Music History & Literature and Music Theory Entrance Proficiencies

All new students are required to show proficiency in Music History & Literature and Music Theory. The proficiencies may be satisfied in any of the following ways:

Students may take and pass the graduate entrance exams. Students must take the exams at the beginning of their first semester of enrollment; they may take them for a second time in their second semester. They may not take them again, nor may they take them after their second semester of enrollment. (Note that this includes summer sessions in which students are enrolled. Exams are ordinarily given in the week before classes begin each semester.)

Students may enroll in and pass the graduate review courses listed below:

- M541 Music History Review for Graduate Students I—3 cr
- M542 Music History Review for Graduate Students II—3 cr
- T508 Written Theory Review for Graduate Students—3 cr
- T509 Sight Singing Review for Graduate Students—3 cr
- T511 Aural Theory Review for Graduate Students—3 cr

Students should begin enrolling in review courses from which they are not exempted by examination as soon as possible; otherwise completion of the degree may be delayed as T508 and M541-M542 serve as prerequisites to the master’s core requirements. The review courses are not offered every semester.

NOTE: Students in a doctoral program must complete all review courses within the first five semesters of enrollment.

Keyboard Proficiency Examination

All music graduate students must pass a keyboard proficiency examination. This exam is designed to ensure the student’s ability to use the keyboard as a tool within the framework of professional activities, and the requirements vary according to level and area of music study. This exam may be repeated as many times as necessary to show proficiency. The exam is offered at the end of each term. Students may enroll in secondary piano lessons as preparation for the exam. Early music majors may take the exam on harpsichord. For details, see the Chairperson of the Early Music Institute.

Basso Continuo Proficiency

Proficiency in Basso Continuo as demonstrated by departmental examination administered before the first semester of registration; or by passing F501 Accompaniment of Baroque Music.

Styles Examination

All doctoral students must take the Styles exam in their first fall semester of enrollment. This will be their only opportunity. Students who pass the exam meet the requirement. Students who do not pass the exam must earn a grade of B or better in T545 Analysis of Music Literature. This course may fall anywhere in the student’s curriculum. This requirement must be completed before a student may begin qualifying examinations.

Qualifying Examinations

Students in a doctoral degree program are not considered candidates for the degree until they have passed the qualifying examinations (styles, major field, first minor field, second minor field [if applicable], and orals) and have been recommended by their advisory committee to the Dean of the School of Music.