

THE UNDERGRADUATE PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM

Musicians without basic keyboard skills often find themselves at a disadvantage in the contemporary marketplace. The PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM tests the ability of the student to use the keyboard as a tool within the framework of his/her current and future professional activities.

A student's first attempt at this exam must occur before the last semester at UNM. The exam must be completed before the student will be allowed to enroll in MUS 491 *Senior Recital*. Music Education students must pass all sections of this exam before student teaching. Theory/Composition majors must pass a subsequent keyboard skills test administered by the theory faculty.

All students who have not yet passed the PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM (if required by their degree plan or for student teaching) should sign up for the piano placement exam held during the first week of each semester in order to determine which course level should be taken.

Basic requirements for the PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM are as follows:

Bachelor of Music Concentrations in:

Performance (Instrumental or Vocal Emphasis)

String Pedagogy

Jazz Studies

Theory & Composition

1. All major and harmonic minor keys:
 - a. scales, hands together, 2 octaves (ascending, descending) with correct traditional fingering
 - b. chord progression (minimum I-IV-cadential 6/4-V7-I) in 4 parts, RH beginning on first inversion of I, LH bass line, root note. EX:



2. Sightreading, intermediate level (1-2 pages; ex: folk song or classical children's piece)
3. Repertoire, 1 intermediate level piece (2-4 pages, ex: 1st movement of a sonatina, Bach *Prelude* or *Invention*)

Bachelor of Music Education:

1. Same as above, plus the following:
2. Harmonization of a simple melody. Blocked chords, or simple patterns; ability to include one or more secondary chords. 48 hours preparation. No marks allowed on the score.
3. Score reading as follows:
 - a. Instrumental Concentration:
 - 1-2 pages of an orchestral score, including transposing instruments.
 - Ability to play any two parts from those pages. One line will be a transposing instrument, the other a "C" instrument. No marks allowed on the score.
 - b. Vocal Concentration:
 - 1-2 pages of a four-part choral score, all four parts (some voice crossing may occur). 48 hours preparation. No marks allowed on score.

It is strongly recommended that all sections of the PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM be passed by the end of the sophomore year. Under no circumstances may a student attempt the exam for the first time in the last semester at UNM. All students planning to take the PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM must be pre-approved by a piano faculty

member. The piano faculty is ready to help you answer any questions you may have regarding the course of action necessary to help you achieve a successful outcome of this requirement, so please feel free to contact us.