

THEORY AND MUSICIANSHIP PROFICIENCY EXAMS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: The theory/musicianship proficiency exams are meant to determine proficiency credit primarily for incoming freshmen and transfer students. Any students interested in earning proficiency credit in core courses must take these exams, which are offered at the beginning of every fall and spring semester. Makeup exams will not be offered. Once a student takes the proficiency exams, they become ineligible to take the exams a second time. Additionally, these exams cannot be used to replace a failed course. If circumstances beyond a student's control prevent them from taking the proficiency exams as scheduled (e.g., a medical emergency, delayed flight, visa-related issues) the student may enroll in core coursework for the current semester and take the proficiency exams when scheduled at the start of the next semester.

Suggested Theory Books:

- *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis* (4th ed.) – Jane Clendinning and Elizabeth Marvin
- *Open Music Theory* – Mark Gotham, Kyle Gullings, Chelsey Hamm, Bryn Hughes, Brian Jarvis, Megan Lavengood, and John Peterson
<<https://viva.pressbooks.pub/openmusictheory/>>

Music Theory I-IV Exam Content:

MUS 101/102: Scales, keys, and chord qualities; Roman numeral analysis and harmonic function; simple diatonic chorale harmonization (4-part) and non-chord tones (Clendinning/Marvin: chapters 1-18)

MUS 201: Simple forms and phrase structures; diatonic sequences; secondary dominants; modulation to closely related keys chromatic harmony, including modal mixture (borrowed chords), augmented 6th chords, Neapolitan 6ths, etc.; large-scale forms including sonata and rondo; chromatic modulation techniques (Clendinning/Marvin: chapters 19-31)

MUS 202: music from 1900 to the present, including impressionism, modes, set theory, serialism, minimalism, etc. (Clendinning/Marvin: chapters 32-40)

Musicianship I/II (Aural Skills) Exam Content:

MUS 107/108: Content will be similar to that which is tested in MUS 101/102, but with focus on testing proficiency with aural skills in the context of melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic dictations. Students who pass both parts of this exam will be contacted with an invitation to take the follow-up proficiency exam for MUS 207.