Piano Proficiency Requirements

(Revised Fall, 2009)

Passing the piano proficiency exam is a requirement for all Bachelor of Music majors and music minors with a major in Elementary Education. Students must pass the exam before their senior year. The exam is offered at the end of each semester. All elements of the exam must be tested at this time.

Technical Skills

1. Major scales: All Major Scales played two octaves, hands alone. Fingering must be accurate to pass and scales must be played without hesitation in a steady tempo.
2. Minor scales: All harmonic minor scales played two octaves, hands alone. Fingering must be accurate to pass and scales must be played without hesitation in a steady tempo.
3. Play all major triads and inversions ascending and descending two octaves, hands together.
4. Five finger scale pattern in all major keys. Fingering is same for all keys.

Applied Skills

5. Harmonization: harmonize a melody with lead sheet symbols (chord symbols). Play steady tempo without hesitation or incorrect chords.
6. Transposition: transpose melody from harmonization either up/down a half step/whole step. Play steady tempo without hesitation or incorrect chords.
7. Improvisation: Free style, at least eight bars.
8. Accompanying/open score: Prepare one high school level choral piece. Be able to demonstrate open score reading of three consecutive vocal parts. Correct rhythms, notes and a steady tempo are required to pass.
9. Hymn/sight reading: Sight read a hymn. The hymn is selected at the time of the piano proficiency and can not be prepared in advance. Selected hymns will not have more than three sharps/flats.
10. Star Spangled Banner: Play any version in a steady tempo. Memorization is not required.