

Functional Piano Proficiency

Idaho State University

Department of Music

All music majors are required to pass the functional piano proficiency examination as one of the graduation requirements. Students unable to fulfill the examination requirements upon entrance must register for class piano (MUSC 1118-1119 and/or 2218/2219) until able to complete MUSC 2219 with a C- or higher. Placement in the proper class level is determined by the Piano Faculty through an interview/audition. Piano majors must pass the piano proficiency examination before completing their junior standing. Other music majors must pass the examination, or have completed or be concurrently enrolled in MUSC 1119 (Class Piano II) before completing their junior standing. Students should take class piano concurrently with Music Theory I and II (MUSC 1102-1104, 2203-2204). The proficiency requirements are as follows:

1. Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the keyboard and reasonably good hand-finger technique for facility and fluency, note and rhythm reading knowledge and fluency, basic knowledge of pianistic and music theory terminology, and command of musical usage of pedal.
2. Play all major and harmonic minor scales, two octaves, hands together; play in eighth notes, quarter note = 84. Play all major and minor arpeggios, two octaves, hands together; play in quarter notes, quarter note = 100. Play cadential progressions, I-IV-I-V7-I or I-IV^{6/4}-I-V^{6/5}-I, in all major and minor keys, hands together; play in quarter notes, quarter note = 60.
3. Sight read material such as Burgmüller *Op. 100*, easier pieces of Schumann's *Album for the Young*, hymns, etc.
4. Transpose an arrangement of a folk, national or community song up or down a step.
5. Demonstrate open score reading by playing one inner line of a choral score with one hand and conducting with the other.
6. Harmonize a melody with jazz chord symbols.
7. Supply accompaniments to commonly sung folk, national or community songs including *The Star Spangled Banner* and *Happy Birthday*.
8. Play a composition comparable in difficulty to the Beethoven and Haydn German Dances, Bach and Mozart minuets and short preludes, and Schumann's *Album for the Young*. Demonstrate correct performance practice for the style of the period of the chosen solo.