

Music majors and students enrolling in MU 105 or 106 - Music Theory I or II

The Music Theory placement exam at Wartburg College is required for all students who wish to enroll in MU 105 or 106.

The music degrees at Wartburg College are intensively focused four-year programs. In order for students to be prepared for our degrees it is imperative that they have a strong background in music theory and ear training fundamentals.

The music theory placement exam is designed to evaluate your knowledge of music theory and ear training and to determine if you have the acquired skills to take MU 105 – Music Theory I. In order to enroll in MU 105 you must receive a score of 70% or higher on the placement exam. Students who score lower than 70% will be required to take MU 90 – Elementary Music Theory and Ear Training during the winter semester.

In order to prepare for the music theory placement exam, it is strongly suggested that you borrow or purchase a high quality, basic music theory book. One test that covers completely the requirements of the placement exam is Basic Materials in Music Theory: A Programmed Course by Paul Harder and Greg Steinke.

The theory placement exam includes the following topics:

Theory

- clefs (treble, alto, tenor, bass)
 - identification of pitches in each clef
- whole and half steps
 - chromatic and diatonic half steps
- octave designation
 - middle c = c1
- meter and time
 - duple, triple quadruple, quintuple meter
 - simple and compound time
 - time classification
 - division and subdivision of the beat
 - borrowed division
- manuscript notation
 - instrumental notation
- intervals
 - all forms from unison to octave
 - identification
 - writing of intervals up and down
- scales
 - all forms
 - major, and natural, harmonic, and melodic minors
 - modes
 - identification of whole steps and half steps in a scale
- key signatures
 - major and relative minor
 - parallel major and minor
 - identify and construct key signatures

