



Department of Music

Study Guide

Graduate Diagnostic Examination in Music Theory

- I. All students enrolling in the graduate program in music at Wayne State University must take the graduate diagnostic examination in music theory.

- II. The exam will be given in a 90-minute period. It is in three parts, as follows:
 1. Ear training: brief problems in (tonal) melodic and harmonic dictation.
 2. Composition/partwriting problem: harmonize or compose a four-part chorale in common practice style. You will be asked to demonstrate applied knowledge of seventh chords, chord inversions, chromatic (altered) harmony, voice leading, modulation, and Roman numeral analysis.
 3. Analysis problem: based on the tonal common-practice literature. This will require knowledge and understanding of tonal forms, harmony, and voice leading, plus command of the language and apparatus of music theory and analysis, and basic writing and communication skills (for some brief essay answers).

- III. Preparation for the exam should include careful review of materials from undergraduate theory courses.

The following texts are also recommended:

Leo Kraft, *A New Approach to Ear Training*
Edward Aldwell & Carl Schachter, *Harmony & Voice Leading*
William Caplin, *Classical Form*
Douglass Green, *Form in Tonal Music*