

Piano Proficiency Exam Requirements

(Revised 9/17/2021)

Key Signatures and Relative Keys

- This information will be asked in reference to the scales that will be performed.

Technique

- Scales
 - All major and harmonic minor keys
 - 1 octave
 - Up to 5 sharps or flats
 - Ascending/descending
 - Hands together
- Arpeggios
 - All major and minor keys
 - 1 octave
 - Up to 5 sharps or flats
 - Root position
 - Ascending/descending
 - Hands together
- Triads and Inversions
 - 1 octave
 - Ascending/descending
 - Hands together
- Cadence Progressions
 - Block Cadence Style
 - Up to 5 sharps or flats
 - Left hand only
 - $I - IV^{6/4} - I - V_6 - V^{6/5} - I$
 - Bassline Cadence Style (AKA “Closed Position” Style)
 - All major and minor keys
 - Up to 5 sharps or flats
 - Hands together
 - $I - vi - IV - ii_6 - V^{6/4} - V_7 - I$
- Students will perform with correct notes and display a basic understanding of fingering, with smoothness of tempo (andante).
- Adjudicator will discern the standard differences between the fluency of a piano major and a non-piano major.

Harmonization

- Students will play a simple melody and be able to add in the appropriate chords.
- Hands together

Sightreading

- A basic piece from Levels 1-2 in standard method books will be provided.
- Hands together
- No memorization required
- Prior approval for the prepared piece is necessary

Prepared Piece

- Students will perform, with the notes, a piece from the Late Elementary to Early Intermediate level.
- Hands together

General Information and Rules

- All Bachelor of Music students must pass the entire exam to graduate. If a student takes the appropriate class that covers the elements of the proficiency, the final of the class suffices as the piano proficiency exam.
- The exam will not exceed 15 minutes
- Non-experienced beginning piano students should be able to pass the exam after *2 semesters*.
- Experienced students with rudimentary skills should be able to pass the exam after *1 semester*.
- Should a student, such as a composition major, music education major, or future conducting major, request additional piano studies, *individual lessons* covering topics which range from higher level sight-reading, score-reading, transposition, and advanced harmonization/figured bass will be covered.