

Placement Examinations

Admitted students will take examinations to determine placement in music theory, ear training, and piano during orientation. Depending on the results of the placement examination, students may be placed into remedial levels of theory and ear training; placed into any of the four semesters of theory, ear training, and/or piano; or deemed to have satisfied the requirements for one or more of these curricular areas. Students must enroll in the courses in which they are placed, regardless of previous coursework at UNC Charlotte or other institutions.

Music Theory and Ear Training Proficiencies

Proficiencies to be placed out of Introduction to Sight-Singing (MUSC 1110) and Fundamentals of Musicianship (MUSC 1102):

- *Music Theory:* Ability to identify pitches in both treble and bass clefs and to accurately notate major and minor scales up to and including 4 sharps and flats in both treble and bass clefs.
- *Ear Training:* Ability match single pitches and diatonic groups of pitches, as well as to clap simple rhythms in simple time using whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes.

Proficiencies to be placed out of Structure & Style of Music I (MUSC 1230) and Aural Skills & Sight-Singing I (MUSC 1230L):

- *Music Theory:* Knowledge of all clefs, key signatures, triad, and seventh chords, as well as basic Roman-Numeral analysis. Ability to write in strict two-part, first-species counterpoint.
- *Ear Training:* Ability to dictate and label all triad and seventh chords. Rhythmic and melodic dictation using steps, skips within the tonic and dominant triads, and simple diminutions of the quarter and dotted-quarter tactus.

Proficiencies to be placed out of Structure & Style of Music I (MUSC 1231) and Aural Skills & Sight-Singing II (MUSC 1231L):

- *Music Theory:* Knowledge of four-part writing within a diatonic context, observing figured bass, voice-leading principles, and cadence types. Ability to analyze and label various period types.
- *Ear Training:* Ability to dictate harmonic progressions using all diatonic triads with a thorough understanding of the phrase model. Rhythmic and melodic dictation using all types of diatonic skips and diminutions of the half-note and dotted-half-note tactus.

Proficiencies to be placed out of Structure & Style of Music III (MUSC 2230) and Aural Skills & Sight-Singing III (MUSC 2230L):

- *Music Theory:* Knowledge of secondary dominants, tonicization, and modulation to closely related keys, as well as of all types of binary form.
- *Ear Training:* Ability to dictate harmonic progressions involving secondary dominants, tonicizations, and modulations to closely related keys, as well as to identify types of binary form. Ability to sight-read modulating passages with eighth-note and dotted-eighth-note tactus, triplets of all lengths, and chromatic skips, neighbor tones, and passing tones.

Proficiencies to be placed out of Structure & Style of Music IV (MUSC 2231) and Aural Skills & Sight-Singing IV (MUSC 2231L):

- *Music Theory*: Knowledge of modal mixture and modulation to distantly related keys through common chord modulation, as well as of augmented sixth, Neapolitan, and reinterpreted diminished seventh chords. An awareness and understanding of rondo, ternary, and sonata form.
- *Ear Training*: Ability to dictate modulations to distantly related keys harmonically and melodically, as well as aural proficiencies of rondo, ternary, and sonata form. Ability sight-sing passages using mixed meter and post-tonal processes.

Piano Placement Proficiencies

Students who indicate on their Audition Forms that they have never taken piano lessons will be placed into Class Piano I without a placement test. Students with a background in piano will have the opportunity to place out of any or all of the four levels of Class Piano, following the proficiency standards below. Students who are auditioning to become keyboard majors or minors need not take the piano placement examination

Proficiencies to be placed out of Class Piano I (MUSC 1233):

- *Scales and Arpeggios*: C, G, D, A, and E major (hands together, 2 octaves)
- *Chord Progressions*: I–IV–I–V⁷–I in C, G, D, A, and E major
- *Transposition, Harmonization, and Sight-Reading*: equivalent to exercises up to 182 in Book I of *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*

Proficiencies to be placed out of Class Piano II (MUSC 1234):

- *Scales and Arpeggios*: C, G, D, A, E, B, F, G-flat, and D-flat minor (hands together, 2 octaves)
- *Chord Progressions*: i–iv–i–V⁷–i in the above keys
- *Transposition, Harmonization, and Sight-Reading*: equivalent to exercises up to the end of Book I of *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*

Proficiencies to be placed out of Class Piano III (MUSC 2233):

- *Scales and Arpeggios*: All Major and minor keys (hands together, 2 octaves)
- *Chord Progressions*: I–IV–I–V⁷–I (or i–iv–i–V⁷–i) in all major and minor keys
- *Transposition, Harmonization, and Sight-Reading*: equivalent to exercises up to 182 in Book II of *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*

Proficiencies to be placed out of Class Piano IV (MUSC 2234):

- *Transposition, Harmonization, and Sight-Reading*: equivalent to exercises up to the end of Book II of *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*
- *Score Reading*: equivalent to exercises up to the end of Book II of *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*