

DEL MAR COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Welcome and congratulations on your decision to attend Del Mar College as part of the Department of Music. We are excited to have you here and we look forward to working with you as you begin your collegiate music education and establish a foundation that will serve you for the whole of your career.

On **Wednesday, August 20 2014**, the Del Mar College Department of Music would like to invite you to a special departmental orientation. During this orientation, you will be able to fully prepare yourself for your first day of classes by participating in several *required* activities as well as familiarize yourself with the facilities and your professors to ensure a more successful beginning to your semester.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

9:00-10:50 AM Music Theory Diagnostics Exam – *Wolfe Recital Hall*

This test is designed to assess an incoming student's musical pitch and rhythm reading and basic musical notation. More information about this test is included on the following pages.

11:00 -11:50 AM Locker Checkout – *Music Office*
Tour of Music Building – *Departing from Patio Room*

All instrumentalists at the college need a place to store their instruments when they are not being used for a rehearsal or individual practice. Lockers are provided for all college musicians and will be checked out during orientation. We will also be providing new students with a tour of the Department of Music Facilities. All students attending New Student Orientation will be divided into one of two groups to get their lockers as well as their facilities tour.

12:00-12:50 PM Refreshments – *Patio Room*
Results of the Theory Diagnostics Exam will be posted.

1:00 PM-1:50 PM Meet Studio Professors/Set Lesson Levels & Times/Instrument Checkout
Individual Professor's Studios (a map listing will be available the day of orientation)

All music majors are required to take private lessons. The time of your lesson is scheduled to accommodate both your schedule and your professor's schedule. Some professors require that students take pre-major lessons to make sure their needs are properly met and so that all majors can achieve the proper performance level during their tenure at Del Mar College. During orientation, you can acquaint yourself with and make these arrangements with participating private instructors (**bring your instrument!**). Also, if you play a large instrument (tuba, cello, etc.), the college can provide these instruments and they will be checked out to you at this time.

Beginning 2:00 PM Finalize Schedule

If a change is needed in your schedule based upon the results of your Theory Placement Exam and/or your Lesson Placement with your studio professor, we can help you make these adjustments at this time.

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MUSIC THEORY DIAGNOSTICS EXAM INFORMATION

All music majors must take the core music courses as part of their major. This consists of Music Theory, Sight-Singing/Ear Training, and Piano. Basic music notation understanding (reading and writing) is necessary to succeed in these courses. It is not uncommon for students to take a preparatory course – Music Fundamentals (MUSI 1301) and Class Voice (MUSI 1183) – to prepare one’s self for their core courses. The Del Mar College Department of Music administers a short test, which is designed to assess an incoming student’s music reading, basic music notation, and sight singing so that students can have the best chance for success in their music courses.

Here are some quick facts about the Music Theory Diagnostics Exam:

- The Music Theory Diagnostics Exam should be taken *prior* to your first semester of music classes.
- The Music Theory Diagnostics Exam is administered during the Department of Music New Student Orientation (**Wednesday, August 20 2014**) at 9:00 am in Wolfe Recital Hall).
- If a student cannot or chooses not to attend the Department of Music New Student Orientation and take the Music Theory Diagnostics Exam at that time, the exam will be available to take the week before classes begin (August 18-22, 2014) and throughout the first week of classes (August 25-29, 2014). The test will be available Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-5 PM, Friday 8 AM-12:30 PM at the Testing Center. For further information on this testing option, please call Anna Turner at the Testing Center (698-1645).
- The Music Theory Diagnostics Exam may be taken only once either at the New Student Orientation or the Testing Center. The exam consists of three parts, the **written theory**, **dictation**, and **sight signing** components. Students who pass with a 70% or higher on all parts of the exam will take Theory I (MUSI 1211), Sight-Singing/Ear Training I (MUSI 1216), and Piano I (MUSI 1181) in the fall. Students who don’t pass all parts of the exam will take Music Fundamentals (MUSI 1301) and Class Voice (MUSI 1183) to prepare them for Theory I, etc.
- Please note that if you choose to take the exam at the Testing Center and not during the New Student Orientation, you will only be able to complete parts I and II. Part III will need to be taken in the presence of a music faculty member at the Fine Arts Center (Music Building, FM). Please contact Dr. Roger W. Petersen at rpetersen@delmar.edu to take part III or the exam.
- Any student who chooses not to take the Music Theory Diagnostics Exam during the allotted time automatically opts to take Music Fundamentals (MUSI 1301) and Class Voice (MUSI 1183).
- Any student who would like to take Music Fundamentals in lieu of the Theory Diagnostics Exam is welcome to do so.
- If you have preregistered for Theory I (MUSI 1211), Sight-Singing/Ear Training I (MUSI 1216), and Piano I (MUSI 1181) and do not pass the exam, faculty within the Department of Music will help you fix your schedule. If you attend New Student Orientation, this will take place on the same day. Students who take the test in the Testing Center will need to make an appointment with their advisor to make the appropriate schedule changes.

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DIAGNOSTICS EXAM STUDY GUIDE

The theory diagnostics exam is not a measure of your innate musical talents, skills, or study habits. Every student has different degrees of musical experience and this exam intends to place students in classes that will ultimately lead to their successful development as a musician and student, regardless of past music education and experience.

The Music Theory Diagnostics Exam will assess some, if not all of the following content:

Part I Written Theory Portion

Note Reading (Treble and Bass clefs)
Rhythmic Values
Notating major and minor scales
Identify major and minor scales in a musical excerpt
Notate and identify key signatures
Notate intervals above and below a given pitch
Identify intervals

Part II and III: Dictation and Sight Singing

Match pitch
Sing a major scale
Perform a given rhythm
Rhythmic Dictation
Melodic dictation- Identify the contours or shapes of melodic lines.

Students are encouraged to prepare for the exam by using any number of ear training software programs such as Practica Musica or MacGamut. These programs will help prepare students for all parts of the exam through various exercises that consists of interval identification and spelling, notating and identifying scales, as well as ear training exercise such as melodic dictation and rhythmic dictation.

If you have further questions about the exam, please contact your major advisor or Dr. Roger W. Petersen at rpetersen@delmar.edu.