



WHAT IS THE TCSA?

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) terms anyone enrolled in a teacher-education program a candidate. At VanderCook a student becomes a candidate after they have successfully completed the Teacher Candidate Skills Assessment or TCSA. VanderCook undergraduates complete this battery of tests prior to entering into their 300 and 400 level courses. A TCEP or Master and Certification student are assessed on these items upon acceptance into the program.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO TAKE THE TCSA?

All VanderCook Undergraduate, TCEP, and Master and Certification students take the TCSA. Master's students (summer graduate program) are already certified teachers and do not take the TCSA.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE TCSA?

For Undergraduates, the TCSA has 5 components:

1. Written Theory
2. Aural Skills

A test is given as the final exam for FT202 that covers Theory & Musicianship I-IV

3. Keyboard competency

A test is given at the end of MUS215

4. TCSA Jury at the 212 level which includes scales and a rhythm assessment.
5. A cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher.

*Master and Certification students take Written Theory, Aural Skills and Keyboard tests. (See the Graduate Dean for specifics.)

WHEN MUST I TAKE THESE TESTS?

Undergraduates take the Written Theory and Aural Skills tests at the end of the Musicianship and Theory IV (FT202). The Keyboard test is generally at the end of Piano Techniques III (MUS215). The TCSA Jury is a separate component of the Applied 212 jury. Master and Certification students take their TCSA components at the time they begin their VanderCook course work.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM NOT IN FT202 AND APPLIED 212 AT THE SAME TIME?

Students who are "off track" take the TCSA components as they complete the respective course levels for those components.