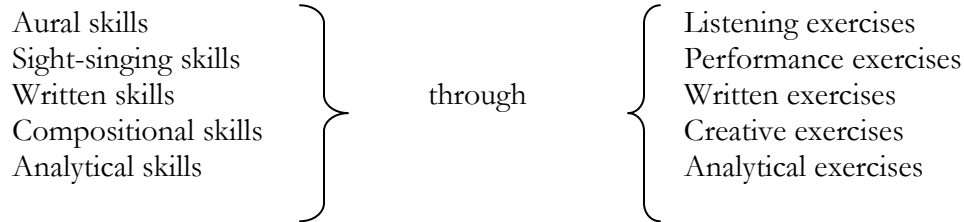


# AP Music Theory Information Sheet

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## Course Objectives

The ultimate goal of an Advanced Placement Music Theory course is to develop a student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The achievement of this goal may be best promoted by integrated approaches to the student's development of:



## General Information:

- This course prepares students to take the AP Music Theory Exam in May.
- The materials covered in this course are a *continuation* of the materials covered in the Music Theory 1 course.
- It is **strongly recommended** that students take **Music Theory 1** before taking AP Music Theory unless a student has studied at least one semester of music theory elsewhere and has had extensive training in aural skills such as dictation and sight-singing. In this case, the student would take a placement exam with the AP Music Theory instructor *prior* to signing up for the course.
- The Music Theory 1 course is roughly equivalent to a freshman college music theory curriculum.
- The AP Music Theory course is roughly equivalent to a sophomore college music theory curriculum.

## Course Content:

- Review music fundamentals (first two weeks): major and key signatures, minor scales, intervals, rhythm, meter, triads, seventh chords, voice leading principles, part writing, cadences, phrase relationships, motivic development, non-chord tones, instrument transpositions, composition techniques, rhythmic dictation, melodic dictation, 2-part dictation, harmonic dictation, and sight-singing.
- Composition of a bass line for a given melody, implying appropriate harmony
- Realization of a figured bass
- Analysis of repertoire, including study of motivic treatment, examination of rhythmic and melodic interaction between individual voices of a composition, and harmonic analysis of functional tonal passages
- Functional triadic harmony in traditional four-voice texture (with vocabulary including non-chord tones, cadences, and chromatic harmony)
- Introduction to twentieth-century scales, chordal structures and compositional procedures
- Instrument transpositions
- Critical listening to a wide variety of music

- Chromatic harmony concepts:
  - Secondary dominants and leading tone chords
  - Modulations to closely related keys, distant modulation, enharmonic modulation
  - Mode mixture
  - Neapolitan and augmented 6<sup>th</sup> chords
  - Tonal harmony in the late nineteenth century
  - Twentieth century practices in non-functional harmony
- Historical periods of the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionism, and 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Sonata-allegro form and symphonic analysis
- Score and listening analysis
- Jazz/Rock theory
- Music composition, ear training, sight singing, and keyboard skills
- AP Music Theory released exams for practice

#### Expectations:

- Students will practice ear training/listening skills exercises outside of class via Internet websites and recorded assignments on Blackboard.
- Students are expected to use the music mobile lab to complete composition and ear training assignments.
- Students will participate in a “Composer’s Recital” project in the third quarter. The project will feature a performance of an original composition that the student will create, rehearse, and perform with other musicians.
- Students will prepare analyses of music scores and write analytical essays.
- Students will be tested on music theory applications; ear training, dictation, and sight-singing skills; as well as basic piano keyboard harmony.
- Students will participate in all classroom discussions and activities. Participation is a major component of this course.
- 2-3 weekly homework assignments, 1-2 projects each quarter, 2 major tests each quarter, 1-3 quizzes each quarter, and 1 original composition per quarter.