



SCHOOL OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

GRADUATE MAT/MST WRITTEN EXIT EXAMINATION INFORMATION

1. The Graduate Written Exit Exam is offered twice yearly on the third Saturday of May and July. Plan accordingly.
2. Notify the GRADUATE COORDINATOR and your ADVISOR **in writing** of your intent to take the Graduate Written Exit Exam at least one (1) term in advance.
3. SIGN UP for the Exit Exam on the appropriate sheet in the Music Office. (231 LH).
4. Be advised that you MUST be enrolled for at least one (1) credit DURING the term in which you take the Exit Exam.
5. Make sure that your approved GO-12 is on file in the Music Office, along with any other pertinent documents, by the deadline of no later than Friday of the first week of the exit term.
6. Prepare carefully; you are allowed just two opportunities to pass.
7. If you have any questions, contact the Chair of your Advisory Committee or the Graduate Coordinator.
8. You may use a piano anytime during the Exam. You are not allowed to use notes at any time, and may not discuss the Exam with anyone until after it has been turned in.
9. Details about the Graduate Exit Exam are as follows:

The PEDAGOGY and LITERATURE questions pertain to your area. Prepare by reviewing class notes and studying other pertinent materials in your area, organizing outlines, and writing 90-minute essays, since that is the length of time for each topic.

The ARRANGING question will be either in the instrumental or choral area, depending on which course you have taken in your program. Prepare for this part of the Exam by writing 16-bar (or so) arrangements of short pieces (ex., folk tunes, segments of piano or other works). In practicing, limit yourself to 90 minutes in which to complete your arrangement, since that is the actual length of time allotted to this portion of the Exam.

(continued on reverse)

There will be six (6) SCORE IDENTIFICATION examples to identify, three (3) from your major area and three (3) from general music periods and genre. To prepare for this part of the Exam, keep in mind the following general guide in what to look for and write about in a score:

- What formal, harmonic, melodic, textural, etc., characteristics show style, period, country of origin, etc.?
- What is the genre of the work (opera, symphony, mass, etc.)?
- IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO WRITE ABOUT THESE ASPECTS OF THE WORK EVEN IF YOU RECOGNIZE THE WORK AND COMPOSER! Make note of the obvious—do not take certain basic characteristics of a score for granted and forget to mention them!
- Then—possible composer? Title? Date?
- Practice looking at lots of scores and answering these questions for yourself in writing. Review through the Grout, Norton, and Burkhardt Anthologies.
- Limit yourself to 15 minutes per score, since that is the amount of exam time you will have for each.
- In the Exam, you may write either directly on the scores or on a separate sheet of paper.

10. Those taking the Graduate Exit Exam will meet in the hall outside the Music Office (231 LH) no later than 9:00 am on the scheduled day, where a monitor will meet them and help them get situated to begin the Exam at 9:10 am. Students should bring plenty of pens or pencils with erasers. The monitor will help them keep track of time for each portion of the Exam.

The Exam schedule is as follows:

9:10 – 10:40 am	I. Pedagogy/Methods
5-min. Break	
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	II. Literature
40-min. LunchBreak	
12:55 – 2:25 pm	III. Arranging
5-min. Break	
2:30 – 4:00 pm	IV. Score Identification

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