

# University of Mississippi, Department of Music Musicianship and Harmony IV Validation Exam

## General Information

The information contained in this exam reflects the culmination of four semesters of work in a comprehensive curriculum in musicianship and harmony studies. There are four parts to the exam:

1. **Timed writing of basic theoretical information** (key signatures, intervals, chords). This information needs to be well known and fluent enough so that it does not take much time to do.
2. **Written theory** (part writing, analysis, information concerning harmonies and compositional techniques of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries). This portion of the exam works with rules of part writing, modulation, an understanding of harmonic relationships within a tonal world, and techniques composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century used to move away from that world of tonality.
3. **Ear training and dictation** (scales, intervals, chords, rhythm, melody, harmony). The goal of all educated musicians is to be able to “hear what you see” and “see what you hear.” This portion of the test works with the ability to recognize sounds and write them down using conventional rules of notation.
4. **Aural skills** (individual work). Musicians need to have a basic fluency with musical skills. At the end of four semesters of study, they need to demonstrate the ability to reproduce basic intervallic, rhythmic and harmonic patterns and to sing melodies, speak rhythms, sing in tune with others, and read rhythms.

Students taking the exam may use solfège syllables, a consistent neutral syllable (such as “la” or “du”), numbers, or note names.