

Graduate Diagnostic Test in Music Theory

All entering graduate students to the UCF music program are required to take a written diagnostic test. This test is designed to evaluate your skills and knowledge of music theory in several areas.

The test covers the following:

Part I: Four-part harmonization

You will be given several progressions of Roman numerals to harmonize in SATB format. To successfully complete this portion of the test, you will need solid voice-leading skills and knowledge of chromatic harmony, including non-harmonic tones, (non-chord tones), six-four chords, applied chords (secondary function chords), modal mixture, the Neapolitan chord, augmented sixth chords, and the ability to successfully modulate to a closely related or a remote key.

Part II: Harmonic Analysis

You will be given several excerpts of music from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. You will be asked to provide Roman numerals for harmonic material, labels for non-chord tones, and labels for cadences. You will also be asked basic questions concerning the form of the excerpts.

Part III: Formal Analysis

This portion of the exam deals with the formal analysis of an entire movement from the common-practice literature. You will be given a score of a piece in sonata form, rondo form, or ternary form. You will be required to answer questions about the form of the piece and label specific sections in the score. Questions may include identification and description of overall plan and tonal structure of the movement, the identification of larger sections and keys within the movement, identification of cadences, phrase structure and the harmonic motion of phrases.

Helpful Resources for Preparation

General music theory textbooks:

The Complete Musician (Steven G. Laitz)

Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony (L. Poundie Burstein and Joseph N. Straus)

Harmony in Context (Miguel Roig-Francolí)

Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis (Jane Piper Clendinning and Elizabeth West Marvin)

Tonal Harmony (Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne)

Books specifically concerning the analysis of musical form:

Classical Form (William E. Caplin)

Elements of Sonata Theory (James Hepokoski and Warren Darcy)

A Practical Approach to the Study of Form in Music (Peter Spencer and Peter Temko)