

RECOMMENDED THEORY AND MUSICIANSHIP COURSES FOR THE FIRST YEAR BASED ON PLACEMENT EXAM RESULTS

Updated: April 15, 2025

All B.Mus. and L.Mus. programs (except B.Mus. Jazz Performance and B.Mus. Faculty – Jazz concentration)

Scenario 1:

I did not pass Music Theory Fundamentals or any of the musicianship and keyboard proficiency placement exams.

Register for MUTH 101, MUTH 150, MUSP 140 & MUSP 170 in fall, and MUTH 151, MUSP 141 & MUSP 171 in winter.

If you did not pass the Music Theory Fundamentals placement exam, you should refer to the online resources recommended by the Theory Area to develop stronger theory fundamentals skills while taking MUTH 150 and MUTH 151:

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/music-theory>

<https://www.teoria.com/en/tutorials/>

<https://viva.pressbooks.pub/openmusictheory/>

You will have the opportunity to discuss your concerns about theory courses with the MUTH 150 instructor on the first day of class. You may also consider deferring MUHL 186: Western Musical Traditions to next year (this course is offered once a year, fall only) if your class schedule for the first semester is filled up by taking MUTH 101 alongside other required courses. MUTH 101 is counted as an elective.

Scenario 2:

I passed MUTH 150, but not Music Theory Fundamentals. I did not take musicianship placement exam because I am not seeking exemption from MUSP courses.

Register for MUTH 101, MUTH 150, MUSP 140 & MUSP 170 in fall; and MUTH 151, MUSP 141 & MUSP 171 in winter.

Refer to the online resources recommended in Scenario 1 above and consider deferring MUHL 186 to Fall 2026. MUHL 186 is offered once a year, fall only.

Scenario 3:

I passed Music Theory Fundamentals, but not MUTH 150. I was also not exempt from MUSP 140, MUSP 141, MUSP 170 & MUSP 171.

Register for MUTH 150, MUSP 140 & MUSP 170 in fall; and MUTH 151, MUSP 141 & MUSP 171 in winter.

Scenario 4:

I passed Music Theory Fundamentals and MUTH 150, but not MUTH 151. I also passed MUSP 140, MUSP 141, MUSP 170 & MUSP 171.

Register for MUTH 151 in winter. You may also register for MUSP 240 in fall and MUSP 241 in winter, or you may take these the following year. If space in 200-level courses is limited, students who have completed all 100-level required courses will have priority for registration, and you may need to take electives to maintain a full-time load.

Scenario 5:

I passed all three theory exams (Music Theory Fundamentals, MUTH 150 & MUTH 151), as well as MUSP 140, MUSP 141, MUSP 170 & 171.

Register for MUTH 250 & MUSP 240 in fall; and MUTH 251 & MUSP 241 in winter.

Scenario 6:

I passed all three theory exams (Music Theory Fundamentals, MUTH 150 & 151), as well as MUSP 140, MUSP 141, but not MUSP 170 & MUSP 171.

Register for MUSP 170 in fall and MUSP 171 in winter. You should complete MUSP 170 & MUSP 171 before taking 200-level MUSP and MUTH courses the following year. You may take electives if needed to maintain a full-time course load.

Scenario 7:

I passed all three theory exams (Music Theory Fundamentals, MUTH 150 & 151), as well as MUSP 170, MUSP 171, but not MUSP 140 & MUSP 141.

Register for MUSP 140 in fall and MUSP 141 in winter. You may also register for MUTH 250 in fall and MUTH 251 in winter. If space in 200-level courses is limited, students who have completed all 100-level required courses will have priority for registration, and you may need to take electives to maintain a full-time load.

B.Mus. Jazz Performance

Scenario 1:

I did not pass any of the jazz placement exams.

Register for MUSP 123, MUJZ 170 & MUJZ 160 in fall; and MUSP 124, MUJZ 171 & MUJZ 161 in winter.

Scenario 2:

I pass MUJZ 160, MUJZ 161 and MUSP 123, MUSP 124, but did not pass MUJZ 170 & MUJZ 171.

For jazz instrumental majors, register for MUJZ 260, MUJZ 223 & MUJZ 170 in fall; and MUJZ 261, MUJZ 224 & MUJZ 171 in winter.
For jazz vocal majors, register for MUJZ 260, MUJZ 225 & MUJZ 170 in fall; and MUJZ 261, MUJZ 226 & MUJZ 171 in winter.

Scenario 3:

I pass MUJZ 160 & MUJZ 161, but did not pass MUSP 123, MUSP 124 & MUJZ 170, MUJZ 171.

Register for MUSP 123, MUJZ 260 & MUJZ 170 in fall; and MUSP 124, MUJZ 261 & MUJZ 171 in winter.
For jazz instrumental majors, defer MUJZ 223 & MUJZ 224 until second year.
For jazz vocal majors, defer MUJZ 225 & MUJZ 226 until second year.

Scenario 4:

I pass MUSP 123 & MUSP 124, but did not pass MUJZ 160, MUJZ 161, MUJZ 170 & MUJZ 171.

Register for MUJZ 160 & MUJZ 170 in fall; and MUJZ 161 & MUJZ 171 in winter.
For jazz instrumental majors, defer MUJZ 223, MUJZ 224, MUJZ 260 & MUJZ 261 until second year.
For jazz vocal majors, defer MUJZ 225, MUJZ 226, MUJZ 260 & MUJZ 261 until second year.

B.Mus. Faculty – Jazz concentration

Scenario 1:

I did not pass any of the theory (MUTH) and jazz placement exams.

Register for MUSP 123, MUJZ 170 & MUJZ 160 in fall; and MUSP 124, MUJZ 171 & MUJZ 161 in winter.
Defer MUTH 150 & 151 until the second year.

Scenario 2:

I pass MUJZ 160, MUJZ 161 and MUSP 123, MUSP 124, but did not pass MUTH 150, MUTH 151, MUJZ 170 & MUJZ 171.

Register for MUTH 150 & MUJZ 170 in fall; and MUTH 151 & MUJZ 171 in winter. MUJZ 213 & MUJZ 214 are not offered in 2025-26. You can take these courses in the second year (2026-27) when they will be offered. You must take a compulsory placement exam for MUTH 150 to seek registration permission.

Scenario 3:

I pass MUJZ 160 & MUJZ 161, but did not pass MUTH 150 & MUTH 151, MUSP 123 & MUSP 124, MUJZ 170 & 171.

Register for MUSP 123, MUTH 150 & MUJZ 170 in fall; and MUSP 124, MUTH 151 & MUJZ 171 in winter.
Defer MUJZ 213 & MUJZ 214 until second year.

Scenario 4:

I pass MUSP 123 & MUSP 124, but did not pass MUJZ 160, MUJZ 161, MUJZ 170 & MUJZ 171.

Register for MUJZ 160 & MUJZ 170 in fall; and MUJZ 161 & MUJZ 171 in winter.
Defer MUJZ 213 & MUJZ 214 until second year.

Scenario 5:

I pass MUTH 150 & 151, MUJZ 160 & 161, MUSP 123 & 124 and MUJZ 170 & MUJZ 171.

Consult with Prof. Joe Sullivan (joe.sullivan@mcgill.ca) which other jazz elective courses you can register in the first year.