University of Oregon Online Musicianship Diagnostic

Review Materials for Written Theory

We urge you to consult these materials if you scored lower than 80% on the written skills portion of the diagnostic.

At the UO we use *The Musician’s Guide to Theory and Analysis*, Second Edition, by Jane Clendinning and Elizabeth West Marvin. The topics on the diagnostic are covered in chapters 1–7 of that textbook. The first term of music theory (MUS 131) covers chapters 2–8. Students should be proficient with chapter 1 concepts prior to the start of the term: pitch names, accidentals, staff notation, and clefs.

Each of the chapters in *The Musician’s Guide* includes a number of “Try It” exercises (with answers in the back of the book), as well as some questions for review. One good way to brush up your theory skills is simply to read these chapters and try the exercises in them.

You can also of course consult other comparable textbooks such as *Tonal Harmony*, by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne, *The Complete Musician*, by Steven Laitz, and so on. Most theory textbooks cover similar basic materials in their early chapters (pitches, meter, scales, intervals, etc.). If you review some of these concepts before the academic year starts, will put you in an excellent position coming into freshman theory.

A few other resources can be found online:

1. [http://www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net) includes exercises in note, key signature, interval, and chord identification, as well as several useful ear-training exercises.
2. [http://www.teoria.com/exercises/index.php](http://www.teoria.com/exercises/index.php) includes exercises for notation, intervals scales, key signatures, and chords. (Also includes exercises for aural skills)
3. [http://www.musicards.net](http://www.musicards.net) includes flashcards for increasing fluency with note names, key signatures, intervals, and triads.
4. [http://www.emusictheory.com/freeResources.html](http://www.emusictheory.com/freeResources.html) includes drills for note names, piano keys, intervals, scales, key signatures, chords, and even first-species.