



## Undergraduate Placement Examinations and Assessments Fall 2017

Placement exams and assessments are only given during the orientation period of each semester.

### **Keyboard Skills Exam**

Required for all instruments except Keyboard and Composition students. Individual appointments will be emailed as well as posted in shared Google document.

The examination covers sight reading of simple piano pieces, the performance of major and minor scales, and basic harmonic progressions at the piano. If supplementary work on the piano is indicated, one or two semesters of the keyboard skills class will be required.

### **Dictation, Sightsinging and Musicianship**

Required for all instruments. Individual appointments will be emailed as well as posted in shared google document.

The Musicianship Placement Exam determines placement into undergraduate musicianship sections. There are two components to the exam.

The first component is an individual sight-singing exam of short duration, which measures the student's ability to match pitch, retain the tonic, and perform music fluently at sight. Some examples will emphasize rhythm, modulation, and fluency in the alto and tenor clefs.

The second component is a comprehensive exam, administered in a group, which covers written theory and dictation skills. This exam is in two parts. The first part covers the rudiments of written theory (notation, key signatures, scales, intervals, and so forth), as well as dictation of single-voice rhythms, basic intervals, and simple melodies. This part of the exam is used to determine placement within the first three semesters of the musicianship sequence. The second part of the exam covers harmonic and melodic dictations of increasing difficulty, which determine placement within the final two semesters of the musicianship sequence.

[Study guide and more info](#)

For further questions or information, email Scott Foglesong ([scott.foglesong@sfc.edu](mailto:scott.foglesong@sfc.edu))

## **International Student English Assessment**

Required for all non-native English speakers.

This assessment will determine placement into or exemption from HMS 210/211 (speaking), HMS 212/213 (writing), and MHL 607 (graduate-level writing). All non-native English speakers must take this exam unless they attended high school or college in the United States. If you are unsure if you have to take the exam please contact Jonas Wright ([jwright@sfc.edu](mailto:jwright@sfc.edu)).

## **Humanities and writing Assessment**

Required for all native English speakers. International students who have a primary language other than English will instead take the International Student English Assessment.

The assessment tests writing skills, and grammar knowledge. Students who will be taking language courses are advised to review their knowledge of English grammar. Otherwise students need not make any special preparations for the examination.

## **Music Theory Exam**

Required for all incoming students.

Students who have taken collegiate-level Music Theory courses encompassing both Harmony and Structural (Formal) Analysis may receive credit by examination for one through four semesters of Music Theory.

The section of the exam covering the first two semesters of Music Theory concentrates primarily on common-practice harmonic writing and progressions, with only elementary structural analysis covered.

The section determining credit for the second two semesters concentrates predominantly on structural analysis, while including chromatic harmony as well. Credit for any given semester is contingent upon credit given for the previous semesters—for example, second-semester examination credit is awarded only if credit for the first semester is awarded as well.

[Study guide and more info](#)

For further questions or information, email Scott Foglesong ([scott.foglesong@sfc.edu](mailto:scott.foglesong@sfc.edu)).

## **Optional Placement Examinations**

### **Music History Exam**

Optional for students who have done extensive collegiate coursework in Music History, and with permission of the Chair of Music History and Literature.

The core curriculum at SFCM includes a three-semester music history survey: MHL 202 (850-1700), MHL 203 (1700-1900), and MHL 204 (1900-present). Undergraduate transfer students who have done equivalent collegiate coursework may request to take a placement exam in one, two, or all three of these time periods, as appropriate, and will receive credit by examination for any exam sections(s) passed. The exam will test knowledge of repertoire, as

well as general information about the history of music. For more information about the structure of the exam, consult the relevant section of the graduate placement exam information sheet. The undergraduate placement exam includes sections that are structured like Sections I and II of the graduate exam.

To take this exam, you must receive permission from the Chair of Music History and Literature (2017-18: Dr. Rebecca Plack, [rplack@sfc.edu](mailto:rplack@sfc.edu)). Your transcript will be reviewed to determine whether your previous coursework is extensive enough to warrant your taking the exam, and in which of the three historical periods listed above.

## Foreign Languages

Optional for all students.

Students who may be proficient in French, Italian, and/or German may take the placement exam of those languages to receive advanced placement unless this is your native language. Credits earned will count towards elective credits.

Please contact the instructor to schedule a placement exam at a mutually agreed upon time during Orientation:

- Mirjam Jooss, German Instructor, [mjooss@sfc.edu](mailto:mjooss@sfc.edu)
- Cathy Halter, French Instructor, [chalter@sfc.edu](mailto:chalter@sfc.edu)
- Lidia Mazza, Italian Instructor, [lmazza@sfc.edu](mailto:lmazza@sfc.edu)

The Conservatory does give transfer credit for foreign languages completed at accredited American colleges provided the student received a grade of C or better. Students need not take the foreign language placement examination if their college transcript indicates completion of foreign language studies.

## Basic Phonetics

Optional; Open to voice students who have previously studied phonetics.

Students with advanced language skills wishing to earn credit by examination for Basic Phonetics for Singers (APP 210) must take the Basic Phonetics Placement Test, which open book and covers the following material:

- The International Phonetic Alphabet - You will be asked to transcribe English words (real or invented) into IPA upon hearing them pronounced, and to identify simple English words written in IPA.
- Basic Articulatory Phonetics - You will be asked to answer multiple choice questions regarding the physical formation of vowels and consonants.
- English Lyric Diction - You will be asked to choose between various possible IPA transcriptions of simple English words, based specifically on suggestions contained in *The Singer's Guide to Languages* by Marcie Stapp. Copies available in the Conservatory Library.