



SCHOOL OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Upper Division Examination

Generally, after having completed two years of undergraduate study at Portland State University 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.

Prerequisites for Taking the Upper Division Examination:

- Submit current DARS report to the Area Coordinator to discuss eligibility for upper division exam one month prior to Examination date
 - Pass Piano Proficiency Exam. Date Passed: _____ (Includes Transfer Students)
 - Grade of C or better in the following core courses: MUP 190/290, MUS 188, MUS 111-116, MUS 046, MUS 211-216, MUS203
 - Confirm first or second attempt to take the Upper Division Exam. 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 get an Upper Division Examination form in the Music Office at least 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 DARS report to the major teacher.
2. The Upper Division Committee is comprised of at least three faculty members with one "outside" (of the applied concentration area) faculty member. Adjunct faculty may also be included. In all cases the Area Coordinator must be present for the Examination.
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 with the remaining time being 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 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 on 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 (MUS 046) 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.).
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.

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



Upper Division Standing Examination Application Form

Present to the area coordinator with current DARS report 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? _____

Applied Instructor _____

Area Coordinator's signature, which attests that the student is prepared to take the

Examination: _____ Date: _____

Degree sought (circle one) BM BA BS Class (circle one) Fr Soph Jr Sr

Total credit hours completed at PSU to date _____

Repertoire to be performed:

(Composer)

(Composition)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PART II
(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**

Composite Jury Grade: _____ (Cannot exceed a B+ if Examination was failed)

CONDITIONS (if any):

Faculty Comments: