Vincennes University Department of Music

**Music Placement Exam**

*Study/Preparation Guide*

**Q. How should students prepare for the music placement exam?**

A. Each exam component (listed below) should be prepared individually:

**Music Theory:**

Note naming: Treble and bass clef

Scales: Major and minor (three forms) identification and spelling

Key signatures: Major and minor, identification and spelling

Intervals and triads: Identification and spelling

Rhythm: Simple and compound

Terms and Symbols

**Functional Piano Skills:**

Students will have to clap and count a short rhythmic example.

Students will have to demonstrate ability to play in treble and bass clef.

Students will have to demonstrate ability to play a short example hands together.

\*Students will have five minutes to look at the examples prior to the exam.

**Applied study** (For all majors: Voice, Winds, Percussion, Piano, and Strings):

All students should choose ONE (1) piece from the ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Group I list and be prepared to perform it for the faculty. Repertoire substitutions may be made, pending 48-hour prior approval from the Department of Music chair, Sharon S. Jackson, [sjackson@vinu.edu](mailto:sjackson@vinu.edu). The ISSMA list of compositions is online and may be found here: <http://www.issma.net/semanuals.php>.

\*\*Percussionists should be able to demonstrate proficiency on more than one percussion instrument (timpani, mallets, snare drum, drumset).

Wind and string students should bring their own instruments and music. Percussionists need to bring their own sticks, mallets, and music. Instrumental auditions do not have to be accompanied. Practice rooms will be available for warm-up.

Vocalists should anticipate singing with piano accompaniment and should bring more than one copy of their music. An accompanist will be available to the students (if needed), and a brief private rehearsal time with the accompanist will be arranged. Practice rooms will be available for warm-up.