

Graduate Diagnostic Theory Exam Guidelines

The graduate diagnostic theory exam tests all incoming graduate music majors. The exam covers all aspects of a two-year undergraduate music theory curriculum, including form and is divided into two parts, written and sight-singing. *Students must pass both the written and sight singing parts to pass the exam.* Below are summaries of the materials each part covers. Please contact Dr. John Latartara (written) (jlatarta@olemiss.edu) or Dr. Michael Gardiner (sight singing) (mcgardin@olemiss.edu) if you have any questions.

Written

The written graduate theory diagnostic exam focuses on diatonic and chromatic common-practice harmony and classical form. Tasks you will be asked to complete include

- Chord building given a key and Roman numeral
- Part-writing in SATB chorale style that contains a modulation
- Score analysis that contains both a tonicization and modulation
- Period and sentence phrase structure
- Identifying through score analysis classical forms including binary, ternary, variations, rondo (5 and 7 part), and sonata
- Fugue structure and terminology

Sight Singing

For the sight-singing portion of the exam students may use any solfege system they are familiar with, or no system at all if they prefer to sing using a single syllable. Tasks you will be asked to complete include

- Sight singing a common practice diatonic melody with chromatic alterations
- Sight-read a rhythm in simple, compound (6/8, 9/8, 12/8 etc.), and asymmetric (5/8, 7/8, 8/8, etc.) meters with possible irregular divisions of the beat (5:4, 7:4, 3:4, 4:3)