



Guitar Proficiency Exam

Updated for 2016-17

One of the requirements for earning a certificate or Associate Degree in Praise and Worship is passing the guitar proficiency. A student will not be granted a certificate or Associates in Praise and Worship until they have passed the exam. Instead of following the conventional model of taking one test multiple times, this proficiency is divided into five sections. The following guidelines will be observed:

1. Students will take a proficiency exam during the first week of school.
2. Students must demonstrate proficiency in all sections of each exam.
3. Students who pass some sections of an exam will not need to retest those sections (the moderator of the exam has the option to retest if there is a lack of progress per section).
4. Students can test multiple times.
5. Students who pass some of the sections per exam will still need to pass all five exams to become proficient.
6. Students who show a lack of progress might be asked to enroll in private lessons or guitar class in addition to regular coursework.
7. Students are strongly advised to set a daily practice regimen for success.
8. Students may test out of different exams without going in a specific chronological order.
9. Each exam is proficiency-based.

Exam 1: The Basics

Section 1

Identify and name the parts of the guitar (Headstock, Tuning keys, Nut, Truss Rod, Neck, Fretboard, Frets, Position markers, Strings, Body, Soundboard, Soundhole/Pickups, Bridge, Bridge Pins, Strap button/pin)

Section 2

Tune a guitar with a tuner, by fret, by harmonics

Section 3

Recite the notes of the open strings

Recite the notes, up to the 8th fret, on three of the six strings

Recite the 12 bar blues progression in the five principal keys (C, A, G, E, and D)

Exam 2: Chords, Scales and Charts

Section 1

Play Major chords in open position and barre chords in A, B, C, D, F, G, Bb, F#

Section 2

Play minor chords in open position and barre chords in Am, Bm, C#m, Dm, Em, F#m

Section 3

Play three I - vi - IV - V progressions of your choice (A, C, D, E, G) at a set metronome tempo. You must use at least one barre chord in your progression.

Section 4

Play a one or two octave major scale in any four keys and be able to tell the examiner the key signature for each key.

Exam 3: Theory/Timed Exercises

Section 1

Perform one verse and chorus of a standard P & W song chord chart then transpose to a different key using a capo and play the first chord on the chart. (2 min.)

Section 2

Perform a verse and chorus of a standard P & W song number chart then transpose to a different key without a capo and play the first chord (2min.)

Section 3

Improvise over a recording of a standard Praise & Worship song using chords and rhythmic patterns, or melodic embellishments.

Exam 4: Leadingship

Section 1

Play chromatic Maj chords up and down one-octave that would be primarily used for warm-ups

Section 2

Perform a verse and chorus of a standard praise and worship song - count into the song and signal finish at the end of the chorus

Exam 5: Accompany

Section 1

Play guitar and sing 3 praise and worship songs

Section 2

Playing and singing for a band challenge counts towards an accompanied song

Section 3 Sight read and recite a given strumming rhythm

Section 4 Sight read and recite a notated melody on guitar