MUSIC THEORY AND MUSICIANSHIP PLACEMENT

Am I required to take the music theory and musicianship placement tests?

• Yes, all incoming Conservatory students must take the placement tests except those pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Music Industry Studies.

Can I begin the placement test process now?

• Yes! You can now get started on Pacific’s music theory placement process by taking the online Music Fundamentals Test. Passing this test will allow you to enroll this fall in MCOM 32 (Diatonic Harmony), which is the first class in the core music theory sequence at Pacific.

How do I take the test?

• [Here is the link to the test.](#)

When should I take the test?

• Make your first attempt at the test as soon as possible. Do not worry if you do not pass the first time!

• If the test shows areas that need improvement, you will be given the opportunity to complete online lessons and practice in these areas and then retake the test. You may take the placement test a total of 5 times before July 1.

I am planning to retake the test and I would like to use uTheory’s resources to study. Do I have to pay?

• No. If you are prompted to pay a subscription fee while using uTheory’s lessons, use this link to join Pacific’s “section” of uTheory; doing this will grant you free and unlimited access to uTheory’s lessons and practice resources.

What happens if I cannot pass the test even after taking it several times?

• If you do not pass the online test by July 1, you will take MCOM 02 (Music Fundamentals) in the fall before continuing with MCOM 32 (Diatonic Harmony) in the spring. Remember – you have 5 chances to pass the test and you will be able to study and practice between now and July 1.

If I do very well on the test, will I have the opportunity to place into higher levels of music theory?

• If you score 90% or higher on this test, you will be invited to take additional placements tests for the remaining courses in the theory curriculum. These tests will be made available in June.

There are musicianship classes too, right? How does musicianship placement work at Pacific?

• Musicianship placement happens during orientation. We will provide more information in June.

I have taken college-level theory before and hope to place out of several theory courses at Pacific. Are there any resources you recommend for brushing up on my skills?

• Artusi ([www.artusi.xyz](http://www.artusi.xyz)) is a great resource for practice exercises in diatonic and chromatic harmony.
MUSIC THEORY AND MUSICIANSHP PLACEMENT

What level of music theory should I expect to place into?

- I like to answer this question with an anecdote. I loved music theory throughout high school (big surprise, I know). I took two semesters of AP music theory in high school. I aced the AP Music Theory Exam. I took my conservatory’s theory placement test during orientation, and guess where I placed? Into Diatonic Harmony! I was initially surprised by the placement, but it ended up being great — I loved going through the entire theory curriculum in college, and I had the foundation to succeed.

- I use this anecdote to underscore that our goal is for you to start the theory curriculum at the point that will be most conducive to your success at Pacific. For many of you, this will be Diatonic Harmony. If the material on the music fundamentals test is mostly very new to you, it may be that MCOM 02 Music Fundamentals is best place for you to begin in the fall. If you are a transfer student and/or you have taken several semesters of college-level theory, it is more likely that Chromatic Harmony or Advanced Chromaticism and Analysis will be the best place for you to start.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, and I look forward to the fall!

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Andrew Conklin, Program Director for Composition and Music Theory, at aconklin@pacific.edu.