Proficiency exams are administered to transfer students or other students desiring to waive specific classes in the following areas. A summary of topics is given for each exam.

Basic Music I (Harmony)
- Key signature identification
- Pop symbol (lead sheet) terminology, through 11th chords
- Roman numeral identification (including inversions and 7th chords)
- Harmonic progression choices
- Cadences
- Identification of non-harmonic tones

Basic Music II (Part-writing)
- Harmonic function terminology and identification
- Key relationships (parallel, enharmonic, etc.)
- Identification of non-harmonic tones
- Pivot chords
- Part-writing principles

Basic Music III (Chromatic and 20th-century Techniques)
- Extended harmony identification and analysis
- Chromatic harmony (augmented 6th chords, Neapolitan, common-tone and enharmonic diminished 7th chords, chromatic mediants, etc.)
- 20th-century harmonies/chord structures and rhythmic devices
- Modes and exotic scales
- 20th-century score analysis

Basic Music IV (Forms)
- Form and analysis terminology and identification (fugue, rounded binary, sonata-rondo, concerto-rondo, etc.)
- Formal analysis of scores

Aural Skills I
- Interval identification
- Scale identification
- Melodic dictation (stepwise diatonic)
- Rhythmic dictation

Aural Skills II
- Triad identification
- Harmonic dictation (major and minor)
- Melodic dictation (non-stepwise)
- Rhythmic dictation

Aural Skills III
- 7th chord identification
- Harmonic dictation (modulating example)
- Melodic dictation (non-stepwise, possibly chromatic and/or non-standard meter)
- Rhythmic dictation (mixed beat divisions and/or non-standard meter)
- Two-part rhythmic error detection

To brush up on these and other topics, see our music theory help page at www.wmich.edu/music-history/TheoryHelp/TheoryHelp.html.