Piano Proficiency Requirements and Policies

Horne School of Music – Snow College

A basic level of piano skill is required of all music majors studying in the Snow College – Horne School of Music. All students entering the music program will be screened during the first week of class in order to assess piano proficiency. Students who do not possess the required piano skills will be placed in a music major section of Class Piano I. Students who possess some but not all of the necessary piano skills may be assigned to a more advanced section of Class Piano II, III, or IV.

Four levels of class piano will be offered including:

- Class Piano I – (MUSC 1150) Fall and Spring Semesters
- Class Piano II – (MUSC 1160) Spring Semesters
- Class Piano III – (MUSC 2150) Fall Semesters
- Class Piano IV – (MUSC 2160) Spring Semesters

Students who complete the four semester sequence with a passing grade in each class (C or better) or pass the proficiency exam will be deemed as piano proficient. Students may take the exam at any time during their studies at the Horne School of Music. Students who fail to pass the exam may retake it each semester until passed. Official student transcripts will indicate that piano proficiency has been achieved.

Each level of class piano will progress a student closer to completion of the piano proficiency requirements. Students will be graded on the following percentages:

- Weekly proficiency quizzes - 30%
- Attendance/Participation - 30%
- Semester proficiency exam - 30%
- Memorization and performance of solo repertoire – 10%

All music majors are required to pass the piano proficiency exam. Partial components of the proficiency exam will be given at the end of each semester. The complete piano proficiency exam will be administered at the end of Class Piano IV. The piano proficiency exam consists of four major categories:

1.  Technique
2.  Sight-Reading
3.  Memorization and performance
4.  Transposition and Score Reading
Technique Requirement:

a. All major and white key minor scales (natural and harmonic) in 3 octaves – hands together
   
   (quarter note mm = 144)

b. All major and minor arpeggios in 3 octaves – hands together (3 eighth notes mm = 42), Seventh-chord
   arpeggios in 3 octaves – hands together (2 eighth notes mm = 60)

c. Triad cadences in all major and white key minor keys with all inversions: I, IV, I, V7, I (quarter note mm = 80)

d. Tonic inversions in triads, two hands together in half notes (quarter note mm = 120)

e. Diatonic chords in all major keys 2 hands in half notes (quarter note mm = 120)

* All components must be executed with correct fingerings

Sight-Reading:

a. One short composition (one page) selected by the exam administrator, comparable to the level of
difficulty found in the Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach by J.S. Bach.

b. One four-part hymn or anthem

Memorization and Performance:

a. A memorized selection at least 3 minutes in duration on the level of an easy Mozart sonata, later Clementi
   sonatinas, Bach two-part inventions, or easier Chopin mazurkas.

b. Memorization of the Star Spangled Banner or America.

Transposition and Score Reading:

a. Two lines of a classical string quartet

b. Two lines of a score with parts for wind instruments requiring transposition

Improvisation:

a. Harmonization of a melody using primary and secondary chords

b. Melodic improvisation on a given harmonic progression.

Piano Proficiency Requirements and Materials by Semester
Class Piano I – (MUSC 1150) Taught Fall and Spring Semesters

Class Piano I - Piano Proficiency Requirements

a. All major and minor 5 finger patterns
b. Chord building: Major, minor, Augmented and diminished chords

c. Three octave scales (C, G, D, A, E) – hands together
d. All major and minor cross-hand arpeggios
e. All major 3 note blocked and broken chords inversions (2 octaves)
f. I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression in all major keys
g. Reading in treble and bass clefs
h. Transposing of melodies and repertoire pieces

i. Improvisation Harmonization of melodies using blocked I, IV, and V chords

Melodic improvisation on a blues scale (12 bar blues)

j. Sight-reading

k. Repertoire pieces to be performed in class

Class Piano I - Technique Curriculum by Week/Testing Schedule

Week One  Student evaluations
Week Two  White Key 5 finger patterns
Week Three All Major 5 finger patterns
Week Four All Major cross-hand arpeggios
Week Five All minor 5 finger patterns
Week Six All minor cross-hand arpeggios
Week Seven All white key Major blocked and broken chord inversions
Week Eight All black key Major blocked and broken chord inversions
Week Nine All white key chord progressions (I-IV-I-V7-I)
Week Ten All black key chord progressions (I-IV-I-V7-I)
Week Eleven One octave Major arpeggios moving chromatically
Week Twelve Three octave scales (C, G, D, A, E) hands separate
Week Thirteen Three octave scales (C, G, D, A, E) hands together
Week Fourteen Recital with memorized solo
Week Fifteen Individual student evaluations/Semester proficiency exam

Class Piano II – (MUSC 1150) Spring Semesters
a. Major and three white key minor scales (3 octaves, hands together)
b. Chord building: Seventh chords
c. All major and three white key minor arpeggios (3 octaves)
d. Three white key minor three-note blocked and broken chord inversions, (3 octaves)
e. All white key majors and three white key minor keys (in all inversions) using a I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression
f. Reading four part hymns/chorales
g. Transposing of repertoire pieces
h. Reading in alto clef
  i. Improvisation Harmonization of melodies using primary chords
     Melodic improvisation
j. Sight-Reading
j. Repertoire pieces to be performed in class
l. Memorization of America

Class Piano II - Technique Curriculum by Week/Testing Schedule

Week One  Student evaluations and review of previous materials
Week Two  Three octave scales (C, G, B) hands together
Week Three Three octave scales (F, B-flat) hands together
Week Four Three octave scales (E-flat, A-flat, D-flat, G-flat) hands together
Week Five All Major white key arpeggios – three octaves
Week Six All Major black key arpeggios – three octaves
Week Seven I-IV-I-V7-I chord progressions with all inversions (C, G, D, A)
Week Eight I-IV-I-V7-I chord progressions with all inversions (E, B, F)
Week Nine White key diatonic chords
Week Ten Three octave minor scales (a, d, g) – harmonic, melodic, and natural minor
Week Eleven Three octave minor arpeggios (a, d, g)
Week Twelve Three octave minor chord inversions (a, d, g)
Week Thirteen Three octave minor chord progressions (a, d, g) – all inversions
Week Fourteen Recital with memorized solo
Week Fifteen Individual student evaluations/ Semester proficiency exam

Class Piano III – (MUSC 2150) Fall Semesters
a. All major and white key minor scales (3 octaves, hands together)
b. All major and minor 7th chord arpeggios (3 octaves, hands together)
c. All major and minor 3 note blocked and broken chord inversions (3 octaves)
d. I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression in all major and white key minor keys (in all inversions)
e. Harmonization of melodies using secondary chords
f. Reading vocal scores and two lines of a string quartet
g. Reading parts for wind instruments requiring transposition
h. Improvisation Harmonization of melodies using primary and secondary chords
    Melodic improvisation
i. Sight-Reading
j. Repertoire pieces to be performed in class

**Class Piano III - Technique Curriculum by Week/Testing Schedule**

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<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>Harmonic and natural minor scales, 3 octaves, hands together (a, c, f)</td>
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<td>Four</td>
<td>Minor arpeggios and chord inversions, 3 octaves, hands together (a, c, f)</td>
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<td>Five</td>
<td>Minor chord progressions in all inversions (a, c, f)</td>
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<td>Six</td>
<td>Melodic, harmonic, and natural minor scales, 3 octaves, hands together (e, b)</td>
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<td>Eight</td>
<td>Minor chord progressions in all inversions (e, b)</td>
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<td>Nine</td>
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<td>Fifteen</td>
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Class Piano IV – (MUSC 2150) Spring Semesters

*see piano proficiency requirements

**Class Piano IV - Technique Curriculum by Week/Testing Schedule**

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<td>All Major chord progressions in all inversions, hands together</td>
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<td>Week Six</td>
<td>White key fully diminished 7th chord arpeggios and chord inversions</td>
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<td>Week Eleven</td>
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<td>Week Twelve</td>
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