

## Music Fundamentals -- Information for Incoming Students

All students intending on a major in music must possess a basic knowledge of music fundamentals in order to be prepared for collegiate-level study and to be successful in the field of music. The Music Fundamentals Examination is administered to all incoming students to test this basic knowledge:

- *Rhythms* – Identify and notate rhythmic values from sixteenth-notes to whole notes as well as equivalent rests.
- *Time Signatures* -- Understand time signatures (duple, triple and quadruple), metrical beat groupings (simple and compound), and division of beats (duplet, triplet).
- *Clefs* -- Read fluently in treble and bass clefs, up to three ledger lines above and below the staves; know how to read in alto and tenor clef, if appropriate for your instrument.
- *Scales/Key Signatures* -- Write out and aurally spell all scales (majors and natural form of minors) and major/minor key signatures.
- *Intervals* -- Identify and notate simple intervals, including perfect (P1, P4, P5, P8) and major-minor (m2/M2, m3/M3, m6/M6, m7/M7).
- *Triads* – Identify and notate major and minor triads in root position.

**All students must pass the Music Fundamentals Examination to register for the first semester course in music theory.** Those students who do not pass will need to re-take and pass the Examination before the first day of classes in the fall semester.

Many resources are available to help students learn the material. Study with a qualified music teacher is perhaps the best approach. A number of published materials are also available from music stores or online. The following free websites contain excellent reference materials and online drills: [www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com); [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net); [www.dolmetsch.com/theoryintro.htm](http://www.dolmetsch.com/theoryintro.htm); and [www.emusictheory.com](http://www.emusictheory.com).

The specific theory textbook and workbook that is used in the first two semesters of music theory and ear training is *The Elements of Music: Concepts and Applications*, Volume One, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by Ralph Turek, published by McGraw-Hill. The textbook and workbook are sold as a package to our students through the University Bookstore.

We hope this material is helpful to you. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

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