

Undergraduate Music Theory and Aural Skills
The University of Georgia
Hugh Hodgson School of Music

MUSIC THEORY PREPARATION

- **Skills Requirements:**
 - Ability to read both treble and bass clefs readily
 - Knowledge of major key signatures
 - Ability to fluently write and sing major scales
 - Understanding of rhythmic notation and various meters
- **Helpful Skills:**
 - Knowledge of intervals
 - Knowledge of triad types and inversions
 - Knowledge of minor scales and key signatures
- **Resources for Skills Practice Prior to Enrollment**
 - *Programmed Rudiments of Music* by Robert Ottman and Frank Mainous (Prentice Hall, publisher)
 - *Scales, Intervals, Keys, Triads, Rhythm and Meter* by John Clough and Joyce Conley (W. W. Norton and Co., publisher)
 - *Basic Materials in Music Theory* by Paul Harder and Greg Steinke (Prentice Hall, publisher)
 - Note: These books are available through online suppliers such as amazon.com.
 - An excellent free website is musictheory.net. The “Lessons” units explain basic information, while the “Trainers” units give practice in music fundamentals.

MUSIC THEORY CORE COURSES

We are currently using the following textbooks in music theory:

- Clendinning, Jane and Elizabeth Marvin. *The Musician’s Guide to Theory and Analysis*. W.W. Norton, 2016, 3rd edition. Note: you will need the textbook, workbook, and anthology.
- Rogers, Nancy and Robert Ottman. *Music for Sight Singing (9th edition)*. New York: Pearson, 2014.

The undergraduate freshman/sophomore theory sequence includes four semesters of written theory and aural skills. The aural skills courses closely parallel the materials taught in written theory, and the courses are co-requisites (meaning they must be taken together).

Semester	Music Theory	Aural Skills	Topics
Fall, 1 st semester	MUSI 1100	MUSI 1110	Fundamentals, diatonic harmony
Spring, 2 nd semester	MUSI 1120	MUSI 1130	Diatonic harmony continued, small forms
Fall, 3 rd semester	MUSI 2100	MUSI 2110	Chromatic harmony, large forms
Spring, 4 th semester	MUSI 2120	MUSI 2130	Advanced chromatic harmony, 20 th & 21 st c. techniques

COURSE CHALLENGES

If you do not have credit on your transcript for music theory, you will be expected to enroll in and successfully complete our theory curriculum. Any student, however, with an exceptional background in theory (including students with AP credit) has the opportunity to apply for permission to exempt a required course. In order to exempt a music theory or aural skills course, a student must earn an A or B on a comprehensive exam similar to the final exam for the specified course. Aural skills exams do include a sight-singing component.

Any student wishing to exempt a written theory or aural skills course must first complete the course challenge form available from the Registrar's Office website (see below), which will require the student to coordinate with the instructor of record. This action should be taken as soon as possible, but no later than two days into the semester. The current Registrar's website is: <https://reg.uga.edu/student-forms/course-challenges/>

TRANSFER STUDENTS WITH MUSIC THEORY CREDIT

If you have taken college-level music theory at another institution, you will be expected to take our theory/aural skills placement exam. This exam is given a few days before classes begin in the fall and spring semesters.

Your score on the theory/aural skills placement exam will help us advise you on correct enrollment in our music theory course sequence. Expect to be tested on the fundamentals of music, diatonic and chromatic four-part harmony, and twentieth century topics. Aural skills tested will include intervals, chords, rhythm, melodic dictation, and harmonic dictation.