

# MUSIC at MSU DENVER

## Advising Information

### MUSIC THEORY PLACEMENT Important General Information

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- All students entering MSU Denver's music theory sequence must take a Music Theory Placement Exam or take MUS 1010 Essential Music Theory Skills or submit an AP Music Theory score of 3 or higher.
- Theory Lab I and Class Piano I are co-requisites for Music Theory I. For advanced theory levels, check specific degree programs for co-requisite requirements.
- Students who have completed MUS 1010 Essential Music Theory Skills with a grade of D or lower must retake Essential Music Theory Skills or take the Music Theory Placement Exam.

#### EXAM SCHEDULING:

- Students have the option of taking the exam in-person or online. Please check the [Music Department website](#) for exact dates.
- Students must meet with a Music Department Intake Advisor prior to scheduling an exam. Students may [self-book this appointment online](#).

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT:

- An advisor will help the student determine the appropriate level(s) of exam to take.

#### EXAM RESULTS:

- Exam results will be emailed the week following the exam. Exam results are valid for one calendar year.

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### MUSIC THEORY READINESS ASSESSMENT What You Need to Know to Test into Music Theory I

#### Written Assessment:

- Identify and notate major key signatures on the staff
- Identify and notate minor key signatures on the staff
- Identify and notate various intervals, i.e., P4, m3, m7, A6, etc.
- Know time signatures/rhythmic note values, including beat divisions ~~and counting syllables~~
- Identify and notate major scales on the staff
- Identify and notate all forms of minor scales, i.e., natural, harmonic, and melodic
- Identify and notate all forms of triads, i.e., major, minor, augmented, and diminished
- Identify and notate all inversions of triads, i.e., root position, first inversion, second inversion

#### Ear Training and Sightsinging Assessment:

- Intervals (size and quality)
- Rhythmic dictation
- Melodic dictation
- Triads
- Sightsing simple diatonic melody

If the placement exam to test into Music Theory I is not passed, the student must register for MUS 1010 Essential Music Theory Skills. If the student is already registered for Music Theory I, Theory Lab I, or Class Piano I, these courses must be dropped.

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### What You Need to Know to Test into Music Theory II

#### Written Assessment:

- All the requirements for Theory I Placement
- Four-part voice leading
- Modes: Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian and Pentatonic
- Identification of Non-chord tones
- Roman numeral analysis using all diatonic triads with inversion symbols
- Lead-sheet and figured bass symbols for all triads and seventh chords
- Cadences: Authentic, Plagal, Half, Deceptive

#### Ear Training and Sightsinging Assessment:

- All the requirements for Theory I Placement
  - Rhythmic dictation up to four measures
  - Melodic dictation up to four measures
  - Harmonic dictation using all diatonic triads
  - Sightsing melodies that outline diatonic triads
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### What You Need to Know to Test into Music Theory III

#### Written Assessment:

- All the requirements for Theory I- II Placement
- Analyze and voice-lead non-chord tones
- Analyze and voice-lead in 4-parts for triads and seventh chords
- Analyze and voice-lead secondary dominants and secondary leading-tone chords
- Analyze and voice-lead pivot-chord and chromatic modulation

#### Ear Training and Sightsinging Assessment:

- All the requirements for Theory I- II Placement
  - Rhythmic dictation longer than four measures
  - Melodic dictation longer than four measures
  - Harmonic dictation using sevenths and possibly a secondary dominant
  - Sightsing longer melodies that may include minor keys and/or chromatic alterations
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### What You Need to Know to Test into Music Theory IV

#### Written Assessment:

- All the requirements for Theory I-III Placement
- Analyze and voice-lead all chromatic harmony including borrowed chords, mode mixture, altered dominants, and chromatic mediants
- Analyze and voice-lead Neapolitan, and augmented sixth chords
- Analyze and voice-lead extended harmonies
- Analyze and voice-lead advanced modulation

#### Ear Training and Sightsinging Assessment:

- All the requirements for Theory I-III Placement
  - Sightsing melodies with chromatic alterations
  - Longer dictations using elements of chromatic harmony
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### What You Need to Know to Test Out of Music Theory I-IV

#### Written Assessment:

- All the requirements for Theory I-IV Placement
- Knowledge of serialism
- Knowledge of modes and scales including octatonic and whole-tone scales
- Knowledge of set theory

#### Ear Training and Sightsinging Assessment:

- All the requirements for Theory I-IV Placement
- Sightsing with lots of chromatics and outlined seventh and ninth chords