

## Undergraduate Theory Diagnostic Exam FAQ

Updated: April 14, 2011

**MUSC 115 Music Theory I (3)** is a fast-paced written theory course specifically designed for music majors and music minors. Its companion aural skills lab is **MUSC 117 Aural Skills I (1)**. Music majors and minors normally take these courses concurrently. The 2-year *undergraduate theory core sequence* for music majors is:

	Written Theory	Aural Skills
1st year:	MUSC 115, 116	MUSC 117, 118
2nd year:	MUSC 215, 216	MUSC 217, 218

Music minors must complete the 1st year program of studies. MUSC 115 & 117 are offered every fall and every spring term. MUSC 116 & 118 are offered every spring term, and every Summer II term. The spring version of MUSC 115/117 and summer version of MUSC 116/118 are called "trailing sections." Trailing sections are designed to accommodate students who are trying to catch up in the sequence or who have failed the previous course. More information about our core theory sequence is available online at:

<http://www.music.sc.edu/ea/theory/aboutcore.html>

### What type of musical background is required for MUSC 115?

MUSC 115 is designed for students who have approximately 4 years of musical training in a high school—usually through participation in band, chorus, orchestra, or equivalent musical experience. Students should be able to fluently read music in the clef of their primary instrument. Students in MUSC 115 must be able to read the treble and bass clefs by Test 1.

### What is the Undergraduate Theory Diagnostic Exam (UTDE)?

In order to qualify for MUSC 115, students must take the *Undergraduate Theory Diagnostic Exam (UTDE)*. This 10-20 min. theory fundamentals exam is administered during the first class meeting of MUSC 115. Space in MUSC 115 is limited, so students who wish to take MUSC 115 need to be enrolled by the first class meeting.

### What happens if I do not pass the exam?

Students who do NOT pass the exam will receive an e-mail later that same day instructing them to **DROP MUSC 115/117** and **ADD MUSC 114 Introduction to Music Theory**. MUSC 114 is offered every fall term MWF 8:00-8:50 AM.

**MUSC 114 Introduction to Music Theory (3)** Practice in basic aural and written musical skills. Concepts of rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and expression. Designed for nonmusic majors, and music majors/minors who are not ready to take MUSC 115. *This course does not count for credit toward the music major or music minor.*

Dr. Pruzin will be available by appointment to help students make the necessary adjustments to their schedule. Students who take MUSC 114 in the fall term are guaranteed a seat in MUSC 115 in the spring term.

### Will taking MUSC 114 delay normal progress toward the music major or music minor?

Not necessarily. To catch back up in the sequence, MUSC 114 students may take MUSC 115/117 in the spring and MUSC 116/118 in the summer as shown below:

**Spring term:** MUSC 115 (MWF 8:00) & MUSC 117 (TTH 8:00)  
**Summer II term:** MUSC 116 (MTWTH 1:00-3:15) & MUSC 118 (MTWTH 10:30-11:50)

### What happens if I miss the first day of class?

A student who misses the first day of class runs the risk of not being able to take MUSC 115 that term. In case of an emergency, please contact Dr. Bain via e-mail as soon as possible.

### How can I prepare for the UTDE?

A study guide for the UTDE is available online at:

<http://www.music.sc.edu/ea/theory/utde.html>

### Contact Information

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