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—1–3 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. The review courses are not offered every semester.

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. Organ majors may take the exam on organ. For details, see the Chairperson of the Organ Department. This requirement must be completed before a student may begin qualifying examinations.

Keyboard Skills and Service Playing Proficiency

Keyboard Skills and Service Playing Proficiency. Ability in sight reading, transposition, score reading and reduction, figured bass, improvisation, console conducting, and hymn playing as demonstrated by examination or by passing C504 Keyboard Skills Review (1 cr.) (for keyboard skills and improvisation) and C510 Service Playing Review (1 cr.) (for console conducting, hymn playing, accompanying, and score reading). Students must take both parts of the proficiency exam in their first semester of enrollment; with organ department permission, they may take specific exams for a second time in their second semester of enrollment. For any exam not passed, students must pass C504 Keyboard Skills Review or C510 Service Playing Review as appropriate.

Styles Examination

All Doctoral students must take the Styles exam in their first spring semester of enrollment. Students who pass the exam meet the requirement. Students who do not pass the exam may retake the exam once with permission of the director of graduate studies, if their score is within a range recommended by the Doctoral Styles Committee. Students who do not pass the exam must earn a grade of B or higher in T545 Introductory 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.