

SC Music Technology Musicianship Requirement Exam Study Guide

Students with *significant* private musical training may take a music faculty-administered exam that, if passed with a 70% or better in all three sections, will result in test-out credit for MUSC 1010 Foundations in Music and satisfaction of the musicianship requirement. The student should be prepared to demonstrate competency in the following areas, topics and tasks:

Written Fundamentals

- Rhythmic values (quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted notes, etc.)
- Meters (including the difference between simple and compound meters)
- Pitch names on the treble and bass staves, and on the piano keyboard
- Intervals (half-step, whole-step, and other major, minor, perfect, augmented and diminished intervals)
- Scales (major and the three forms of minor)
- Key signatures up to (both major and minor keys)
- Triads (major, minor, diminished and augmented)
- The dominant 7th chord
- Pop music symbols for common chords (e.g. G, Fm, C7, B°, etc.)
- Cadence types (half, authentic, plagal, etc.)
- Embellishing tones (passing, neighboring, etc.)

Aural Fundamentals

- Read and clap a simple rhythm
- Sight-sing a simple conjunct melody
- Aurally identify melodic intervals
- Transcribe a simple melody (4-8 bars total)

Keyboard Fundamentals

- Play five-finger pentachords in any major or minor key up to four sharps or flats (minimum tempo of note = 80 BPM)
- Perform a short piano piece in a key other than C major or A minor that demonstrates independence of hands (this can be as simple as a melody accompanied by block chords). In addition to correct pitches and rhythms, all tempo, dynamic and articulation indications should be performed accurately.

To review for the written portion, we suggest *Practical Theory Complete* by Sandy Feldstein (Alfred Publishing, 1982, ISBN 978-0882842257). This is an easy-to-understand, crash-course workbook that is inexpensive and available from online retailers. Also, Ricci Adams' *Musictheory.net* is an excellent resource for reviewing concepts through the use of interactive lessons and exercises.

For practicing for the aural portion of the exam, several practice websites can be found by searching the Internet.

If you need a suitable piece to prepare for the keyboard portion, please see a member of the piano faculty.