

Required and Optional Tests for Exempting Courses: General Guidelines

There are two different test protocols for students to exempt courses in the KSU School of Music (SOM), as explained below. Specific information about the content of these tests, and suggestions for successful test preparation, are contained in the guidelines below for the areas of music theory, aural skills, class piano, and music history. The guidelines include contact information for the faculty coordinator of each area, and each coordinator can answer questions about the tests in their area.

Required SOM Placement Tests

SOM Placement Tests are required for all transfer and change of major students who wish to exempt required SOM courses that they have already passed at another college or university. Tests are available for the course sequences required for all SOM degrees: four semesters of music theory, four semesters of aural skills, and two semesters of music history. For the class piano sequence, students can take SOM Placement Tests for the courses required for their degree. Tests for other SOM courses may also be available; please contact the appropriate faculty coordinator to inquire.

SOM Placement Tests are administered at the beginning of the term when students first enter the SOM, and students have a single opportunity to take these tests. A grade of 70 or better is required to exempt a course under the SOM Placement Test protocol. Students scoring 70 or higher are exempted from the KSU course by a SOM initiated procedure that gives them transfer credit for the course they previously took at another institution. Students scoring less than 70 on any course they have previously passed at another institution will be required to take that course in the SOM.

Optional KSU Advanced Standing Exams

Students who wish to exempt a SOM theory, aural skills, history, or class piano course that they have not previously taken at a college or university may do so using the Advanced Standing Exam protocol. Advanced Standing Exams are governed by a university-wide procedure used in all academic areas at KSU: please see the complete Advanced Standing Exam regulations at the KSU Registrar's website. If a student passes an Advanced Standing Exam, they can then complete the Advanced Standing Exam form by getting the necessary signatures and paying the required fee at the Bursar's Office. A grade of "S" (Satisfactory) is entered in their record for that course, and the course counts towards completion of degree requirements. Tests for other SOM courses may also be available; please contact the appropriate faculty coordinator to inquire.

Advanced Standing Exams in the SOM are usually administered at the beginning of each term, and students have a single opportunity to take any respective test. A grade of 80 or better is required to exempt a course under the Advanced Standing Exam protocol. Students scoring less than 80 on any Advanced Standing Exam will be required to take that course in the SOM.