



Piano Division Policies

Study Goals

Each semester of applied study includes a minimum of fourteen forty-five-minute lessons plus a jury (final exam). The main purpose of work in piano is simply to make you a better pianist. You will pursue individual improvement along both technical and musical paths. Technical study in the narrow sense comprises a set of specific and progressively graded exercises determined by your teacher (including scales and arpeggios); in the broader sense it means understanding the physical apparatus and addressing and attempting to correct any bad habits you have. Musical growth is accomplished through the repertoire you will study, which in the natural course of events becomes more demanding as you progress. Attendance at concerts and listening to recordings is also a crucial point in your musical development.

Auditions

Entry into any Music Department program with an emphasis in piano is by audition only. The audition will be heard by members of the Piano Faculty and/or other Departmental Faculty. The audition may consist of the following:

1. Sight-reading at a level appropriate for the person auditioning, but indicative of future success in piano program.
2. Demonstration of technical facility. Appropriate scales and/or etudes.
3. Performance of two works from contrasting styles (i.e., 2-Part Invention by Bach and “Song Without Words” by F. Mendelssohn or Sonatina by Muzio Clementi and Prelude by Frederic Chopin). Preferably memorized.

Acceptance into the program will be decided by the faculty. IF accepted, entry level will also be determined at that time.

Lower and Upper Division Study

Students entering as First Year students will remain in the lower Division for the first two years of study. Entry into the Upper Division study must be preceded by a Junior Barrier Examination (see below). If the student does not pass the Barrier Exam, they must remain in the Lower Division study until its completion. A student may also be placed in Upper Division at the time of the audition.

Performance Major/Principal Applied Major

A student that wishes to become a Piano Performance Major will be informed of their acceptance at the time of audition. Performance Majors must exhibit repertoire, technical, sight-reading and musicianship skills of the highest order.

A student with any other Music Department Major (i.e. Music Education, Music Business, etc.) will be classified as a student whose Principal Applied instrument is piano. The same standards will apply to ALL majors.

Juries

A Piano Jury will be performed at the completion of each semester's study. The Piano Faculty and/or designated representatives of the Faculty will adjudicate. The final grade and placement levels will be determined at that time. The Jury shall consist of the following:

First Year

- Two works from contrasting style periods (i.e., a movement of a Classical Sonata and a piece of Romantic style). Memorization is required.
- All white keys major and minor scales. Major scales – block style, Minor scales – natural, harmonic, melodic forms in four octaves (hands parallel).
- Sight-reading appropriate to the student's level.

Second Year

- Two works from contrasting style periods (i.e., a movement of a Classical Sonata and a piece of Romantic style). Memorization is required.
Repertoire should reflect the student's advancement from previous years of study.
- The second semester examination will consist of the Junior Barrier. Passing the Barrier is a pre-requisite for entry into the Upper Division study.
 - The Barrier shall consist of an extended jury of repertoire that indicates musical and technical readiness for Upper Division study.
 - The Faculty for the Barrier shall consist of the piano faculty as well as other invited Music Department faculty.
 - This joint union will determine the student's advancement or non-advancement status.
 - Should a student not advance, he or she must remain in the Lower Division until the Barrier is completed.

Third/Fourth Year

- Continuation of more advanced repertoire and all other aspects of piano study that lead to the preparation of the Junior and/or Senior Recital.
- Techniques of score reduction, transposition, etc, may be introduced as the student's level dictates.

Grading

- The student's final grade will reflect the grade for the actual Jury and the professor's assessment of the student's work for the semester, as well as a Seminar attendance.
- The Jury will represent 40% of the final grade.
- The professor's assessment and the Seminar will represent 60%.

Recitals

You are expected to perform in a Master Class at least twice per semester as well as Department Student Recitals. There will also be chances for you to perform in various special events throughout each semester.

Junior Recital

With the professor's approval, any piano major may present a Junior Recital (at least 30 minutes of music). The recital may be solo or shared with another instrumentalist or vocalist. Performance Majors are strongly encouraged to work towards the Junior Recital in preparation for the culminating Senior Recital.

Senior Recital

All Piano Majors must perform a Senior Recital (at least 45 minutes of music). Performance Majors must present a full-length program appropriate to their level. Principal Applied Majors may perform a full-length program or may opt to perform on

three of the Music Department's Seminars on Pedagogy. The three performances should be completed in one academic year.

Attendance

Attendance is required at all lessons. Your professor is making a specific commitment of her time exclusively for your lesson. It is simply common courtesy to let your teacher know if the appointment must be cancelled. If a lesson will be missed, notice should be given 24 hours in advance if possible. Excused absences will be made up (but generally no more than two or three per semester). Unexcused absences will not be made up and are certain to affect the student's grade.

Lesson Preparation Requirements

1. Practice Expectations:
 - a. Piano Major: 3 hours per day or more
 - b. Music Educations Major and All Others: 1 hour per day or more
2. Preparation is expected. If you are not prepared for your lesson, you may be dismissed early

Things to Remember

1. Be punctual and come warmed-up
2. Bring all your music to every lesson
3. Take good care of your sheet music
4. Practice right after your lesson, rather than cramming before the next one. I would like for you to be fresh and be able to focus on your lesson.