Study Guide for Music Theory Placement Test
SUNY-Buffalo State Music Department

The following skills are included on the Buffalo State Music Department Theory Placement Test; levels correspond to the material covered in the four music theory courses required for music majors at SUNY-Buffalo State. Incoming students are strongly encouraged to prepare for the test by reviewing notes from any previous theory courses taken in high school or college, especially if advanced placement is sought.

Level 1:
- Identification of pitches on treble, bass, alto and tenor clefs
- Key signature identification and notation
- Major and minor scale notation
- Identification and notation of intervals
- Rhythmic notation
- Chord identification using Roman numerals and inversions
- Cadence identification
- Identification of non-chord tones such as passing tones, neighbor tones, suspensions

Level 2:
- Four-part writing for triads and seventh chords
- Figured bass notation
- Roman numeral analysis
- Secondary dominants
- Modulation using a pivot chord (common chord)

Level 3:
- Notation and identification of Neapolitan Chords
- Notation and identification of Augmented Sixth Chords
- Modulation using enharmonic chords

Level 4:
- Non-diatonic scales
- Set theory
- 12-tone theory