

Piano Proficiency Requirements and Policies

Horne School of Music – Snow College

A basic level of piano skill is required of all music majors studying in the Snow College – Horne School of Music. All students entering the music program will be screened during the first week of class in order to assess piano proficiency. Students who do not possess the required piano skills will be placed in a music major section of Class Piano I. Students who possess some but not all of the necessary piano skills may be assigned to a more advanced section of Class Piano II, III, or IV.

Four levels of class piano will be offered including:

Class Piano I – (MUSC 1150) Fall and Spring Semesters

Class Piano II – (MUSC 1160) Spring Semesters

Class Piano III – (MUSC 2150) Fall Semesters

Class Piano IV – (MUSC 2160) Spring Semesters

Students who complete the four semester sequence with a passing grade in each class (C or better) or pass the proficiency exam will be deemed as piano proficient. Students may take the exam at any time during their studies at the Horne School of Music. Students who fail to pass the exam may retake it each semester until passed. Official student transcripts will indicate that piano proficiency has been achieved.

Each level of class piano will progress a student closer to completion of the piano proficiency requirements. Students will be graded on the following percentages:

Weekly proficiency quizzes - 30%

Attendance/Participation - 30%

Semester proficiency exam - 30%

Memorization and performance of solo repertoire – 10%

All music majors are required to pass the piano proficiency exam. Partial components of the proficiency exam will be given at the end of each semester. The complete piano proficiency exam will be administered at the end of Class Piano IV. The piano proficiency exam consists of four major categories:

1. Technique
2. Sight-Reading
3. Memorization and performance
4. Transposition and Score Reading

Snow College Piano Proficiency Exam

Technique Requirement:

- a. All major and white key minor scales (natural and harmonic) in 3 octaves – hands together
(quarter note mm = 144)
 - b. All major and minor arpeggios in 3 octaves – hands together (3 eighth notes mm = 42), Seventh-chord arpeggios in 3 octaves – hands together (2 eighth notes mm = 60)
 - c. Triad cadences in all major and white key minor keys with all inversions: I, IV, I, V7, I (quarter note mm = 80)
 - d. Tonic inversions in triads, two hands together in half notes (quarter note mm = 120)
 - e. Diatonic chords in all major keys 2 hands in half notes (quarter note mm = 120)
- * All components must be executed with correct fingerings

Sight-Reading:

- a. One short composition (one page) selected by the exam administrator, comparable to the level of difficulty found in the *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach* by J.S. Bach.
- b. One four-part hymn or anthem

Memorization and Performance:

- a. A memorized selection at least 3 minutes in duration on the level of an easy Mozart sonata, later Clementi sonatinas, Bach two-part inventions, or easier Chopin mazurkas.
- b. Memorization of the *Star Spangled Banner* or *America*.

Transposition and Score Reading:

- a. Two lines of a classical string quartet
- b. Two lines of a score with parts for wind instruments requiring transposition

Piano Proficiency Requirements and Materials by Semester

Class Piano I – (MUSC 1150) Taught Fall and Spring Semesters

Class Piano I - Piano Proficiency Requirements

- a. All major and minor 5 finger patterns
- b. Chord building: Major, minor, Augmented and diminished chords
- c. Three octave scales (C, G, D, A, E) – hands together
- d. All major and minor cross-hand arpeggios
- e. All major 3 note blocked and broken chords inversions (2 octaves)
- f. I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression in all major keys
- g. Reading in treble and bass clefs
- h. Transposing of melodies and repertoire pieces
- i. Improvisation Harmonization of melodies using blocked I, IV, and V chords
 Melodic improvisation on a blues scale (12 bar blues)
- j. Sight-reading
- k. Repertoire pieces to be performed in class

Class Piano I - Technique Curriculum by Week/Testing Schedule

Week One	Student evaluations
Week Two	White Key 5 finger patterns
Week Three	All Major 5 finger patterns
Week Four	All Major cross-hand arpeggios
Week Five	All minor 5 finger patterns
Week Six	All minor cross-hand arpeggios
Week Seven	All white key Major blocked and broken chord inversions
Week Eight	All black key Major blocked and broken chord inversions
Week Nine	All white key chord progressions (I-IV-I-V7-I)
Week Ten	All black key chord progressions (I-IV-I-V7-I)
Week Eleven	One octave Major arpeggios moving chromatically
Week Twelve	Three octave scales (C, G, D, A, E) hands separate
Week Thirteen	Three octave scales (C, G, D, A, E) hands together
Week Fourteen	Recital with memorized solo
Week Fifteen	Individual student evaluations/Semester proficiency exam

Class Piano III – (MUSC 2150) Fall Semesters

- a. All major and white key minor scales (3 octaves, hands together)
- b. All major and minor 7th chord arpeggios (3 octaves, hands together)
- c. All major and minor 3 note blocked and broken chord inversions (3 octaves)
- d. I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression in all major and white key minor keys (in all inversions)
- e. Harmonization of melodies using secondary chords
- f. Reading vocal scores and two lines of a string quartet
- g. Reading parts for wind instruments requiring transposition
- h. Improvisation Harmonization of melodies using primary and secondary chords
 Melodic improvisation
- i. Sight-Reading
- j. Repertoire pieces to be performed in class

Class Piano III - Technique Curriculum by Week/Testing Schedule

Week One	Assessment and review
Week Two	Black Key Major I-IV-I-V7-I chord progressions in all inversions
Week Three	Harmonic and natural minor scales, 3 octaves, hands together (a, c, f)
Week Four	Minor arpeggios and chord inversions, 3 octaves, hands together (a, c, f)
Week Five	Minor chord progressions in all inversions (a, c, f)
Week Six	Melodic, harmonic, and natural minor scales, 3 octaves, hands together (e, b)
Week Seven	Minor arpeggios and chord inversion, 3 octaves, hands together (e, b)
Week Eight	Minor chord progressions in all inversions (e, b)
Week Nine	Black key minor 3 octave arpeggios, hands together
Week Ten	White key Major 7 th chord arpeggios, 3 octaves, hands together
Week Eleven	Black key Major 7 th chord arpeggios, 3 octaves, hands together
Week Twelve	White key minor 7 th chord arpeggios, 3 octaves, hands together
Week Thirteen	Black key minor 7 th chord arpeggios, 3 octaves, hands together
Week Fourteen	Recital with memorized solo
Week Fifteen	Individual student evaluations/ Semester proficiency exam

Class Piano IV – (MUSC 2150) Spring Semesters

*see piano proficiency requirements

Class Piano IV - Technique Curriculum by Week/Testing Schedule

Week One	Assessment and Review
Week Two	Review and Reading
Week Three	All Major Scales, 3 octaves, hands together
Week Four	All Major chord progressions in all inversions, hands together
Week Five	All Major 3 octave arpeggios, hands together
Week Six	White key fully diminished 7 th chord arpeggios and chord inversions
Week Seven	Review and Reading
Week Eight	All minor white key natural and harmonic scales
Week Nine	All minor white key chord progressions
Week Ten	All minor 3 octave arpeggios
Week Eleven	All Major white key diatonic chords
Week Twelve	All Major black key diatonic chords
Week Thirteen	Review
Week Fourteen	Class recital with memorized solo and accompanying of student solos
Week Fifteen	Final Proficiency Exam