MGDE in THEORY

The Music Graduate Diagnostic Examination (MGDE) in Theory is a 2-hour placement examination for incoming graduate students that is offered in May, August, and January. Please contact Traci Hair (803.777.4208, hair@mozart.sc.edu) in the Graduate Music Office to find out when this exam is offered.

What the Exam Covers
The exam covers tonal theory and post-tonal theory. The tonal theory part of the exam covers aural comprehension (intervals, pitch patterns, melodic dictation, two-voice error detection, and 4-part harmonic dictation), part writing (four-part chorale texture) and analysis (roman numeral analysis of a passage that modulates). The post-tonal part covers the materials and techniques of twentieth-century music (scales, chord structures, rhythm and meter), basic atonal theory, and twelve-tone serialism.

MUSC 523
Students who do not pass the tonal theory portion of the exam must take MUSC 523 Applications of Music Theory, an intensive directed study in written theory and aural skills. MUSC 523 is only offered every fall term and does count toward the theory requirements of your degree.

Twentieth-Century Theory Courses
Students who do not pass the post-tonal theory part of the exam will be required to take one of the following twentieth-century music courses:

MUSC 724 Contemporary Styles I (Summer I 2008 and Spring 2009) MUSC 725 Contemporary Styles II: Music Since 1945 (Summer II 2009) MUSC 525 Post-Tonal Theory (Fall 2008)

Preparing for the GMDE Theory
The following materials are highly recommended for students who wish to prepare for the GMDE in Theory.

Part I: Aural Comprehension
MacGamut Software
Review the Intervals, Chords, Melodic Dictation and Harmonic Dictation modules.

Part II: Written Theory
Option 1:

Tonal Theory: Review Chapters 6-23
Post-Tonal Theory: Review Chapters 28-29

Option 2:
If you're looking for a more concise presentation, the theory faculty recommends:


Tonal Theory: Review Parts I, II, III, and V
Post-Tonal Theory: Review Part IV Twentieth-Century Materials