

**Study Guide for Graduate Music Theory Diagnostic Exam  
Colorado State University  
School of Music, Theatre, and Dance**

Note: This study guide is intended for all students entering the Master of Music degree programs for music education (all specializations), conducting, and performance. No aural skills component will be included.

**Recommended Texts for Review:**

Laitz – *Graduate Review of Tonal Music*: good review of tonal music theory

Clendinning and Marvin – *A Musician's Guide to Music Theory and Analysis (any ed.)*: Provides detailed instructions on analyzing post-tonal music and formal analysis

**Recommended Anthologies for Review:**

Turek – *Analytical Anthology of Music (any edition)*

Burkhart – *Anthology for Musical Analysis (any edition)*

Benjamin, Horvit, and Nelson – *Music for Analysis (any edition)*

**Terminology and Concepts for Review:** For each term be prepared to identify examples in scores from the literature and provide a short definition if called upon.

Diatonic Harmony

Diatonic triads and seventh chords

Roman numeral analysis

Chord function (Tonic, Dominant, etc.)

Major and Minor Scales/Keys

Figured bass/basso continuo

Cadences (PAC, IAC, HC, DC, Plagal)

Chromatic Harmony

Pivot chord/common chord modulation

Closely/distantly related keys

Phrase modulation

Direct modulation

Enharmonic modulation

Secondary/Applied dominants and leading tone chords

Augmented Sixth Chords

Neapolitan Chord

## **Terminology and Concepts for Review, cont.:**

### **Post-Tonal Harmony**

**9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> chords**

**Quartal/Quintal/Secundal Harmony**

**Diatonic Modes**

**Whole tone scales (collection)**

**Diminished/octatonic scales (collection)**

**Atonality**

**Polytonality**

**Serialism/Twelve Tone Music**

- **Matrix construction**
- **Prime/Retrograde/Inversion/Retrograde Inversion**
- **Integral/Total Serialism**
- **Hexachordal Combinatoriality**

**PC-set Theory**

- **Normal Order**
- **Prime Form**
- **Complement**
- **Pitch class**
- **Interval vector/Z-Relationships**

### **Formal Analysis**

**Binary Forms**

- **Rounded/Simple Binary**
- **Sectional/Continuous Binary**

**Sonata Form**

- **Exposition/Development/Recapitulation**
- **Key relationships among formal components/sections**

**Rondo Form**

- **Small/5-part Rondo**
- **Large/7-part Rondo**
- **Sonata Rondo**

**Minuet and Trio/Compound Ternary Form**

**Note: For all formal analysis topics, be prepared to identify component parts of individual sections (such as themes, phrases, periods, etc.), typical key relationships, and other sections that are not part of the overall form (such as introductions and codas).**

**Contact Information for Further Questions:**

**Dr. James M. David**

**Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition**

**[James.David@colostate.edu](mailto:James.David@colostate.edu)**

**(970) 491-4154**