



MUSICIANS INSTITUTE

COLLEGE OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

6752 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028

Musicians Institute

Bachelor of Music in Performance

Instrument Performance Placement Testing: Guidelines for Incoming Students

Two weeks prior to the beginning of classes, students entering the Bachelor Degree program are required to undergo individual placement tests to measure their instrument performance skills. Based on the results of these tests, some students may qualify for advanced placement in one or more courses and others may be required to take one or more non-credit preparatory courses in addition to their regular course schedule in other subjects.

The guidelines below describe the general subject areas that will be covered during the instrument performance placement tests. Use them to help organize your practicing and music studies before arriving at MI.

Early Placement Testing

To assist you in organizing your practice in preparation for entering the program, you may request an Early Placement Test for instrument proficiency. The advantage of taking an early placement test is to know your placement level well in advance of starting the program and to give you time to improve your proficiency in weak areas.

You may request an Early Placement Test through your Admissions Representative at any point after you have received your official acceptance letter.

If you meet all minimum course requirements during your early test, you will not need to re-take the test before beginning the program.

If you do not meet all minimum course requirements during your early test, you will be retested in all areas prior to entering the program.

Early Placement Testing is optional and does not guarantee that you will be placed at a higher level. There is no penalty or risk for failing to meet minimum requirements during an Early Placement Test, but if you still do not meet minimum requirements at the time of the final placement test, you will be required to take preparatory courses.

MI will make every effort to schedule your request for an Early Placement Test at your convenience, but test scheduling is subject to tester availability.

Below are the general placement test performance elements for each instrument:

Guitar

I. Technique

Perform each of the following in at least two different positions:

- a. Diatonic major and minor scales
- b. Major and minor pentatonic scales
- c. Major and minor triad arpeggios
- d. Triad chord voicings: major, minor, diminished, augmented
- e. Seventh chord voicings: major 7, minor 7, dominant 7, minor seven flat five

2. Reading

- a. Single note lines in various keys and styles
- b. Chord charts in various keys and styles

3. Style and Performance

Play rhythm and solo on a standard blues progression in any given key

Bass

1. Technique

Perform each of the following in at least two different positions:

- a. Diatonic major, minor, and pentatonic scales
- b. Major, minor triad and diatonic seventh chord arpeggios
- c. Demonstrate the following fingering techniques:
 - String crossing
 - Hammer-ons
 - Pull-offs

2. Reading

- a. Single note lines in various keys and styles
- b. Chord charts in various keys and styles

3. Style and Performance

Improvise over changes in styles including blues, swing walking lines, Latin clave, eighth and sixteenth-note rock patterns

Drums

1. Technique

- a. Basic snare drum rudiments
- b. Basic stick technique
- c. Accurate performance with a metronome

2. Reading

- a. Snare Drum exercises including all rudiments
- b. Charts in various styles (Jazz, Rock, Latin, Funk, R&B, Shuffle)
- c. Various time signatures

3. Style and Performance

Play grooves in styles including swing, shuffle, rock, bossa, samba, and funk

Voice

1. Vocal Technique

Sing the following:

- a. Diatonic major and minor scales
- b. Chromatic and whole-tone scales
- c. Major and minor triad arpeggios
- d. Intervals ascending and descending

2. Reading

- a. Clap rhythmic examples in various time signatures
- b. Sight-sing melodic examples in various keys

3. Style and Performance

Demonstrate basic performance and microphone technique in multiple song styles

Keyboards

1. Technique

- a. Diatonic major and minor scales, ascending and descending, with both hands
- b. Major, minor, diminished triads and diatonic seventh chord voicings, root position and inversions with both hands

2. Reading

- a. Single lines in various styles
- b. Grand Staff in various styles

3. Style and Performance

- a. Perform accompaniment patterns in styles including jazz, rock, Latin, shuffle, funk
- b. Blues accompaniment in various styles, all keys
- c. Solo in various styles including jazz, rock, Latin, shuffle, funk using different types of keyboards

