

## Graduate Award Number 39 – Classroom Teacher of Aural Skills

*This page provides information on this specific Graduate Award. There is no additional preparation required prior to the interview.*

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### Information on the Eastman Aural Skills Program and this Graduate Award

The Eastman aural skills curriculum is a five-semester core aural-skills curriculum for BM students. Semesters one through four cover tonal materials; semester five covers 20<sup>th</sup>-century materials. Melodic and harmonic reading and dictation, rhythmic reading, and improvisation are taught throughout all five semesters of the curriculum.

The program presently has fifteen teaching assistants: six for freshmen classes, five for sophomore, and four for the fifth semester. The workload is eight to nine hours per week. Three to five Teaching Assistant openings are expected annually, with priority for assignment given to theory majors. Applicants in other majors may apply for this Award by choosing this Graduate Award in the online application and must include current GRE scores with their applications. Such applicants will be scheduled for an Aural Skills interview, which should be prepared according to the guidelines on this form. GRE scores are waived for current Eastman students applying for this award.

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### Teaching Assistant Responsibilities

Teaching Assistants (TAs) usually teach two or three sections; each section meets two hours per week (semester one meets three hours per week). TAs with less than three sections also tutor students who need individual help.

All TAs are required to attend a one-week training workshop. This workshop is held during the week before classes begin. All applicants who are offered a TA position teaching aural skills must make plans to be here for the workshop. Each fall, all TAs interview incoming freshmen and transfers for theory placement during orientation for new students. In addition, all recipients of Graduate Award 39 will be required to take TH421, Pedagogy of Music Theory, during the first semester of their employment.

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### Pedagogical Approach

Some of the components of our aural skills classes are:

- Singing of pitch patterns, melody, and rhythm (prepared, and at sight)
  - Performance of sing-and-play exercises, student compositions, improvisation
  - Ensemble singing
  - Use of fixed-do solfège and moveable scale degree numbers
  - Reading of music in five clefs, and transposition of instrumental parts to concert pitch
  - Dictation of pitch patterns, melody, rhythm, two-voice counterpoint, four-voice chorale style, either from the piano or from recordings from the literature
  - Textbooks:
    - R. Ottman and N. Rogers, *Music for Sight Singing*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition
    - A.C. Hall, *Studying Rhythm*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
    - Numerous scores from the vocal and instrumental literature
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### The Aural Skills Interview

Applicants who choose Graduate Award Number 39 on the online application will be scheduled for an aural skills interview on the same day as their degree program audition/interview. At the interview you will be asked to:

- sight-sing several melodies of progressive difficulty in different clefs, using any system with which you feel comfortable
- sight-read a series of rhythmic exercises, progressing in difficulty
- sight-read some piano excerpts (level of difficulty: Bach, two-part Inventions; Chopin, Prelude in C minor; Bach, Chorales) in order to demonstrate sufficient keyboard proficiency
- establish any key at the keyboard by means of a short harmonic progression (as you would do in class, to give students the key before singing a melody)
- coach a “student” who is struggling in sight-singing a melody

Applicants for this Graduate Award will be interviewed by the coordinator of the Aural Skills Program.

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Aural Skills Coordinator Professor William Marvin may be contacted at:

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