

College-Conservatory of Music

Graduate Diagnostic Exam in Music History

What is the purpose of the exam?

To determine whether students must take any part of the two-semester sequence “Graduate Music History Review” (MUHS-7001, 7002) before proceeding to graduate-level coursework in music history.

Must I take the exam?

You are required to take the exam if:

- you are a new Masters of Music student. *Note: Even if you received an undergraduate degree from CCM you must still take the graduate diagnostic exam.*
- you are a new Doctor of Musical Arts or PhD graduate student and did *not* earn your Master of Music degree at CCM.
- you completed an MM at CCM and are returning for an additional MM, DMA, or PhD degree after more than seven (7) years have lapsed since completing your coursework.

You are not required to take the exam if:

- you are entering an Artist Diploma (AD) program.
- your major is Jazz Studies.

When do I take the exam? Students must take the diagnostic exam before beginning any music history coursework at CCM. Students entering CCM in the Fall semester will take the exam during orientation in August according to the schedule provided by the CCM Admissions Office. Students entering CCM in Spring semester will take it on the first day of the semester. Students matriculating in the Summer may request to take the examination during fall orientation, but may not take any courses during the summer for which “Graduate Music History Review” (MUHS-7001, 7002) or a passing score on the diagnostic exam is a prerequisite.

Students may not retake the diagnostic exam. Results are final. Students who took the diagnostic exam as part of their admissions procedures may not retake it.

What is the format of the exam and how can I prepare for it?

This examination is divided into two sections, corresponding to the content of Graduate Music History Review (MUHS-7001, 7002): Middle Ages through the mid-eighteenth century; and mid-eighteenth century to the present. It consists entirely of multiple choice questions, with five choices per question. Questions cover major composers, genres, forms, repertory, compositional procedures, terminology, documents (e.g., treatises), and general styles. The exam includes questions that involve recognition of notated score excerpts. Though the exam does not ask about specific dates, there are questions concerning broad chronological placement of genres, styles, and composers’ lives.

The recommended preparation is a thorough review of the most recent edition of Burkholder, Grout, and Palisca’s *A History of Western Music* and the accompanying *Norton Anthology of Western Music* or a textbook/anthology set of similar depth and detail. If test results are unsatisfactory on either of the two parts, the student will be required to take the corresponding Graduate Music History Review course(s) for remedial purposes without degree credit. The student will not be allowed to take special topics courses (MUHS-60XX) or advanced topics courses (MUHS-80XX) until deficiencies in the respective periods have been resolved.

May I skip the exam and simply take MUHS-7001 and MUHS-7002?

No. Please take the exam and give it your best effort. Since the review courses are very full, we would prefer that you let the musicology faculty determine whether or not you can benefit from them.