



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

UPPER DIVISION PROFICIENCY EXAM

Assessment Procedures for All Exams

- Students must pass all preliminary courses with a grade of C or better to enroll in the upper division music classes
- Students who fail to pass any subject exam three consecutive times may be advised to change their major
- Students who do not pass all portions of the exam and withdraw from the university must retake the exam upon re-admittance to the program
- Grades for the UDPE will be recorded in the standard forms and placed in each student's file
- Semester course grades and UDPE grades are separate evaluations
- Students must pass the UDPE exams prior to enrolling in specific upper-level music courses as listed on the chart above

UDPE Exam Includes:

- Interpretive Analysis Paper – *at least* 1,500 words
- Oral Presentation and Performance
- Written Theory and Aural Exam
- Piano Proficiency Exam – after MU 3111 and MU 3122

Interpretive Analysis Paper, Oral Presentation, and Performance

The Interpretive Analysis Paper, Oral Presentation, and Performance exam must be passed by all music majors before enrolling in 3000 level applied lessons. The purpose of the exam is to ensure competence in writing, public speaking and performance, all of which are necessary skills for success as professional musicians and educators.

Policy

At the beginning of the semester, students will be advised by their applied instructor about their exam. It is recommended that the oral presentation and performance be scheduled during final juries at the end of the student's second semester of 2000 level applied study. A minimum of three faculty members will constitute the oral presentation and performance jury, including the applied instructor. Jury members will grade the components

of the exam “Pass” or “Fail.” At least 2 grades of “Pass” must be given for a student to pass the exam. Passing this exam is required before enrolling in 3000 level applied study.

Requirements

The Interpretive Analysis Paper, Oral Presentation, and Performance Exam tests 2000 level repertoire and performance skills as well as written and oral communication skills. Following are the minimum requirements for the exam:

The Interpretive Analysis Paper should:

- Focus on a single musical work, or appropriate repertoire based upon discipline, chosen by the student from his/her current repertoire with advice from the applied instructor, and approved of by the instructor no later than the third week of the semester
- Consist of *at least* 1,500 words, exclusive of footnotes
- Use 12-point plain Times New Roman font for the text and author’s name, 14-point bold Times New Roman for the subheadings, and 18-point bold Times New Roman for the title, with double-spaced text, one-inch margins, and page numbers centered in the footer
- Contain at least three professional-quality musical examples, electronically inserted in the paper and headed by captions that specify which measures of the piece they represent and appropriate attributions of their sources
- Reflect the reading of at least three outside sources, drawn from books or journal articles, or approved internet sources, which are documented via footnoted references in the paper and formatted according to the applied instructor’s preferred style
- Use music terminology acquired in music theory and other music courses, as well as through applied study, expressed within grammatically complete and correct sentences – all of which will be checked by the student for spelling before submission
- Be submitted to the applied instructor in draft form no later than the tenth week of the semester and subsequently revised according to the applied instructor’s suggestions regarding content, grammar, and spelling
- Be submitted to the student’s jury members no later than one week before the jury
- Include the following specific topical sections, each of which is identified in the paper by a subheading:
 - Introduction: a discussion of the historical circumstances of each composition’s creation, including mention of when it was written during the composer’s career and the specific stylistic influences it reflects
 - Form and Thematic material: a discussion of each composition’s main sections and subsections that includes specification of their measure-spans and explanation of their relationships. A discussion that specifies the main thematic material of the composition and explains how it is used
 - Interpretation: a discussion of performance decisions, adopted by the student upon the advice of the instructor, that contribute to the student’s careful and considered effort to faithfully execute the composer’s artistic intentions
 - Conclusion: a review and reflection upon the content of the paper, plus a discussion of its implications for the performance of other music by the composer

The Applied UDPE Presentation should:

- Present the essence of the student's paper in a 15-minute verbal overview, spoken from an outline, illustrated by a handout with the paper's musical examples and/or PowerPoint slides
- Include a performance of the music discussed in the presentation
- Conclude with questions posed by the jury and answered by the student. The Applied UDPE paper and presentation should: be voted on by the members of the jury
- pass with a majority of positive votes