

Here are things you need to know or be able to do in order to do well on the Fundamentals portion of the placement exam.

1. Note reading

- Read notes fluently in both treble and bass clef.

2. Rhythm

- Have a good understanding of basic rhythmic notation, including note and rest values.
- Have an understanding of meter and meter signatures.
- Know how to write music correctly in measures.

3. Intervals

- Identify intervals, including intervals larger than an octave, and intervals written on a grand staff.
- Understand interval inversion.

4. Scales and keys

- Identify major and minor scales.
- Identify forms of the minor scale (natural, harmonic, melodic).
- Identify major and minor key signatures.
- Identify the key of a written musical excerpt.
- Understand relative and parallel key relationships.
- Know the names given to notes in the scale (tonic, dominant, etc.).

5. Triads

- Spell and identify major, minor, diminished, and augmented triads.
- Identify triad inversions.

Suggestions for study

- There are videos, worksheets, and practice tests available to help you review much of this material.
- Music fundamentals is a skill. The way to “study” fundamentals, as with all skills, by practice. I encourage you to use the worksheets and other resources to *practice* reading and writing intervals, scales, and triads. It isn’t enough to “know about” these things. You have to be able to **do** them.
- It is important to be able to do these tasks quickly and fluently. For example, you should know how to spell most triads from memory and only have to stop and work out the hard or tricky ones. You should know the notes in most scales and only have to check intervals occasionally. If you have to count intervals often or draw lots of charts, then you don’t know the material well enough.