

**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 Neopolitan Chords  
Notation and identification of Augmented Sixth Chords  
Modulation using enharmonic chords

**Level 4:**

Non-diatonic scales  
Set theory  
12-tone theory