PIANO COURSE OUTLINE

KEYBOARD UNIT POLICIES

JURY HEARINGS

All students enrolled in applied piano must perform a jury hearing each semester. A jury hearing includes the advisory jury, the proficiency, one memorized piece, the degree recital hearing, the non-degree recital hearing, or the concerto hearing.

PROFICIENCIES

1. The freshman proficiency exam must be taken after two semesters study. If it is failed, it must be re-taken at the end of the next (third) semester. If it is failed the second time, the student is excluded from the major in that instrument.

2. The sophomore proficiency exam must be taken two full semesters after the passing of the freshman proficiency. If it is failed, it must be re-taken at the end of the next semester. If it is failed a second time, the student is excluded from the major in that instrument.

3. Permission for proficiency hearings at irregular times will not be granted except in cases of serious medical or personal difficulty, and then only upon the authority of the Chair of the Music Department. The student receives an “incomplete” until the proficiency is passed. In the event a postponement is permitted, the proficiency must be played within the first three weeks of the following semester. In the case of spring semester postponement, the proficiency must be played within the first three weeks of summer school provided that the keyboard faculty is available.

4. The proficiency is never passed in part. The Faculty Jury determines pass or fail on the basis of the entire performance.

5. All full-time faculty keyboard members will hear all juries and proficiencies.

6. Proficiency exams for transfer students will be handled as follows:

- A transfer student wishing to enter a keyboard program at Murray State University as a major must play a transfer-proficiency exam. Placement in the program will be made by the keyboard faculty on the basis of that examination and a brief interview. Placement will be made on the basis of competence and with regard to hour of credits earned or transferred.

- The transfer-proficiency must be either a standard freshman or sophomore proficiency. It maybe played within the first three weeks of the student’s first semester at MSU, in which case the resulting placement will be retro-active to the beginning of that period. The keyboard faculty, at its discretion, may place a transfer student at any semester level deemed appropriate (i.e. it is not limited to the levels implied by the two proficiencies).

- Under no circumstances may any student fulfill any performance requirement for graduation without having passed a sophomore proficiency.

REPERTOIRE RESTRICTIONS

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1. No repertoire performed on the freshman proficiency (BM, BA or BS) may be performed on the sophomore proficiency. Different movements of a piece are construed to be different repertoire.

2. There will be no overlap of repertoire between any subsequent proficiency or recital requirement except in the case of multi-movement works when one movement may have been used for an earlier requirement and the entire work is later performed.

**PERFORMANCE HEARINGS**

1. All degree and non-degree recitals and concertos will be heard in toto by the keyboard faculty no less than two calendar weeks before the scheduled recital date. The hearing will be passed or failed by vote of all full-time keyboard faculty. If the hearing is passed, the recital may be presented as scheduled. If it is failed, the recital must be re-scheduled and a new faculty hearing scheduled as stated above.

2. No faculty hearing is required for the junior performance requirement unless the student schedules a half or full Junior BM, BA or BS recital performance.

3. All keyboard assists will be heard by the major teacher during the regular hearing for the primary recitalist.

4. It is the responsibility of the major teacher to see that the performance hearing is scheduled and to notify the keyboard faculty at least one week before the hearing.

5. Students must be enrolled in applied keyboard during the semester of both the hearing and the recital.

**FUNCTIONAL KEYBOARD POLICIES**

1. BM, BA and BS piano majors must complete Functional Keyboard IV and preceding levels, as needed, to insure functional keyboard skills.

2. Functional Keyboard IV is required for all BM students not majoring in piano.

3. No functional keyboard class may be audited.

**APPEAL**

1. Anyone wishing to appeal any of the above policies may address himself/herself to the Keyboard Unit Coordinator, second to the Chair of the Music Department who will consult with the keyboard faculty.

2. Established university-wide channels will be followed.

**PIANO MAJORS ON THE BM, BA and BS CURRICULA**

The Keyboard Unit employs a system of testing at the end of each semester of study.
1. At the conclusion of the first semester of the freshman year:
   - Advisory Jury of two piano pieces, one memorized and one with music, one piece from the Baroque period and the other from a contrasting period. The BM piano performance major must perform both pieces from memory.
   - All major scales, four octaves, hands together. The BA/BS piano major is required to play major scales two octaves, hands together.

2. At the conclusion of the second semester of the freshman year, the established keyboard proficiency will be followed. See information regarding specific degree programs.

3. At the conclusion of the first semester of the sophomore year: 1) Advisory Jury of two memorized pieces representing contrasting periods. At the discretion of the teacher one piece may be used for the regular Sophomore Proficiency; 2) all major arpeggios, root position, four octaves, hands together.

4. At the conclusion of the fourth semester of the sophomore year, the established keyboard proficiency will be followed. See information regarding specific degree programs.

5. If the student fails either of these hearings or proficiencies a semester grade of no higher than D will be awarded, and the student must enroll for another semester of study at that level.

**ACCOMPANYING**

Students are encouraged to work in an ensemble or collaborative role with the approval of their applied teacher. Approval is conditional upon the following:

1. Students must pass MUS 136 Introduction to Accompanying and MUS 336 Piano as an Ensemble Instrument. MUS 136 should be taken in the second semester of study (typically the spring of the freshman year) and MUS 336 should be taken in the third semester of study (typically in the fall of the sophomore year). Enrollment in MSU 136 and MUS 336 fulfills this student’s ensemble requirement for the semester. All accompanying and collaborative work in these courses is strictly monitored, and students are not allowed to work as free agents in the department until these requirements are fulfilled.

2. Studio teachers reserve the right to monitor and restrict collaborative activities of their students at any time after the completion of MUS 136 and MUS 336. Studio teachers may also institute specific policies regarding accompanying for their students.

**PIANO MAJORS ON THE BM PERFORMANCE CURRICULUM**

(2-3 credits per semester)

**FRESHMAN YEAR (minimum requirements):**
1. All major and all forms of minor scales, four octaves, hands together.

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2. Major and minor arpeggios, root position and inversions, four octaves, hands together.
3. One Two-part Invention by Bach or comparable contrapuntal piece, memorized.
4. A sonata allegro/form movement of a classic period sonata the approximate difficulty of the following, memorized.
   - Haydn: Sonata in F Major, Hob. XVI/23, Sonata in G Major, Hob. XVI/27
   - Mozart: Sonata in G Major, K. 283, Sonata in B-flat Major, K. 570
   - Sonatas in F Major, K. 332
   - Sonata in G Major, Op. 14 no. 2
5. One Romantic, Impressionistic or Contemporary composition, memorized.
6. Ability to read at sight works selected by the piano faculty.

**SOPHOMORE YEAR (minimum requirements):**
1. All major and all forms of minor scales, four octaves, hands together.
2. Major and minor arpeggios, root position and inversions, four octaves, hands together; dominant and diminished seventh chord arpeggios, root position and inversions, four octaves, hands together.
3. One Three-part Invention by Bach or comparable contrapuntal piece, memorized.
4. Sonata allegro/form movement of a classic period sonata of a more difficult nature than that expected on the freshman exam, memorized.
   - Haydn: Sonata in E Minor, Hob. XVI/34, Sonata in E-flat Major, Hob. XVI/49
   - Mozart: Sonata in C Major, K. 309, Sonata in D Major, K. 311
   - Sonata in F Major, Op. 10 no. 2
5. One Romantic composition, memorized.
6. One Impressionistic or Contemporary composition, memorized.
7. Ability to read at sight more difficult material than that expected on the freshman level, selected by the keyboard faculty.

**JUNIOR YEAR:**
**Junior Recital:** Half-recital of memorized repertoire, minimum playing time of 25 minutes. Literature at the discretion of the major professor, but it is expected that a variety of styles be presented. Student must sign up for MUS 398 (Junior Recital) the semester of performance.

**Concerto Movement:** One movement (minimum) of a standard concerto, preferably first movement if complete concerto is not performed. The concerto may be performed with a second piano and it is recommended that the concerto requirement be met before the Senior Recital. Student must sign up for MUS 499 (Concerto Performance) the semester of performance.

The junior recital and the concerto movement may occur any time after the sophomore proficiency has been passed.

**SENIOR YEAR:**
**Senior BM Performance Recital:** full recital of memorized repertoire, minimum playing time of 50 minutes. Literature at the discretion of the major professor, but it is expected that a variety of styles be presented. Student must sign up for MUS 498 (Senior Recital) the semester of performance.

**PIANO MAJORS ON THE BM MUSIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM**
**(2 credits per semester)**

**FRESHMAN YEAR (minimum requirements):**
1. All major and all forms of minor scales, four octaves, hands together.
2. One Two-part Invention by Bach or comparable contrapuntal piece (minimal level), memorized.

3. Sonata allegro/form movement of a classic period sonata the approximate difficulty of the following (minimal level), memorized.
   
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<tr>
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<td>Sonata in C Major, K. 545</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beethoven</td>
<td>Sonata in F Minor, Op. 2 no. 1</td>
<td>Sonata in G Major, Op. 79</td>
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4. Ability to read at sight works selected by the piano faculty.

**SOPHOMORE YEAR (minimum requirements):**

1. All major and all forms of minor scales, four octaves, hands together.
2. Major and minor arpeggios, root position and inversions, four octaves, hands together.
3. One Three-part Invention by Bach or comparable contrapuntal piece, memorized.
4. Sonata allegro/form movement of a classic period sonata of a more difficult nature than that expected on the freshman exam, memorized.
   
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<td>Sonata in E Major, Op. 14 no. 1</td>
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5. One Romantic, Impressionistic or Contemporary composition, memorized.
6. Ability to read at sight more difficult material than that expected on the freshman level, selected by the keyboard faculty.

**JUNIOR YEAR:**

Junior Performance: students are required to present a minimum of 15 minutes solo repertoire from memory during the junior year. This may include a recital or as many appearances as necessary to bring the total to 15 minutes; performances may be given on Recital Assemblies, as assists, or as optional recitals. Studio class recitals are specifically excluded.

**SENIOR YEAR:**

Senior BM Education degree recital: half-recital of memorized repertoire, minimum playing time of 25 minutes. Literature at the discretion of the major professor, but it is expected that a variety of styles be presented. Student must sign up for MUS 498 (Senior Recital) the semester of performance.

**PIANO MAJORS ON THE BA/BS CURRICULA**

(2 credits per semester)

**FRESHMAN YEAR (minimum requirements):**

1. All major and one form of minor scales, two octaves, hands together.
2. Four pieces with music, or two pieces memorized.
3. Sight reading material designated by instructor.

**SOPHOMORE YEAR (minimum requirements):**

1. All major and all forms of minor scales, four octaves, hands together.
2. All major and minor arpeggios, root position, four octaves, hands together.
3. Four pieces of the level of Burgmuller’s *Easy and Progressive Studies*, Op. 100, played with music, or two pieces of the above level played from memory.
4. Ability to sight read works chosen by the piano faculty.
5. Research or Performance Track must be determined at this point.

**JUNIOR YEAR:**

Performance Track (piano study 2 credits each semester):

1. Ten minute public performance (in recital assembly or assists) or two memorized pieces for the piano jury. Studio class recitals are specifically excluded. An end of semester jury may be required at the discretion of the instructor.

Research Track (piano study 1 credit each semester):

1. One memorized piece for the piano jury.
2. Consult undergraduate bulletin for further information regarding research track.

**SENIOR YEAR:**

Performance Track (piano study 2 credits each semester):

1. 25 minute public performance of pieces of a more difficult level than those performed during the junior year. Student must sign up for MUS 498 (Senior Recital) the semester of performance.

Research Track (piano study 1 credit each semester):

1. One memorized piece for the piano jury.
2. Student must sign up for MUS 497 (Final Project) the semester of completion.

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**MUSIC MINORS**

The **music minor with piano as the primary instrument** is advised to follow the four hour semester program, earning one credit hour per semester and studying a half hour each week with the studio teacher (Total: 4 credit hours). Students may combine the requirements for Semester I and II for 2.0 credit hours and Semester III and IV for 2.0 credit hours only on the approval of the keyboard faculty. This decision must be based on proficiency level of the entering student.
• The music minor with piano as the primary instrument is required to pass Functional Keyboard I and II. Functional Keyboard does not count toward the applied piano requirement. If the student is in Functional Keyboard for one hour credit, a half-hour lesson for one credit hour is taken at the same time.

• Each student is expected to satisfactorily complete the exam requirements for each semester before continuing to the subsequent semester’s work.

**SEMESTER I (minimum requirements):**
1. Major scales C, G, D, A, E, B, F-sharp, C-sharp, two octaves, hands together.
2. One memorized piece the level of *Essential Keyboard Repertoire*, Vol. I, Lynn Freeman Olson, editor

**SEMESTER II (minimum requirements):**
1. All major scales, two octaves, hands together.
2. One memorized piece the level of Burgmuller’s *Easy and Progressive Studies*, Op. 100.

**SEMESTER III (minimum requirements):**
1. All major scales and all forms of white key minors, two octaves, hand together.
2. One memorized piece the level of *Essential Keyboard Repertoire*, Vol. II, Lynn Freeman Olson, editor.

**SEMESTER IV (minimum requirements):**
1. All major and all forms of minor scales, two octaves, hands together.
2. One Two-part Invention by Bach or comparable contrapuntal piece, memorized. Sonata allegro/form movement of a classic period sonata or sonatina, the approximate difficulty of the Clementi’s Sonatina in F Major, Op. 36 no. 4, memorized.

The **music minor who is not taking piano as the primary instrument** is required to pass Functional Keyboard I and II.

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**BM PERFORMANCE DEGREE NON-PIANO MAJOR KEYBOARD REQUIREMENT**

1. All students must pass Functional Keyboard IV.
2. Vocal majors must take 2.0 credit hours of applied piano. The keyboard unit recommends two semesters at 1.0 credit each. At the end of each semester of applied piano study, the student must perform one memorized piece for the piano jury.

3. Instrumental majors must take 2.0 credits hours of applied secondary study.

**BA/BS DEGREE NON-PIANO MAJOR KEYBOARD REQUIREMENT**

Non-keyboard majors must study piano for 2 semesters by taking the appropriate Functional Keyboard class and/or by taking studio piano. Placement in Functional Keyboard is determined by an evaluation administered by the Functional Keyboard Coordinator.

**ELECTIVE PIANO STUDY**

1. Non-music majors interested in studying piano as an elective may be accepted through audition and with the permission of the keyboard instructor. Music majors who have completed Functional Keyboard IV may register for lessons with permission of the keyboard instructor.

2. At the end of each semester, the elective student in piano must perform one memorized piece for the piano jury.