

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 IV – (MUSC 2150) Spring Semesters

*see piano proficiency requirements

Class Piano IV - Technique Curriculum by Week/Testing Schedule

Week One	Assessment and Review
Week Two	Review and Reading
Week Three	All Major Scales, 3 octaves, hands together
Week Four	All Major chord progressions in all inversions, hands together
Week Five	All Major 3 octave arpeggios, hands together
Week Six	White key fully diminished 7 th chord arpeggios and chord inversions
Week Seven	Review and Reading
Week Eight	All minor white key natural and harmonic scales
Week Nine	All minor white key chord progressions
Week Ten	All minor 3 octave arpeggios
Week Eleven	All Major white key diatonic chords
Week Twelve	All Major black key diatonic chords
Week Thirteen	Review
Week Fourteen	Class recital with memorized solo and accompanying of student solos
Week Fifteen	Final Proficiency Exam