



### Harmony Placement Exam Information

We offer a choice of several placement exams based on your background in music theory. This page should help you decide which exam to take and give you some idea how to prepare.

I. If you have had little or no theory training, take the "Fundamentals Exam." This exam will test your knowledge of intervals, triads, scales, keys, key signatures, basics of rhythm and meter, and seventh chords. If you need to review the basics before taking Harmony I, you will be placed in Fundamentals of Music. If you do well on this exam you will be placed in Harmony I.

II. If you have taken theory in either high school or college, or had extensive private study, you may be able to bypass one or more semesters of theory. The explanations below should help you match your prior study with the appropriate level of theory at Belmont.

A. If you have taken one year of theory in high school or one semester in college, and you know:

- music fundamentals (intervals, scales, keys and key signatures, spelling of triads and seventh chords, etc.)
- diatonic chords in major and minor keys (including inversions)
- roman numeral analysis and figured bass part-writing
- non-chord tones (like passing tones, neighbor tones, and suspensions)
- how to write a good harmonic progression using diatonic chords

You may be able to bypass Harmony I.

B. If you have taken more than a year of theory in high school or a full year in college, and you know:

- diatonic seventh chords (like ii7, V7, etc.) including inversions
- secondary dominants
- types of modulation (for example: common chord, common tone, direct, sequential)
- phrases, periods, and cadences
- instrumental transposition

You may be able to bypass Harmony I and II.

C. If you have taken more than two years in high school or more than a year in college, and you know:

- modal borrowing and mode mixture
- Neapolitan and augmented 6th chords
- enharmonic use of augmented 6th chords



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- modulation with enharmonic altered chords
- jazz harmony including seventh, ninth, eleventh and thirteenth chords, chord symbolization, and chord substitution

You may be able to bypass Harmony I, II and III.

D. If your study has included extensive study of the theory of music since 1900, and you know:

- contemporary use of scales and modes
- terms related to extension of tonality (for example: polytonality, pandiatonicism)
- basics of set theory and serialism
- extended harmonic techniques (for example: quartal and quintal harmony)
- other styles and trends in music since 1900

You may be able to bypass Harmony IV.