

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE
SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
DIVISION OF MUSIC

SYLLABUS OF PIANO PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

The following pages contain an outline of the required course of study that is designed to assist students in acquiring functional keyboard skills necessary for completing the four levels of Piano Proficiency Examinations required of all non-piano music major students. It is the student's responsibility (as well as the instructor's) to see that the requirements in each level are properly fulfilled.

All students registered for group piano lab credit (or private applied lessons and who have not completed all four proficiency levels) must take a piano proficiency level jury at the end of each semester. It is expected that a minimum of one proficiency level will be completed each term. If a student fails to meet the minimum requirements for a particular level (i.e., does not pass a jury), that level (and course number) will need to be repeated the following semester.

A student who has prepared two or more proficiency levels for examination must fulfill all the requirements in each level. The student will be examined on all requirements. Once a level has been satisfactorily completed, the examination material of that level will not be covered again.

DEGREE PROGRAMS FOR WHICH FOUR LEVELS OF PROFICIENCY ARE REQUIRED

Bachelor of Arts in Music – All Concentrations
Bachelor of Music – Applied Instrumental (non-piano) Major
Bachelor of Music – Applied Vocal Major
Bachelor of Music – Music Education Instrumental Major
Bachelor of Music – Music Education Vocal Major
Bachelor of Music – Theory/Composition

PIANO PROFICIENCY LEVEL I

MUSC 1015: Group Piano Class for Music Majors Only

Suggested Material:

Lancaster and Renfrow. *Group Piano for Adults, Book I*. 2nd edition.
Alfred Publishing Company, 2004.

Examination:

1. Scales in all major and minor keys (natural and harmonic forms required; melodic form optional) in tetrachord positions.
2. Major and minor pentascales and authentic I V I cadences, hands separately or together (HS or HT).
3. Major and minor arpeggios in all keys for two octaves (hand cross-over).
4. NO LESS THAN TWO familiar tunes worked out by ear and harmonized with I and V7 chords. Each tune should be in a different key, and at least one tune played in both the parallel major and minor modes.
5. Two repertoire pieces (memory not required). Only one piece (selected by the piano faculty at the jury) will be performed at the jury.
6. Sight reading.

NOTES:

- Parts 1-3 will be tested and graded by the class instructor/applied teacher at the student's last class meeting/private lesson of the semester before jury/exam week. Parts passed will not be heard again at the jury. Parts not passed will be examined again at the jury and within a very strict time limit.
- Parts 4-6 will be performed and graded at the jury.

PIANO PROFICIENCY LEVEL II

MUSC 1016: Group Piano Class for Music Majors Only

Suggested Material:

Lancaster and Renfrow. *Group Piano for Adults, Book I*. 2nd edition.
Alfred Publishing Company, 2004.

Examination:

1. All major and harmonic minor scales that begin on the white keys, two octaves, hands separately or together (HS or HT), using standard scale fingering.
2. All white key major and minor tonic arpeggios, two octaves, HS or HT.
3. All white key tonic major and minor chord inversions, HS or HT.
(Inversions: Root, 1st, 2nd, Root, 2nd, 1st, Root)
4. I IV I V I chord cadences in the above white keys, 1st position only, HS or HT.
5. NO LESS THAN TWO familiar tunes (to include “Happy Birthday” in G Major); each tune worked out “by ear” and harmonized with I, IV, V or V7 chords. Each tune should be in a different key.
6. Two repertoire pieces (memory not required). Only one piece (selected by the piano faculty at the jury) will be performed at the jury.
7. Sight reading material to include two-part writing.

NOTES:

- Parts 1-4 will be tested and graded by the class instructor/applied teacher at the student’s last class meeting/private lesson of the semester before jury/exam week. Parts passed will not be heard again at the jury. Parts not passed will be examined again at the jury and within a very strict time limit.
- Parts 5-7 will be performed and graded at the jury.

PIANO PROFICIENCY LEVEL III

MUSC 2015: Group Piano Class for Music Majors Only

Repertoire: Approved by Instructor

Examination:

1. All major and harmonic minor scales that begin on the black keys, two octaves, hands separately or together (HS or HT), using standard scale fingering.
2. All black key major and minor tonic arpeggios, two octaves, HS or HT.
3. All black key tonic major and minor chord inversions and I IV I V I chord cadences in 1st position only, HS or HT.
4. Prepare a harmonization of a melody chosen from Appendix C and transposed up/down a major 2nd and a minor 3rd.
5. Prepare a familiar tune “by ear” with NO LESS THAN TWO different accompaniment patterns, each in a different key.
6. Two repertoire pieces (memory not required). Only one piece (selected by the piano faculty at the jury) will be performed at the jury.
7. Sight reading material to include three-part writing.

NOTES:

- Parts 1-3 will be tested and graded by the class instructor/applied teacher at the student’s last class meeting/private lesson of the semester before jury/exam week. Parts passed will not be heard again at the jury. Parts not passed will be examined again at the jury and within a very strict time limit.
- Parts 4-7 will be performed and graded at the jury.

PIANO PROFICIENCY LEVEL IV

MUSC 2016: Group Piano Class for Music Majors Only

Repertoire: Approved by Instructor

Examination:

1. Scales and arpeggios in two octaves, hands together, using standard scale and arpeggio fingering, in the following MAJOR keys: F, B, D-flat, F-sharp, plus two more white keys.
2. Scales and arpeggios in two octaves, hands together, using standard scale and arpeggio fingering, in the following MINOR keys: f, b, c-sharp, f-sharp, plus two more white keys.
3. All five types of seventh chords beginning on AND in any key.
4. Harmonize a melody (provided by your instructor) with triads and 7th chords (in appropriate inversions) while reading a “lead sheet” with chord symbols written above the melody.
5. A prepared hymn or four-part chorale, with pedal and keeping eyes on the score (without or with minimal looking at hands).
6. Performance of a prepared accompaniment for an instrumentalist/vocalist. Student must arrange for soloist. Piece must be approved by instructor.
7. Two repertoire pieces (memory not required). Only one piece (selected by the piano faculty at the jury) will be performed at the jury.
8. Sight read a three-voice (SAB) open choral score.

NOTES:

- Part 3 will be tested and graded by the class instructor/applied teacher at midterm. Part passed will not be heard again at the jury. Part not passed will be examined again at the jury and within a very strict time limit.
- Parts 1-2 will be tested and graded by the class instructor/applied teacher at the student’s last class meeting/private lesson of the semester before jury/exam week. Parts passed will not be heard again at the jury. Parts not passed will be examined again at the jury and within a very strict time limit.
- Parts 4-8 will be performed and graded at the jury.