EXAMINATION SCHEDULE
Summer 2014 – Spring 2016

US’14:
Theory Orientation Exam - Sun 6/29/14  6pm - 419 MPB
* (This way we do not conflict with weekend seminars)
* (REQUIRED for NEW Summer MM Graduate Students)

DMA Comprehensive Exam - Friday 8/2/14 10am-6pm  - Hart Aud + 135 MB
* (Students must contact musgrad@msu.edu by Aug 1, to sit for the exam.)
* (Students must have been/be enrolled for at least 1 credit SS’14, US’14 or FS’14 to take exam.)

FS’14:
Theory Orientation - Sun 8/24/14 10am-2pm - 103 Music Practice
* (REQUIRED for NEW Graduate Students (excluding PhD Mus Ed and MM Jazz) or any graduate student who has not yet taken this exam.)

DMA Comprehensive Exam - Sat 11/15/14 9am-6pm - Hart Aud + 135 MB
* (11 weeks into the semester – AWAY Football game day)
* (Students must contact musgrad@msu.edu by Oct. 24, to sit for the exam.)
* (Students must be enrolled for at least 1 credit FS’14 to take exam.)

SS’15:
Theory Orientation - Sun 1/4/15 1-5pm - 419 MPB
* (REQUIRED for NEW Graduate Students or any graduate student who has not yet taken this exam.)

DMA Comprehensive Exam - Sat 3/21/15 9am-6pm - Hart + 135 MB
* (10 weeks + Spring Break = 11 weeks in)
* (Students must contact musgrad@msu.edu by Mar. 6, to sit for the exam.)
* (Students must be enrolled for at least 1 credit SS’15 to take exam.)

US’15:
Theory Orientation Exam - Sun 6/28/15 6pm - 419 MPB
* (This way we do not conflict with weekend seminars)
* (REQUIRED for NEW Summer MM Graduate Students)

DMA Comprehensive Exam - Friday 8/21/15 9am-6pm - Hart Aud + 135 MB
* (Students must contact musgrad@msu.edu by Aug 1, to sit for the exam.)
* (Students must have been/be enrolled for at least 1 credit SS’15, US’15 or FS’15 to take exam.)

*** Dates, times & locations below are subject to change and will be verified May 2015. ***

FS’15:
Theory Orientation - Sun 8/27/15 10am-2pm - 103 Music Practice
DMA Comprehensive Exam - Sat 11/xx/2015 9am-6pm - Hart Aud + 135 MB
* (~11 weeks into the semester – Dependent upon MSU Football Schedule)

SS’16:
Theory Orientation - Sun 1/5/16 1-5pm - 419 MPB
DMA Comprehensive Exam - Sat 3/xx/2014 9am-6pm - Hart Aud + 135 MB
* (~10 weeks + Spring Break = 11 weeks in – Dependent upon Ensemble schedules)

** Students are e-mailed information about examinations ahead of time, including date, time and procedure for signing up. Study materials for Comprehensive Part 1 are on our website. As of 6/1/14
Theory Orientation Exam
This exam is mandatory for all students beginning a graduate degree program at the College of Music at MSU. (This includes students who have completed a bachelor’s program at MSU). The exam is given before the start of each semester, with the Summer exam being right before MSU’s 2nd-half Summer begins.

Students taking the test are required to take the first two exam parts. These cover:

**a. Aural Skills (lasts about 30 minutes)**
(Tests recognition of chord type, ability to take down simple textures, melodic dictation, error detection and so forth. To prepare, students should find their own materials and use these to practice basic listening skills.)

*If your score is below 70% on this section, Music 201 (Graduate Aural Skills) is a graduation requirement.*
You can still enroll in a graduate theory course your first semester if you enroll for Music 201 during your first or second semester of enrollment. *Music 201 is a one-credit course that does not count toward your total credit requirement.*

**b. Basic Written Theory (no time limit, but usually takes 40-80 minutes)**
(The theory material is basic theory, dealing with diatonic and chromatic harmonic vocabulary and part-writing. Its contents are generally covered in any undergraduate text. Texts used at MSU have included: Aldwell/Schachter, Kostka/Payne, and Laitz)

*If your score is below 70% on this section, Music 200 (Introduction to Music Theory) is a graduation requirement.*
You can still enroll in a graduate theory course your first semester if you enroll concurrently for Music 200. *Music 200 is a one-credit course that does not count toward your total credit requirement.*

The Entrance Exam also has four optional parts. You are encouraged to take as many of these four tests as you would like. These parts are:

- a. Counterpoint
- b. Orchestration and Basic Instrumentation
- c. Tonal Forms
- d. Early Twentieth-Century Techniques

DMA Comprehensive Exams

DMA students who began their DMA degree before or during 2011-12, have two options:

1) Continue with the current curriculum and take either the theory or musicology comp
2) Choose the new DMA curriculum and take a combined theory-musicology comp.

DMA students who began their degree Fall 2012 or later have NO option. You will take the combined theory-musicology comp.

*If you plan to take the comp exam, you must notify the Graduate Studies Office via email no less than 2 weeks prior to the test date.*
*There will be NO exceptions to this cutoff date*
*Students arriving to the exam without having notified the Graduate Studies Office will NOT be allowed to take the exam.*
*You must bring writing utensils and a picture ID with you to the exam.*

Please note the following is the normal schedule:

1) **Part I:** Arrive at 8:30 am. Part I exam begins promptly at 9:00 am. There is a break for lunch.
2) **Part II:** Arrive at 12:30 pm. Part II exam begins promptly at 1:00 pm

**Students are e-mailed information about examinations ahead of time, including date, time and procedure for signing up. Study materials for Comprehensive Part 1 are on our website.**