

# SPECIAL MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

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## Theory Placement Examination

A theory placement examination is given to all incoming freshman majors and other students during the first week of the fall semester who plan to take Music Theory I. The results of the Theory Placement Examination are used to place the student in either Basic Music Theory or Music Theory I.

## Piano Placement Examination

Incoming freshman music majors and students who plan to take Music Theory I also must take the Piano Placement Examination offered during the first week of the fall semester. This examination identifies students who must take Class Piano I in the fall semester, a prerequisite for Music Theory I.

## Applied Placement Examinations

Incoming freshmen and transfer students wishing to enroll in private lessons in voice or piano must take a placement exam to determine studio or class placement.

## Applied Music Juries

(see Appendix E – Applied Music Summary for Jury Examination)

- Who takes juries?
  - Music majors, and non-majors desiring to raise level.
  - All music majors are required to perform a jury exam in their major performance area until they have completed their respective degree requirements for degree recitals and/or applied music study in private or class lessons.
  - Music majors may take juries in secondary areas to raise level.
  - Students who have performed a recital in fulfillment of degree requirements are exempt from jury exams during the

semester in which the recital is performed.

- Schedule for juries:  
Each semester during final examination week.
- Applied music levels and class standing:  
The applied music level (1\*\*, 2\*\*, 3\*\*, 4\*\*) cannot exceed the class standing on record with the registrar (Freshman is 100 level, Sophomore is 200 level, Junior is 300 level, Senior is 400 level)
- Change of level:  
Usually determined during the jury of the student's second semester of study. Students are notified of any level change in writing following juries. Students not advanced in the second semester jury may request advancement consideration at the following jury.
- Additional jury regulations:
  - Transfer students will perform for level placement during their first semester in residence.
  - Jury records are on file in the Music Department Office.
  - The jury grade is considered in the student's final grade. For piano composition and voice, the final grade can be no higher than 1 full letter grade above or below the assigned jury grade. For instrumental juries the jury grade counts as 1/3 of the final grade.
  - Each faculty member of the jury committee will write comments on each student; copies will be made available to each student through the instructor.

NOTE: Non-music majors, and music majors with "secondary" performing areas, must sign up for a jury if they desire to raise their level rating.

## **Piano Proficiency Examination**

(See Appendix F – Piano Proficiency Exam Rating Sheet)

- Information and Description
  - All music majors are expected to have some degree of expertise at the piano. The examination should be taken by all music majors by the end of their sophomore year.
  - Students should begin preparing for the exam in the freshman year. Keyboard skills are very helpful in the study of all other areas of music, especially music theory. Class Piano I, a prerequisite for Music Theory I, begins to prepare students for the piano proficiency exam. Class Piano II continues this preparation. All Class Piano II graduates and other non-beginners are encouraged to prepare for the exam in Piano Proficiency Skills (MUA143).
  - All six items must be attempted the first time. Areas not passed may be retaken at a later proficiency exam. All remaining items must be attempted each time the exam is taken.
  - The piano faculty administers the proficiency examination.
  - It is unadvisable for a student to attempt the exam for the first time without consultation with a piano faculty member.
  - The exam is usually scheduled at the end of the fall semester and in the middle of the spring semester. Students may pick up the open score excerpts in the music office one week before the exam.

- Requirements
  - A Bach Two-Part Invention or a Sonatina by Clementi or Kuhlau. More difficult Baroque or Classical literature is acceptable. The work does not have to be memorized.
  - A prepared hymn (not gospel song) arranged in chorale style, suitable for congregational singing.
  - The “Star-Spangled Banner” or “America” (My Country ‘Tis of Thee) with conventional harmonies.
  - One folk song, played at sight; the student will provide the harmonies of a single-line melody.
  - One four-part hymn at sight.
  - Prepared open-score excerpts. The excerpts will be available to the student one week in advance.

### **Piano Proficiency Skills (MUA 143)**

The music department offers class instruction in piano through a series of three courses culminating in Piano Proficiency Skills. This course emphasizes skills needed to successfully complete the piano proficiency examination, such as harmonization, hymn and open score reading, solo repertoire and congregational style hymn playing.

### **Piano Proficiency Exam (MUA 201)**

Each student must register for this course number the semester (s)he will take the Piano Proficiency Exam.