2012–13 Theory Placement

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC | 3003 SNELLING AVENUE NORTH | ST. PAUL, MN 55113-1598 | 651-631-5218 | 888-878-5514 | 651-628-3368 FAX | NWC.EDU/MUSIC

Online Theory Placement Exam

The Online Theory Placement Exam (OTPE) covers material from two courses in the first semester music major curriculum—MTC1000: Music Theory Fundamentals and MTC1003: Sight Singing and Ear Training I. Students may bypass one or both of these courses if they demonstrate sufficient knowledge or skills listed for each course:

MTC1000: Music Theory Fundamentals
Textbook: Music in Theory and Practice, vol. 1, 8th ed.
by Benward & Saker, Chapters 1–4

- Intervals
- Major & minor keys (scales)
- Modes
- Notation (pitches, clefs, rhythm, meters)
- Triads and triad inversions

MTC1003: Sight Singing and Ear Training I
Textbook: Sightsinging Complete, 6th ed.
by Bruce Benward, pages 1–121

- Intervals
- Rhythms
- Simple Melodies
- Triads

Advanced Testing Option

Placement exams are also available for MTC1001 and MTC2112 (Music Theory I & II). Students who successfully pass the MTC1000 placement exam may continue taking these exams, which include both an online and written portion. Contact the Music Office for more information.

MTC1001: Music Theory I
Textbook: *Music in Theory and Practice* by Benward & Saker, Chapters 2-9

- Major and minor keys/scales
- Relative and parallel relationship
- Modes
- Intervals
- Cadences
- Harmonic analysis
- Non-harmonic tones
- Transposition
- Traditional 4-part choral part-writing
- Circle progressions
- Basic theory terminology

MTC2112: MUSIC THEORY II
Textbook: *Music in Theory and Practice* by Benward & Saker, Chapters 9-17

- Traditional 4-part choral part-writing
- Harmonic Progression
- Secondary dominants and leading tone chords
- Modulation
- Binary, ternary and expanded ternary forms
- Neapolitan, Augmented Sixth chords

Who Should Take the OTPE

Music Majors
All applicants with no previous college theory coursework must take the Online Theory Placement Exam before the day of their audition. Test results are used as part of the admission decision and to place students in the appropriate theory course. Instructions and a link to the exam will be e-mailed to the applicant. Students who may be pursuing a music major but aren't completely sure are strongly encouraged to take the test at this point in the admission process.

Non-music Majors
Non-music majors or music minors who plan to take music theory/sight singing and ear training may choose to take the Online Theory Placement Exam in order to test out of portions of the theory or sight singing/ear training sequence.

Other Theory Placement Methods

Transfer Students
Transfer students will be given a written exam which corresponds to the coursework he/she has completed at other institution(s). Transfer credit and placement in the NWC theory and sight singing/ear training sequence will be based on the applicant's performance on the theory placement exam. The exam will be scheduled by the Department of Music. Transfer music major applicants who have completed the required number of semesters of theory and sight singing/ear training elsewhere do not need to take a theory placement exam, and the transfer credits will be accepted.

Advanced Placement
Students with Advanced Placement (AP) theory scores will be given a written exam which corresponds to the AP coursework completed. AP credit and placement in the NWC theory and sight singing/ear training sequence will be based on the applicant's performance on the theory placement exam.

Contact Us

Visit nwc.edu/music or contact the Department of Music at 651-631-5218, 888-878-5514 or music@nwc.edu.