intervals by number and quality (e.g., P5, m3)
- Major and minor scales in both clefs without a key signature
- How to recognize and spell the four types of triads –major, minor, diminished, augmented

Aural Skills Survey

This is a short survey to gauge your aptitude for success in aural skills. You will be asked to do such things as match a given pitch by singing it, clap the meter of a recorded example, and sing a short group of notes back after hearing it. This survey cannot be retaken.

Some Resources for Music Theory Study

Books

Clough, John & Conley, Joyce
Scales, Intervals, Keys, Triads, Rhythm and Meter
(Norton, Third Edition, 1999)

Duckworth, William
A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals
(Thomson-Schirmer, Tenth Edition, 2009)

Harder, Paul O
Basic Materials in Music Theory: A Programmed Course
(Prentice-Hall, Twelfth Edition, 2009)

Miller, Michael
The Complete Idiot's Guide to Music Theory
(Alpha, Second Edition, 2005)

Web pages

www.musictheory.net

www.teoria.com

****Strongly Recommended!****:

Music Theory Fundamentals in Four Weeks (Eastman School of Music):

www.esm.rochester.edu/etheory

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