

Graduate Music Theory Entrance Examination—FALL 2023

University of Louisville School of Music

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE EXAMINATION

The purpose of the Graduate Music Theory Entrance Examination (GMTEE) is to ensure that all entering graduate students in music have basic musical knowledge and skill equivalent to the content of a typical two-year undergraduate music theory core curriculum (often referred to as Theory I-IV). The GMTEE focuses on tonal music; both written and aural skills are covered.

EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

WHO AND WHEN: Every entering graduate music student, with the exception of certain UofL graduates (see below), will take the exam before the first semester of study. The examination is administered online in the month before classes begin.

For Fall 2023, the GMTEE must be completed by Friday, 11 August 2023, 5 pm. The exam will be available beginning on 1 August 2023 at 8 am. Results will be distributed on Monday, 14 August, at noon.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI: If you earned a B (not B-) or higher in Theory III, you are exempt from the GMTEE. All other UofL graduates must take the exam.

ONLINE PROCEDURES: UofL's Blackboard site has an Organization called UofL Graduate Theory Entrance Exam, and you will be enrolled in this Organization. Log in to Blackboard from Louisville.edu > Accounts, using your UofL login credentials.

This UofL Graduate Theory Entrance Exam site has a Practice Test that is available at all times beginning in mid-June. Use the Practice Test to become acquainted with the test format and testing procedures (download, upload, audio file). You may take this Practice Test multiple times. NOTE: no feedback is given for this practice test.

The actual GMTEE will become available on the Blackboard Organization site on 1 August 2023 at 8 am. You may take the GMTEE one time only. It must be completed in a single session within a time limit of 2 hours.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TEST: You will need a computer or other internet-connected device with audio output, a printer, and some way to scan and upload your completed test. You will download and print the test, listen to an audio file, complete the test using a pencil, scan and upload your test. Please upload your file as a PDF.

—Alternative way of taking the test: Instead of printing the test and marking on it with a pencil, you may complete the test on a tablet or some other device that allows you to mark with a digital pencil. Return your completed test as a PDF.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is important on this test. Work entirely on your own during this test. Do not consult any outside source of knowledge (book, colleague, internet, etc.) and do not use any other resource such as a piano or other instrument to help answer the questions. Just answer from the knowledge you already have.

OUTCOMES: If you pass the examination, your theory entrance requirement is satisfied. You will register for MUS 400-85, using a course number sent to you at the beginning of the semester.

If you do not pass the examination, you will register for MUS 400-01. You will satisfy your theory entrance requirement by passing either of the following two classes during your first year of graduate study:

- MUS 400 Graduate Theory Review—Most students will opt to take Graduate Theory Review. This course is specifically designed as a review course for graduate music students. It is taught during the fall semester and meets four times a week for 50 minutes each session. (Consult the current class schedule for the specific meeting time and place.)
- MUS 241 Theory III—This is the regular, third-semester undergraduate music theory/musicianship course, which meets for five contact hours each week, Monday through Thursday. (Consult the current class schedule for the specific meeting time and place.) Please note that, regardless of the outcome of the GMTEE or Theory III, all students must register for MUS 400 Theory Review, because MUS 400 is a curricular requirement. Students who have already passed the GMTEE (or Theory III with a B or higher as an undergraduate at UofL) will receive an automatic passing mark for MUS 400.

Continue reading for information on preparation and practice for the examination.

PREPARATION AND PRACTICE for the Graduate Music Theory Entrance Examination University of Louisville School of Music

This exam covers score-based and aural skills in the areas of music fundamentals, analysis, the ability to turn sound into notation, and the ability to produce stylistically correct music excerpts.

Topics

music fundamentals (pitch identification; clefs—treble, alto, tenor and bass; major and minor scales and key signatures; intervals; triads and 7th chords identified with chord symbols; rhythm and meter);

tonal harmony, including harmonic function, cadences, chromaticism (secondary functions, modulations, common-tone diminished 7th chords, chromatic mediants); species 1 counterpoint; Roman numerals;

form (motives, cadences, phrases, periods, sentences, and small forms—binary, rounded binary, and ternary)

transposing instruments, limited to B-flat and F transpositions

Exam format

The exam has two parts—(1) The first part consists of dictation of short items such as interval and triad identification as well as longer items such as rhythms and melodies, both single line and two-part. (2) The second is score-based and will require music notation (for instance, by part writing short progressions), score analysis (of harmony, embellishing tones, cadences, form, etc.), and aural perception (for instance, by aurally identifying cadences and form aspects of a composition that is played for you).

Expertise consists of both accuracy and speed; basic understanding of a concept is often not sufficient to demonstrate expertise. This test is designed for the level of accomplished college sophomores.

Recommended preparation

We encourage you to review and practice the skills and topics listed above to refresh and renew your abilities. Have the dual goals of accuracy and speed.

Instead of providing a sample test for practice, we suggest that you use the materials listed below

or the books and software from your own undergraduate studies for review and practice.

BOOKS FOR PREPARATION AND PRACTICE: The undergraduate music theory core curriculum at the University of Louisville School of Music uses the following materials:

- Clendinning, Jane Piper, and Elizabeth West Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*, 4th ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2021.
- Rogers, Nancy and Robert W. Ottman. *Music for Sight Singing*, 10th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2018.
- Hall, Anne C. and Timothy P. Urban. *Studying Rhythm*, 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2019.
- Auralia (ear-training software) and Musition (music theory software). Rising Software. <https://www.risingsoftware.com/shop/cloudstudent>. School code: UNILOUISVILLE, School PIN: J5DK

Also recommended for additional practice:

- Phillips, Joel, Paul Murphy, Elizabeth West Marvin, and Jane Piper Clendinning. *The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills*, 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2011. (ISBN 978-0-393-93094-8).
- Kostka, Stefan, Dorothy Payne, and Byron Almén. *Tonal Harmony*, 7th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2013. (ISBN 978-0-07-802514-3; www.mhhe.com).

Workbook for Tonal Harmony, with accompanying CDs

- www.musictheory.net—free elementary drill material, including ear training
- www.teoria.com—tutorials and exercises, including ear training
- www.macgamut.com—ear training software, works on both Mac and Windows