BMS Piano Curriculum

To pass any level for the Young Artists' Certificate, a student must receive an average score of "pass" (from a scale of needs improvement / pass / pass with honors) from a panel of at least three faculty judges.

Repertoire, Methods, Collections, etc. are samples and establish technical and artistic benchmarks. Faculty may use any resources that achieve these benchmarks.

Repertoire alternatives for the evaluation must be approved by the department chair by the start of second semester.

LEVEL ONE:

Essential skills to be attained by completion of level and demonstrated in level evaluation:

- Accurate and confident performance of notes and rhythms in all repertoire presented.
- Basic elements of expression discernable: dynamics, detached vs. legato articulation.
- Confidence playing by memory of at least one of two repertoire selections.
- One-octave scales in at least 4 keys (two major, two minor).

Level One Evaluation Requirements:

- 4 one-octave scales, hands together (at least two major and two minor) and accompanying arpeggios to be chosen by the student, 2 to be selected and heard by panel. Minimum tempo: 16ths at quarter = 60 bpm
- A minimum of two contrasting pieces selected from the Level One list, or of comparable difficulty to those listed below, at least one performed by memory.

Examples of Repertoire and Teaching Materials for Level One:

Literature:

From Anna Magdalena's Notebook	Bach
Waltz from Children's Album, Op 36	A. Beach
Clowns	Kabalevsky
Sonatina No. 1 in C	Latour
Four Analytical Sonatinas	Lynes
Harlequin Waltz	Rahbee
5 Miniature Preludes and Fugues	Rowley
Melody from Album for the Young	R. Schumann

LEVEL TWO:

Essential skills to be attained by completion of level and demonstrated in level evaluation:

- Successful introduction to playing basic two-part polyphony.
- Continued technical refinement, with addition of attention to balance and voicing.
- Clean pedaling with accurate, well timed changes.
- Greater emphasis on interpretation and expression through dynamics, articulation, and discernable phrasing.
- All natural-note tonic scales and arpeggios in two octaves.

Level Two Evaluation Requirements:

- Four scales in two octaves (at least two major and two minor) and accompanying arpeggios to be chosen by the student, 2 of each to be selected and heard by panel. Scales offered must differ from those on record as presented for Level 1 Evaluation. Scales in 16ths at quarter = 72, Arpeggios in 16ths at quarter = 60.
- A minimum of two contrasting pieces from the lists below (or comparable rep, at least one to be performed from memory. One piece must represent polyphony in two parts (examples below indicated with *).
- Sight-reading sample of easy repertoire from pre-Level One repertoire.

Examples of Repertoire and Teaching Materials for Level Two:

Literature:

2-part Inventions*	Bach
Sonatas, Op. 49	Beethoven
I, III, and VI from Carnival, Op. 25	Beach
Rondo in C, WoO 51	Beethoven
Children's Album	Chaminade
6 Sonatinas, Op, 36	Clementi

Lyric Preludes in Romantic Style	Gillock
6 Preludes and Fugues, Op. 61*	Kabalevsky

LEVEL THREE:

Essential skills to be attained by completion of level and demonstrated in level evaluation:

- Introduction to more advanced techniques, such as playing in 3rds, 6ths, octaves, in one hand.
- More complex polyphonic works of two to three voices.
- More detailed interpretation, and discernable character in playing / evidence of interpretative and stylistic decision-making.
- More gradated control of articulation beyond just staccato and legato.
- More subtle use of pedal technique, including half pedal, flutter pedal, direct pedal.
- Continue preparation of scales and arpeggios in four octaves.

Level Three Evaluation Requirements:

- Six scales in four octaves (at least three major and three minor) and accompanying arpeggios to be chosen by the student, 2 of each to be selected and heard by panel. Scales offered must differ from those on record as presented for Level One or Level Two Evaluations. Scales in 16th at quarter = 90, Arpeggios in 16ths, quarter = 72.
- A minimum of two pieces of contrasting character / musical periods from the list below (or comparable rep, as approved by Department Coordinator) to be performed from memory. One piece must represent polyphony in three parts (* indicates examples from suggest repertoire below). (One Etude from the list below; memory is not required for the etude).
- Sight reading of easier selections from Level 1 list.

Examples of Repertoire and Teaching Materials for Level Three:

Literature:

Preludes and Fugues in C minor, D minor, WTC I*	Bach
Sonata, Op. 79	Beethoven
Rhapsody in G minor, Op. 79, No. 2	Brahms

Children's Corner	Debussy
Nocturnes	Chopin
Suite Bergamasque, Prelude	Debussy
Three Preludes	Gershwin
Sonata in E Minor, Hob. XVI: 34	Haydn
Romances, Nos. 1 and 2	C. Schumann
Three Fantastic Dances, Op. 1	Shostakovich

Etudes:

Op. 25, Nos. 1, 2, 7; Op. 10, No. 3	Chopin
Etude in C	F. Price
Training of the Left Hand	Berens
Fifty Etudes for Piano, Book III	Waxman

LEVEL FOUR:

Essential skills to be attained by completion of level and demonstrated in level evaluation:

- High level of technical achievement, demonstrated by control over dynamic shading, timbre, pedaling, etc.
- Freedom in playing to convey a clear sense of musical interpretation and artistic character
- Confidence in repertoire at or near the level appropriate for a College Music Major or first year Conservatory student.
- Confidence with any remaining major and minor scales and arpeggi not prepared for prior levels in four octaves, 16th notes at quarter = 110.

Level 4 Evaluation Requirements:

- Four Major/Minor scales and arpeggios of at least 3 sharps or flats not previously presented in years past, four octaves, Scales: 16th notes at quarter = 120 for scales, quarter = 80 for arpeggios.
- Three pieces of contrasting periods pieces from memory from the list below or comparable. *Substantial separate movements from a single work may count as individual pieces at the discretion of the Department Coordinator, but separate compositions preferred.*
- One Etude from the list below, from memory.

Examples of Repertoire and Teaching Materials for Level Four:

Repertoire:

WTC, 3- & 4-voice fugues	Bach
Sonatas, excluding opp. 49, op. 79	Beethoven
Sonatas, K. 332 (complete)	Mozart
Notturno in G Minor	F. Hensel
Scherzo No. 2	Chopin
Sonata in E Minor	F. Price
Images, Book 1 / Estampes	Debussy

Etudes:

10 Etudes	Bacewicz
Etudes	Chopin
Etude *pour les arpèges composés*	Debussy

Pre-Conservatory Level:

Essential skills to be attained by completion of level and demonstrated in level evaluation:

- Freedom in playing to convey a clear sense of character and personal artistry.
- Mastery of repertoire at a level appropriate for a College Music Major or Conservatory Audition program.
- Performance of a minimum 30-minute recital that may include one collaborative work in addition to solo repertoire.
- Mastery of any remaining major and minor scales and arpeggi not prepared for prior levels in four octaves, 16th notes at quarter = 130.

Pre-Conservatory Evaluation Requirements:

- Any Major/Minor scale or arpeggio at request of judges (all 24 should be mastered), four octaves, 16th notes at quarter = 130.
- Three contrasting pieces from memory from list below, performed by memory. *Substantial separate movements from a single work may count as individual pieces at the discretion of the Department Coordinator, but separate compositions preferred.*
- One Etude from the list below, from memory.
- Separate from Evaluation: An approximately 30-minute recital required to complete level, one level-appropriate collaborative or chamber piece may be included alongside solo repertoire.

Examples of Repertoire and Teaching Materials for Pre-Conservatory Level:

Literature:

Well-Tempered Clavier, 4-voice fugues	Bach
Sonatas, excluding opp. 49, op. 79	Beethoven
Catenaires	E. Carter
Ballades & Scherzi	Chopin
Romances, No. 3	C. Schumann
Sonata No. 3	Hindemith
Jeaux d'eau	Ravel
Gargoyles	Liebermann
Tres Danzas Argentinas	Ginastera

Etudes:

Etudes	U. Chin
Etudes	Chopin
Etudes-Tableaux	Rachmaninov
Etudes	Debussy