Music Placement Exams

All prospective music students—freshman, transfers, and current City College students—must take the Music Placement Exam prior to departmental advising and registration for core music major courses. These exams are given the week before each semester begins to help place students in the appropriate courses to move through our program successfully.

**Spring 2016 exam: Friday, January 22, at 11a in Shepard Hall 95**
Spring 2016 makeup: Tuesday, January 26, at 11a in Shepard Hall 95

The exams are graded immediately upon completion and music advisors will be on hand throughout the same afternoon to help students complete the registration process for music courses.

**Basic Exam**
The entry-level exam covers fundamentals such as scales, keys, intervals, and triads. This is a brief timed exam, testing comfort with the material, so please arrive early; late students will not be accommodated. Students’ aural and keyboard skills will also be assessed. Passing the basic exam grants access to the required first semester courses — Music 13200, 31161, and 31151 — as well as departmental approval to declare a major in music.

**Advanced Exams**
Students with prior formal training who seek advanced placement can request additional exams covering harmony, voice leading, sight singing, and keyboard skills. Qualified students should arrive early enough to alert the proctor that they wish to add these components to the entry-level exam. Passing these components can place students into second or third semester courses, depending on their results.

**Please note:**
Students with no prior formal training do not need to take the exam. Instead, we recommend that they register for these three courses to prepare for the Placement Exams before the subsequent semester:

MUS 31140 (Theory Fundamentals); 31160 (Aural Fundamentals); 31150 (Piano Fundamentals)

Alternatively, students can study on their own by mastering a text such as:

*Scales, Intervals, Keys, Triads, Rhythm, and Meter* by Clough et al. (Norton, 1999).

Please keep in mind that students are not eligible to become music majors until they pass the Placement Exams and are enrolled in the required degree courses.