

# Aural Skills Placement Test Guidelines

## Information for Incoming Freshmen, Transfer Students, and Advanced Standing Tests

### Aural Skills Placement

#### I. Incoming Freshmen

Studies in aural skills begin with Aural Skills I (MUSI 1111), which is taken during the first semester of the freshman year. Freshmen are invited to take the Aural Skills Placement Test for Advanced Standing, which is primarily advised when the student has prior training in aural skills through high school or private study.

#### II. Advanced Standing

If you have mastered the content of an aural skills class through high school study, private study, or self-study, you may take the Aural Skills Placement Test to attempt to receive college credit for aural skills courses. The placement exam typically occurs the week before Spring or Fall semester classes begin. The placement exam is divided into various sections that correspond to different aural skills courses. If you receive an **80% or better** on a section of the placement exam, you will receive credit for the corresponding class. The material covered in each aural skills class is given in the table below.

A student may not take the Aural Skills Placement Test if they have already attempted the course unless they dropped the course before the Drop/Add date, which is typically during the first two weeks of the semester.

#### III. Transfer Students

If you are transferring aural skills courses to Kennesaw State University from your previous institution(s) and wish to apply this credit towards your degree, you are required to take our Aural Skills Placement Test to verify your level of competency in the content of those courses (see the table on the next page). The placement exam typically occurs the week before Spring or Fall semester classes begin. The placement exam is divided into various sections that correspond to different aural skills courses. If you receive a **70% or better** on a section of the placement exam, you will receive credit for the corresponding class.

### Resources to prepare for the Aural Skills Placement Test

We suggest using the following resources to prepare for your exam:

- Web-based (free):
  - <https://www.freemusicdictations.net/> (dictation practice section has an answer key)
  - <http://www.musictheory.net/> (best for interval and chord ID)
  - <http://www.good-ear.com/>
- CD-based (paid):
  - MacGamut 6
  - Auralia (the Cloud version is used by KSU)

Course	Content
MUSI 1111: Aural Skills I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major and minor scales and melodies</li> <li>• Identification of meter, mode, and starting scale degree (<math>\hat{1}</math>, <math>\hat{3}</math>, or <math>\hat{5}</math>)</li> <li>• Solfège and interval identification: all ascending intervals</li> <li>• Rhythms in simple and compound meters</li> <li>• Error detection and correction of single-line melodies</li> <li>• Dictation of major and minor single-line melodies with skips within I and V<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
MUSI 2212: Aural Skills II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melodic dictation including leaps of subdominant, dominant seventh, and other diatonic harmonies</li> <li>• Identification of all intervals (ascending, descending, and harmonic)</li> <li>• Two-part dictation (and interval analysis between the two parts)</li> <li>• Error detection of two-part compositions</li> <li>• Melodies having beat subdivisions and syncopation</li> <li>• Harmonic dictation of root-position diatonic harmonies and ii<sup>6</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transcribe bass and soprano voices</li> <li>- Analyze the chords with Roman numerals (including inversions)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
MUSI 3111: Aural Skills III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melodic dictation with seventh chord arpeggiations, embellishing chromaticism, and applied chords</li> <li>• Harmonic dictations including inversions of triads, seventh chords, and applied chords</li> <li>• Error detection and correction of harmonic progressions incorporating applied chords</li> <li>• Triad and seventh chord dictation (including all inversions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both in isolation and within a tonal context</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
MUSI 3112: Aural Skills IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmonic and melodic dictations including mixture chords, Neapolitan, and augmented sixth chords</li> <li>• Harmonic dictations having sequences and modulations to closely related keys</li> <li>• Error detection and correction of harmonic progressions containing chromatic chords</li> </ul>

For additional information please contact:

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