History Study Guide

The graduate diagnostic exam covers the entirety of Western music history (medieval period through the present). It consists of seventy-four multiple-choice questions; identification of seventeen works by composer and time period; and aural identification of six works by title, composer, and time period.

In order to prepare for this exam, review the course materials from your undergraduate music history and musicology courses as well as a standard textbook along with its accompanying anthologies (scores and recordings).

We recommend the following textbooks and their anthologies:


A short practice exam (with answers provided on a separate page at the end) including questions of the same types and of comparable difficulty as the ones on the diagnostic exam is on the School of Music website (http://music.utah.edu/students/graduate-students.php) to help you in your preparation.

We recommend that you study diligently for this exam. If you do not pass it, you will be required to take MUSC 6600 (Graduate Survey of Music History) before you may enroll in graduate-level music history and musicology courses that fulfill your degree requirements.