

Information on Undergraduate School of Music Music Theory & Aural Skills Placement Examinations 2019

All music minors are required to take a placement test/exam in music theory. The results of this test will NOT affect your admissions status. **There are four placement test options to serve different students' needs, as described below.**

1. **Music Theory Assessment Test** (online): students who have not previously taken college-level theory or aural skills courses (incoming freshman music majors and minors)
2. **MUS 113/114 Exemption Exam**: students who have not previously taken college-level theory or aural skills courses (incoming freshman music majors and minors) who score over a 90% on the online Music Theory Assessment Test
3. **Music Theory and Aural Skills Transfer Student Exam**: students who have previously taken college-level theory or aural skills courses (transfer students)
4. **AP/IB placement – based on test scores.** If you passed AP/IB Music Theory, send Katie Runkel an email, at Katie.Runkel@unco.edu to confirm that you're set, and don't need to take the assessment.
 - Advanced Placement (AP) Exam: students who have taken the Advanced Placement exam in music theory
 - International Baccalaureate (IB): students who have taken the “Higher” IB exam

Current UNC students

Email Katie.Runkel@unco.edu if you haven't already received a Canvas Invite to the Theory Assessment.

This test is for students who have **NOT** previously taken college-level theory courses (most entering freshman music majors and minors). This test is administered online through Canvas. This assessment is completely free.

The test covers music literacy in the following areas (a sample test is available on the School of Music website at www.arts.unco.edu/music):

- Notation of pitches in treble and bass clefs
- Correct beaming of rhythms
- Intervals within an octave
- Triads
- Major and minor scales
- Major and minor key signatures

Based on your test results from the assessment:

The assessment test will determine whether you have the preparation and basic theory skills to enter the music theory sequence of courses (MUS 113 and 114) for music majors. Students who score less than 70% will still register for MUS 113 and 114, but will also need to purchase and complete modules in music fundamentals software called “MFun.” (see more info at the end of this document). This module costs \$40 – please read below for more details.

Students who score 90% or higher have the option of taking the MUS 113/114 Exemption Exam, described below.

MUS 113/114 Exemption Exam

Wednesday, August 21: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Frasier 169

IMPORTANT DATE, based on test results!

- Incoming students who score a 90% or higher on the Music Theory Assessment Test (above) have the option to take the MUS 113/114 Exemption Exam (this exam is NOT for transfer students; see below). Students who score 80% or higher on the Exemption Exam may choose to enroll in MUS 115 Music Theory II and MUS 116 Aural Skills II in their first semester of study.
- The exam will only be offered on Wednesday, August 21 (the Wednesday before classes start in the fall) from 1–3 p.m. in Frasier Hall 169. Students who place into MUS 115 and 116 should work with their advisors to complete any necessary paperwork regarding waiving required classes.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exam

Students who have taken the Advanced Placement Exam for Music Theory may be eligible for course credit. These students should request that their scores be sent to the University of Northern Colorado's Registrar's office.

1. Students with a subscore of 4 on the written portion of the AP Music Theory Exam may place into MUS 115 Music Theory II;
2. Students with a subscore of 5 on the written portion may place into MUS 213 Music Theory III.
3. Students with a subscore of 4 on the aural skills portion of the AP Music Theory Exam may place into MUS 114 Aural Skills II;
4. Students with a subscore of 5 on the aural skills portion may place into MUS 214 Aural Skills III.
5. Students with a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Music Theory Exam do not need to take any additional theory placement tests.

All may choose to start the sequence at a lower level, if desired. For information on AP exams in other areas, visit [this link](#).

International Baccalaureate (IB) Exam

Students who have taken the "Higher" International Baccalaureate Exam in Music may be eligible for course credit. These students should request that their scores be sent to the University of Northern Colorado's Registrar's Office.

1. Students with a score of 6–7 on the Higher IB exam may place into MUS 115 Music Theory II and MUS 116 Aural Skills II.
2. Students with a score of 6–7 on the Higher IB exam do not need to take any additional theory placement tests.

They may choose to start the sequence at a lower level if appropriate.

3. Students with a 6–7 on either the Standard IB Music exam or the Higher IB Music exam may also receive LAC credit in area 3a for MUS 140 Introduction to Music; for more information, visit [this link](#).

Instructions for Purchasing and Completing MFun

Who needs to purchase and complete modules in the MFun software?

Students who score lower than 70% on the Music Theory Assessment Test administered through Canvas must purchase the MFun software and complete certain modules (see below). Completion of these modules is a requirement for MUS 113 Music Theory I (students who score 70% or higher on the online Assessment Test have already fulfilled this requirement). All students enrolled in MUS 113 must pass a Music Fundamentals Barrier Exam with a score of 85% or higher; the Barrier Exam will be given approximately halfway through the Fall semester.

What is the MFun software?

“MFun” stands for “music fundamentals.” This software is a music fundamentals textbook that includes interactive drills and quizzes. The software automatically scores the drills and quizzes and saves your results in a transcript file to be emailed to UNC faculty.

How and where do I purchase the MFun software?

MFun can be purchased online at this link:

<http://www.macgamut.com/>

Hover over “Order” in the list at the left of the screen, then click on “Order online!” In the next screen, follow the instructions to order MFun. Note: MFun is the *second* software package listed; do not order MacGamut (we do not require it at UNC).

How much does MFun cost?

MFun costs \$40, less than half the price of most music fundamentals textbooks.

Which modules in MFun must I complete in order to fulfill the MUS 113 requirement?

Complete all the quizzes for Chapters 1–8 with a score of 70% or higher on each. You do not need to complete the “Analytical Interlude” quiz.

When should I begin MFun? When is my MFun transcript due?

If you do not pass the Assessment Test on Blackboard with a 70% or higher, you should order MFun and start it right away in the summer. Prompt completion of MFun will ensure that you are ready to succeed in MUS 113 Music Theory I and MUS 114 Aural Skills I. Ideally you will finish the MFun modules before classes begin. Your transcript is due by Friday, September 8, the end of the third week of classes.

To whom at UNC do I send my MFun transcript?

When you have completed the quizzes in Chapters 1–8, email your MFun transcript (your_name_transcript.mft) as an attachment to Dr. Carissa Reddick: carissa.reddick@unco.edu
Dr. Reddick will communicate the results of your transcript with your MUS 113 Music Theory I instructor.