

Appendix 2c. First semester aural skills at the University of Delaware (Philip Duker) – Unit 1 standards (pass/not pass combined with 0–4 point scale, final grade determination by number of categories passed and by average)

Standards:

The standards that will be assessed in each unit can be found below [abbreviated to include only unit 1 material]. For many of these outcomes, you will receive a score from 0-4 according to a rubric for that activity (a 3 or 4 is passing); if there is no bracket after the outcome it will use a 4-point scale. Other outcomes will be evaluated as Pass/Not Passed. Some Pass/Not Passed outcomes (involving improvisation) will also have the possibility of earning a 4 if you do exceptionally well.

1. Matching pitch [P/N (P = Passed; N = Not Passed)]
 2. Higher/lower test [P/N]
 3. Simple melody sing-back without Solfege (3–4 notes) [P/N]
 4. Identify same or different melody (6–7 notes) test [P/N]
 5. Sing a cadential pattern [P/N]
 6. Singing major scales starting on Do (in time with straight and varied durations)
 7. Singing major scales starting on non-tonic notes
 8. Perform a melody by filling in leaps with steps: *forte* dynamic for actual notes, *piano* dynamic for scalar notes in between
 9. Step/leap identification (using ascending and descending intervals starting on Do) [P/N]
 10. Sing a cantus firmus (CF for short) (3–4 notes)
 11. Improvise a line in first species counterpoint above/below a CF [P/N, with opt. 4]
 12. Harmony: Sing a chord progression using arpeggiations of I, IV, V triads
 13. Improvise rhythms with beat divisions of 2, 3, or 4 in simple/compound meter [P/N, with opt. 4]
 14. Perform simple rhythms with beat divisions of 2, 3, and 4, with equal durations within the beat
 15. Identify cadence locations and types (HC, AC) by ear in common-practice music of simple to moderate difficulty.
 16. Find and Sing Do in real passages of music. [P/N]
 17. Dictate Do/Ti when listening to real pieces of music (slow)
 18. Movement: Conduct (4,3,2 + 6/8) and move during musicianship activities with ease and precision [P/N]
 19. Call and response [P/N, with opt. 4] (4 beat Call/Response; --V, --I)
 20. Melodic improvisation over a tonic ostinato [P/N, with opt. 4]
 21. Melodic improvisation over a passacaglia-type bass line [P/N, with opt. 4]
 22. Error Detection: single Melody with errors: circle and put in correct note(s)
- [Units 2 and 3 omitted]

Grading Scale:

The general meaning of the 0-4 rating is as follows:

4 – performance is musical, accurate, and expressive, with few to no errors.

Continuity maintained throughout (“very good; perfect”).

3 – performance is musical and consistent, though still contains minor errors. Errors cause only minor interruptions to continuity (“you got it”).

2 – performance shows some signs of strength, though more work is needed. Very noticeable problems with continuity (“you’re almost there”).

1 – your performance does not meet expectations for minimal musical fluency, correctness, and continuity (“consider seeking help”).

0 – you did not provide a performance to show your level of competency (“are you still in my class?”).

Final Grade Determination:

- If you have not passed (i.e. passed the P/N categories, or have a score of 3 or above for the graded categories) all Unit 1 outcomes (23 total), you cannot get above a D+ regardless of your total average.
- If you have not passed at least 17 of the U2 outcomes (out of 22 possible), you cannot get above a D+ regardless of your total average.
- If you have not passed at least 6 of the U3 outcomes (out of 10 possible), you cannot get above a D+ regardless of your total average.

Once you have passed the minimum number of outcomes (i.e. every unit 1 outcome, at least 17 Unit 2 outcomes, and 6 Unit 3 outcomes), your grade will be determined as follows:

- A: you have a final average of at least 3.55.
A-: you have a final average of at least 3.45.
B+: you have a final average of at least 3.35.
B: you have a final average of at least 3.25.
B-: you have a final average of at least 3.15.
C+: you have a final average of at least 3.05.
C: you have a final average of at least 2.95.
C-: you have a final average of at least 2.85.

If you have not passed the minimum number of outcomes (i.e. every unit 1 outcome, at least 17 Unit 2 outcomes, and 6 Unit 3 outcomes), your grade will be determined as follows:

- D+: you have a final average of at least 2.65.
D: you have a final average of at least 2.45.
D-: you have a final average of at least 2.25.
F: you have a final average below 2.25.