



## Undergraduate (BM) Placement Examinations and Assessments Fall 2020

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

### Keyboard Skills Exam

Required for all incoming students except Keyboard and Composition majors. A sign-up sheet will be made available for you to choose the time of your exam.

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.

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### Dictation, Sightsinging and Musicianship

Required for all majors.

The Musicianship Placement Exam determines placement into the six semesters of undergraduate Musicianship as well as the appropriate track.

A sign-up sheet will be made available for you to choose times for each of the two components of the exam.

The first component consists of sight-singing a number of musical compositions, both melodies and single-voice rhythms, ranging in difficulty from very simple to extremely complex. The musical selections may be in any of four clefs (treble, bass, tenor, and alto), major and minor modes as well as the standard Church modes, and at the more difficult level may be selected from the 12-tone or atonal literature. The instructor administering the examination will determine which selections to ask you to sing, depending upon your prior experience with solfège. You may sing the examples in any solmization system. Conduct while performing, if at all possible. **The singing exam will be administered via one-on-one Zoom sessions.**

The second component is a progressive dictation exam beginning with simple rhythms and melodies, and progressing through increasingly difficult examples, including intervals, chords, advanced melodic dictation, harmonic dictation, and chorale dictation. The dictation component does not include any atonal or 12-tone examples. **The dictation exam will be administered as a downloadable recording with an answer template that you will be required to return to a specified online location by a specified date and time.**

[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 non-native English speakers only. This assessment will determine placement into, or exemption from, ESL courses. All non-native English speakers must take this exam.

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### **Academic Preparation Assessment**

Required for all native English speakers.

International students whose primary language is not English must take the International Student English Assessment instead.

The primary reasons for your studies here at the Conservatory are not only to improve your skills, techniques and abilities as a professional musician, but also to help make you a culturally more literate artist as well as an employable graduate. This assessment evaluates your academic preparation by testing writing skills and general cultural knowledge.

No special preparation for this assessment is necessary.

## Optional Placement Examinations

### 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 sign-up for a placement exam:

Italian Language Optional Placement Test  
Stefania Filigheddu (sfiligheddu@sfcmm.edu)

German Language Optional Placement Test  
Mirjam Jooss (mjooss@sfcmm.edu)

French Language Optional Placement Test  
Muriel Barton (mbarton@sfcmm.edu)

SFCM 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.

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### Music Theory Exam

Optional for incoming students who have taken collegiate-level Music Theory courses.

Students may receive credit by examination for one through four semesters of Music Theory. Undergraduate students who do not take the Music Theory Exam are automatically placed into first-semester Music Theory *unless* they require training in music fundamentals, in which case they will begin the Music Theory sequence in the sophomore year.

The exam concentrates on common-practice harmonic writing and harmonic analysis, including some chromatic harmony. It does not cover counterpoint, structural analysis, or post-1900 practices.

**The exam will be administered as a downloadable document that you will be required to return to a specified location by a specified date and time.**

Credit for any of the four semesters 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@sfcmm.edu](mailto:scott.foglesong@sfcmm.edu)).