

# Musicianship Program and Placement for Incoming Undergraduate Students

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**First-Year Students:** Most undergraduate music students at UMKC take four semesters of musicianship, courses that combine music theory and aural skills. Each semester covers topics like harmony, rhythm and meter, melody, dictation—and much more—in music written from around 1650 to the present day. Musicianship classes focus on the core elements of Western music and prepare them to think critically about and understand the music they will play, study, listen to, and teach.

Incoming first-year students take an online placement exam each May so that they can be put in the appropriate class to ensure academic success. The exam assesses students' knowledge of:

- 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
- How to recognize and spell common seventh chords—Mm, MM, mm, dm, dd
- Basic aural skills (matching and recalling simple pitch and rhythm exercises)

Students scoring 70% or higher will be placed into Musicianship I (CONSVTY 141).

Students who don't take the online exam, do not pass, or have technical difficulties with the exam may take/retake the exam the Friday before classes start. If students fail the exam again in August or do not show up for the retake, they will be placed in a remedial course called Fundamentals of Music Theory (CONSVTY 103).

**Transfer Students:** Students transferring from another university or from another unit at UMKC who have taken *any* previous music theory courses, must take an in-person exam (not online) on the Friday morning before classes start in August. Information about this exam will be sent out in May.

## Some Resources for Music Theory Study

### Books

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

Duckworth, William.  
*A Creative Approach to Music Fundamentals*  
(Thomson-Schirmer, Eleventh Edition, 2012)

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

Laitz, Steven  
*The Complete Musician*  
(Oxford University Press, Fourth Edition, 2016)

**\*\*This is the text we use at UMKC in musicianship classes\*\***

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

Root, Jena  
*Applied Music Fundamentals: Writing, Singing, and Listening*  
(Oxford University Press, 2013)

**\*\*This is the text we use at UMKC in Fundamentals of Music Theory\*\***

### Web pages

[www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)  
[www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com)

### **\*\*Strongly Recommended for Summer Study\*\***

(Successful completion of this program will automatically place you in Musicianship I!)

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

<http://www.esm.rochester.edu/iml/store/product/music-theory-fundamentals/>

For more information on the musicianship program, please contact:

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