

Find out how to prove — and improve — the effectiveness of your **Music** program with the **ETS® Major Field Tests.**

Content Validity

The ETS® Major Field Test (MFT) in Music, first administered in 1989, assesses graduating Music students' mastery of concepts, principles and knowledge. To ensure fairness and content relevance, the test is revised approximately every four to five years.

Developed by Leading Educators in the Field

Experienced faculty members with specializations in the areas of music theory and music history determine test specifications, questions and types of scores reported. ETS assessment experts subject each question to rigorous tests of sensitivity and reliability. Every effort is made to include questions that assess the most common and important topics and skills.

Questions that require interpretation and analysis of musical scores, music notation and recorded excerpts of music are included. Academic departments may add up to two subgroups and as many as 50 additional locally written questions to test areas of the discipline that may be unique to the department or institution.

National Comparative Data

A *Comparative Data Guide*, published each year, contains tables of scaled scores and percentiles for individual student scores, departmental mean scores and any subscores or group assessment indicators that the test may support. The tables of data are drawn from senior-level test takers at a large number of diverse institutions. Nearly 1,500 colleges and universities employ one or more of the Major Field Tests for student achievement and curriculum evaluation each year.

Who Develops the MFT in Music?

Individuals who serve or recently have served on the Committee for the MFT in Music are faculty members from the following institutions:

Arizona State University
Colorado College
Elon University
Ithaca College
University of Nebraska – Lincoln
University of Tulsa

For more information about the MFT in Music:

Phone: **1-800-745-0269**
Email: **higherred@ets.org**
Visit: **www.ets.org/mft**

Educational Testing Service
Rosedale Road
Princeton, NJ 08541

Test Content — Music (4JMF)

The Major Field Test in Music contains about 129 multiple-choice questions, a number of which are grouped in sets and based on recorded excerpts from music literature or excerpts from scores or other passages of music notation. The subject matter is organized into two major areas: music theory and music history. Some of the questions within each of the major areas are designed to test examinees' analytical skills (both aural and written). Programs can choose when and where to administer the test. It is designed to take two hours and may be split into two sessions. This test must be given by a proctor.

The content distribution is as follows:

The Test Outline

I. Listening Comprehension (~33%)

- A. Music Theory (~20%): Aural identification of musical intervals, triads, chord quality, scales, cadence types, rhythmic patterns, meter, mode and harmonic progressions; error detection; phrase structure; tonality and key relationships; contrapuntal devices and instrumentation
- B. Music History (~13%): Historical style analysis; composer identification; genre; stylistic elements of music from the following style periods: Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Late 19th/Early 20th Century, After 1920, Jazz/Popular and World Music

II. Non-aural Music History and Theory (~67%)

- A. Music Theory (~30–34%): Rudiments (including key signatures, clefs, terminology, symbols, intervals, chords, scales, modes, time signatures, note values, rest values, harmonic series and dynamics); instrumentation and orchestration (including range of instruments and transposition); harmonic practices — common practice period (e.g., analysis, cadences, modulation, nonharmonic tones, voice

leading, figured bass, altered chords and reductive analysis); contrapuntal practices (procedures such as fugue, canon, passacaglia; motivic structure and development; terms such as episode, stretto, etc.); forms — homophonic textures (e.g., phrase relationships, small forms, sonata form, rondo and variation forms); 20th-century techniques (e.g., scales, modes, polytonality, polyrhythm, mixed meters, aleatory, minimalism, serial procedures, pitch class sets, electroacoustic music, Jazz/Popular music notation and symbols)

- B. Music History (~34–39%): Music history and literature (including biography, chronology, composers, forms, genres, instruments, repertoire, aesthetic and cultural concepts, notation and performance practices); stylistic characteristics of music produced in each style period (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionism, 20th Century; Jazz/Popular and World Music); terminology and definitions

Note that the contributions of women and of American minority musicians are included on the MFT Music Test.

How scores for the Major Field Test in Music are reported:

Total Score — Reported for each student and summarized for the group

Subscores — Reported for each student and summarized for the group

- Listening Comprehension (42)
- Written Theory (38–44)
- Written History (44–50)

Assessment Indicators — Reported for the group* only

- Music Theory — Aural (25)
- Music History — Listening (17)
- Music History Before 1750 (19)
- Music History 1750–1890 (21)
- Music History 1890–present (21)
- Music Theory — Fundamentals (16)
- Music Theory — Score Analysis (37)

Numbers in parentheses are the approximate number of questions in each category.

Note that every question is included in one of the subscores and that most questions are included in more than one assessment indicator.

* A minimum of five (5) students is required for assessment indicators to be reported.