

Piano Competency Guidelines and Rubric

edition 2018-09-14

The following keyboard requirement for the Music Major appears in the University Catalog:

Students register for MUKP 211 Piano Competency Exam in the spring of the sophomore year. A course fee is assessed. If students fail the competency exam in the sophomore year, they will register for Piano Competency each subsequent semester until they pass the exam. For transfer students, piano skills will be assessed in the first semester and a piano competency timeline will be created.

All music majors must register for MUKP 211 Piano Competency, a zero-credit course, during the semester in which they take the CUI Music Department **Piano Competency Examination**. This course is graded on a pass-fail basis only. The examination will normally be scheduled in the second half of the semester. When registered, the student will be assessed a \$25 examination fee.

If the student does not pass, the student must register again for MUKP 211 in each subsequent semester until a pass is achieved. Students who pass a portion of the exam must retake only the items that they failed during previous attempts.

Passing of this course requirement is recorded on the student's transcript and becomes part of the graduation check process in the Registrar's Office.

Specific skills expected for this competency are listed in the Instructions for the Piano Competency Examination.

Please see the following pages for examples of the scales, primary chords, and arpeggios assessed on the competency exam: [C major](#) / [A minor](#).

Concordia University Irvine

Department of Music

Instructions for the Piano Competency Examination

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Name of Applicant _____

Semester attempted _____

The examiner completes the following, circling the appropriate number. Comments may be made on the reverse side

Rating scale: 0 = unable; 1 = uncertain; 2 = fair; 3 = confident

Scales: any major or minor (harmonic) scale requested by the faculty, hands together, two octaves, steadily at a minimum rate of 60 bpm.	0 1 2 3
Arpeggios: any major or minor arpeggio requested by the faculty, hands together, one octave, steadily at a minimum of 60 bpm.	0 1 2 3
Chords: primary chords for any key requested by the faculty, hands together, steadily at a minimum of 20 bpm.	0 1 2 3
Harmonization: Select and play appropriate primary chords to harmonize a folk song selected by the faculty. The melody will be provided in advance by the supervising faculty member. The use of a melody line (score) is allowed.	0 1 2 3
Hymn: Play a hymn of the student's choice in four parts with both hands at a tempo that would effectively lead congregational singing. This may be prepared ahead of time. The use of a score is allowed.	0 1 2 3
Classical Piece: Play one short (minimum two pages) work with both hands in a manner appropriate to the style. The use of a score is allowed. See the supervising faculty member for a list of approved pieces, or present your own selection for approval at least one week before the examination.	0 1 2 3
Sight-read a simple two-part phrase of eight measures provided by the faculty. It should be played steadily with both hands, though it may be slower than the indicated tempo.	0 1 2 3
TOTAL (A total of 14 points and a minimum of 1 in each category are required to pass.)	

Examiner: _____