



Portland State  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

---

## Upper Division Examination

Generally, after having completed two years of undergraduate study at Portland State University (at the end of the sophomore year) and after consultation with the major professor/advisor, a student will take the Upper Division Examination. This examination will take the place of a regular jury for that quarter. The performance and oral examination will be tailored to the degree being sought for the individual student and is designed to measure the integration of musical knowledge and performance skills at the mid-point in his/her university career.

### Policies:

1. Upper Division Examinations will only be given to students who have passed the Music Piano Proficiency Examination (including transfer students).
2. A grade of C or better (or pass) in the following core course are required to be eligible for upper division standing: MUP 190 & 290; Mus 188; Mus 111-116; Mus 046; Mus 211-216; Mus 203.
3. Transfer students must demonstrate through college transcript (or PSU coursework) that they have completed two years of Music Theory and an Introduction to Music History with a grade of C or above before they will be allowed to take the Upper Division Examination.
4. Successful completion of the Upper Division Examination is a prerequisite for the scheduling of a Junior Recital for BM students and for BA students who choose the recital option.
5. The Upper Division Examination may be taken **TWICE**. If not passed after the second time, the student must petition the Department Chair to be able to take the examination again.

### Procedures:

1. Student secures an Upper Division Examination form in the Music Office one month preceding the proposed examination date. It is the student's responsibility to be certain he/she has met Piano Proficiency Requirements and minimum GPA requirements (C grades in applied and core [theory/history] courses) by bringing a copy of his/her transcript to the major teacher for perusal in the process of scheduling the exam.
2. The Upper Division Committee is comprised of at least three faculty members. Together, the student and the Major Teacher/Advisor select an "outside" (of the applied concentration area) faculty member to serve as part of the upper Division Examination Committee. In all cases the area coordinator must be present for the Examination. Adjunct faculty may also be included.
3. The student appears before the Upper Division Committee for a period of 30 minutes. The student will perform repertoire selected in consultation with their Applied Music faculty. The performance portion of the exam should last between 15 and 20 minutes. The remaining time will be used for an oral examination covering the academic portions of the students lower division work. The student is expected to integrate musical knowledge during this Examination.
4. A pass-fail recommendation is made to the area coordinator. This recommendation is determined by a simple majority vote of the committee. In addition, a composite grade is determined for the jury at that time.

5. The student is assigned to the 390 level or retained at the 290 level, based upon all factors reviewed.
6. Comment sheets and the upper Division Evaluation Form will be placed in the student's file in the Music Office. The area coordinator will inform the student upon completion of the examination of the results.
7. Should the student not pass the upper division examination, his/her grade for applied music shall not exceed a B+ grade for that quarter.

## **Committee Criteria:**

### **BM Degree:**

1. Committee assessment of the student's performance which supports the idea that the student is "prepared to present" a public recital within a reasonable period of time.
2. Validation that the student has a grade of C or better in all music core and applied courses and that the Piano Proficiency Requirement has been met.
3. Success in responding to general musicianship questions posed by the faculty committee. Specifically, demonstration of sophomore level theory content; knowledge of historical style periods; knowledge of elements of works performed (historical perspective, style perspective, composer biography, etc.); literature appropriate to his/her instrument; and musical terminology (e.g., *adagio*, *molto rit.*, *senza sordino*, etc.). (See sample questions and topics).
4. If a student does not appear to be making satisfactory progress towards achieving the BM degree, recommendations should be made by the area coordinator that the student would be more successful in seeking a different degree path.

### **BA/BS Degree:**

1. Committee assessment of the student's performance, which supports the idea that, the student is making satisfactory progress towards an understanding and integration of the core of general musicianship in their playing. Performance must be at a level appropriate to the mid-term point of the BA degree.
2. Validation that the student has a grade of C or better in all music core and applied courses and that the student has passed the Piano Proficiency.

**ANY AND ALL EXCEPTIONS TO THE POLICIES AS STATED ABOVE MUST HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE AREA COORDINATOR AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT.**



Portland State UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

## Upper Division Standing Examination Application Form

Present to the area coordinator one month preceding examination.

(Student must complete Part I)

(This form is placed in student's file)

### PART I

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter/Year \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Primary Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary? \_\_\_\_\_

Degree sought (circle one) BM BA BS

Class (circle one) fr soph jr sr

Total credit hours completed at PSU to date \_\_\_\_\_

Total applied music credits accumulated at PSU to date \_\_\_\_\_

PSU performance ensembles enrolled in to date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date passed piano proficiency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Repertoire to be performed:**

(Composer)

(Composition)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**PART II**

(This form is placed in student's file)

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Major teacher's signature, which attests that the student is prepared to take the**

**Examination:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's core courses completed to date:**

**Music Theory: (Grade)**

**Music History: (Grade)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

**PART III**  
**(Upper Division Evaluation)**

(To be completed by the Area Coordinator and Placed in Student's File)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Upper Division Examination has been: **PASSED** **FAILED**

CONDITIONS (if any):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Faculty Comments