

Piano Proficiency Exam

The piano proficiency examination is administered at the end of the fall and spring semesters during regular keyboard jury examination times. It is administered only one time per semester. The level of difficulty is equivalent to the final examination in the fourth semester of class piano. The minimum passing score is 80 out of 100 points. One point is deducted for each incorrect pitch, incorrect rhythm, pause/irregular beat, or start over. The minimum tempo for each example is 40 to the quarter note unless otherwise noted in the score.

The examination consists of the following:

1. **One prepared piece.** The piece must be prepared without help from any faculty member. Photocopies of the required piece will be available in the music department office one week prior to the exam. The piece is typically a minimum of 16 measures in length. The key is usually limited to no more than three sharps or flats. This portion of the examination is worth **55 points**.
2. **One sight-reading piece.** The student will read an example from the piano literature. Approximately one minute will be allowed to visually scan the piece; silent fingering is not permitted. The piece is typically a minimum of 16 measures in length. The key is usually limited to no more than three sharps or flats. This portion of the examination is worth **15 points**.
3. **One melodic harmonization with marked chording.** The student will play a given melody in the right hand while providing the indicated harmony in the left hand. Approximately one minute will be allowed to visually scan the piece; silent fingering is not permitted. The piece is typically a minimum of 16 measures in length. The key is usually limited to no more than three sharps or flats. This portion of the examination is worth **15 points**.
4. **One melodic harmonization without marked chording.** The student will play a given melody in the right hand while providing an improvised harmony in the left hand. The harmonic progressions must be of a logical progression to receive credit. Approximately one minute will be allowed to visually scan the piece; silent fingering is not permitted. The piece is typically a minimum of 16 measures in length. The key is usually limited to no more than three sharps or flats. This portion of the examination is worth **15 points**.