

**Chicago College of Performing Arts**  
**Musicianship Proficiency Exams (rev 6-10)**

**Who should take the proficiency exams? Why are they given?**

The exams are for those students who have prior training in college-level music theory. Exams are also given to determine keyboard proficiency. The exam results allow the musicianship faculty to place students in the appropriate classes and avoid repetition of material that has already been mastered.

**When are they given?**

The exams are given at the beginning of the Fall semester, prior to the registration period. Results are reported to advisors who will assist new students with registration.

**What is covered on these exams?**

Each of the four written-aural exams is an abbreviated version of the final exam for the four musicianship courses. These courses are required of all CCPA degree-seeking students. The exams cover written skills (like part-writing and analysis) and aural skills (melodic and harmonic dictation). Each exam lasts about an hour. The piano musicianship exams are given individually,

**Is it possible to prepare for these exams?**

The theory department provides an outline of class content and sample exam problems for each of the four musicianship courses. You are encouraged to use these as a basis for review, especially if any amount of time has lapsed between the exam time and your prior training. Any basic undergraduate theory text can help. At CCPA, we use *Tonal Harmony* by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne (6th edition, published by McGraw Hill).

**Can I repeat the exams?**

You may not re-take a proficiency test for any reason. You are therefore encouraged to prepare as thoroughly as possible for the exams.

**Do transfer students usually have to repeat courses?**

There is no real pattern. Many students successfully demonstrate proficiency for the entire sequence, while others demonstrate only partial proficiency of previously studied material. Since our classes combine three skills (written, aural, and keyboard), repetition is sometimes necessary if one or more skills are lagging behind. Moreover, since the exams test mastery as well as content, you may be asked to re-cover some ground for the purposes of mastery. We want to place you as high in the sequence as possible. No one will benefit from unnecessary repetition.

If you have additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact Dr. Rudy Marcozzii. E mail is preferred: [marcozzi@roosevelt.edu](mailto:marcozzi@roosevelt.edu)