

DEGREE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Bachelor of Music—Piano Performance

The following is an explanation of the expectations and procedures for students seeking the Bachelor of Music Degree in Performance whose area of concentration is piano. The motivation behind the requirements set forth within these guidelines is the desire of the A-State Music Department to ensure that the graduates aspiring to be professional pianists are both qualified and prepared to the highest possible level. These criteria pertain to piano students entering the BM in Piano Performance program at A-State during the Spring of 2019 or thereafter.

LEVELS OF STUDY

Lower Level (MUSP 1112) is appropriate for the following:

- All beginning freshmen
- Transfer students who have completed less than 4 credit hours of piano study
- Students who have changed their major and have not yet completed 4 credit hours of piano study, including those changing applied majors within the area of performance (i.e. trumpet to piano, voice to piano, etc.)
- Students who have not yet passed the **Admittance Exam**

Upper Level (MUSP 3113) is appropriate for the following:

- Students who have passed the **Admittance Exam** after at least 4 credit hours of piano study

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

Lower Level (2 credit hours)	at least 2 memorized pieces per semester
Upper Level (3 credit hours)	at least 3 memorized pieces per semester

The above repertoire requirements are the minimum to be accomplished each semester from memory. The student and teacher will select literature in various genres and contrasting styles. As each student advances to a higher level, the difficulty of the repertoire assigned will increase. Failure to learn and/or perform the selected repertoire at the appropriate level will affect the final lesson grade.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

All students	at least 3 studio classes and 1 student recital per semester
Upper Level students	at least 4 studio classes and 1 student recital per semester
First Semester Freshmen	may be excused from the student recital performance

Studio Classes will occur in the Recital Hall on a weekly basis. Each is typically conducted as a performance class and/or master class in which members of the piano faculty will critique the performers; pedagogical aspects of the instrument will also be covered.

Student Recitals involve all applied areas and occur periodically in the Recital Hall on Tuesdays at 11:00. The format is a traditional recital for which the appropriate attire is required. Normally, pianists perform 2 pieces of contrasting styles on one recital. All performances require consent of the major applied teacher by filling out the *Tuesday Morning Recital Form* found on the A-State Music Department Website under *Important Links*.

THE JURY

Students will perform a standard Jury (final exam) before a majority of the piano faculty at the end of each semester. For the typical Jury, a grade will be given by each faculty member, the average of which will be the Jury Grade. An Applied Lesson Record will be presented to the Jury Committee by each teacher, and each faculty member present will submit an online Assessment Form. After a brief discussion, a final grade will be determined by the major applied teacher based on the jury grade, input from the Jury Committee and the student's progress throughout the semester. Attributes of a fine jury performance demonstrate mastery of style, interpretation, technique, and emotional expression. Exceptions to the jury requirement include students giving a full recital that semester, either for course credit or not, or those attempting to pass the **Admittance Exam** (see next section). The following outline will be used by the applied piano teacher for assigning appropriate literature.

Literature for all Juries

- A **minimum of one** representative selection of sufficient difficulty from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary eras must be performed from memory.
- Repertoire must be from the current semester.

Presentation—Each student's performance of the literature will be examined for the following qualities:

- **Musicianship**—Ongoing progress in musical accuracy.
- **Expressive Interpretation**—Progressive improvement in conveying the appropriate style and character of the music.
- **Technique**—Continuing development of all technical skills necessary to become a professional pianist.
- **Stage Presence**—Growth in professionalism regarding poise, artistry and communication skills.

ADMITTANCE TO THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC PROGRAM IN PERFORMANCE

Admittance to the BM Program in Piano Performance is not officially granted until the **Admittance Exam** has been successfully completed. Minimum expectations include demonstration of certain musical skills and reasonable pianistic development while performing literature which the piano faculty deems appropriate. The Admittance Exam is typically taken during finals week of the second semester of MUSP 1112, Performance Applied Piano, but must be passed before the final registration day of the following semester for authorized approval as a piano performance major.

The Admittance Exam will consist of a 15-minute audition (given in place of the Jury) with a majority of the piano faculty present. A complete list of the student's repertoire from all semesters

of undergraduate piano study will be submitted along with the teacher's statement of recommendation. If granted admission, the student will be moved to the Upper Level (MUSP 3113) of piano study and will proceed through the appropriate courses. **Presentation of a full recital may substitute for the Admittance Exam.**

It is possible to receive a passing grade in Applied Lessons (MUSP 1112) and still not pass the Proficiency Exam, which may be repeated in subsequent semesters until admission is granted. Failed attempts will result in extra semesters of undergraduate enrollment, since a minimum of 6 semesters of Upper Level (MUSP 3113) applied instrument study is required for graduation.

RECITAL REQUIREMENTS

All students seeking the BM Degree in Piano Performance must enroll in the appropriate course and present a **Junior Recital** (MUSV 3130) and a **Senior Recital** (MUSV 4131). The length of the Junior Recital should be approximately 25 minutes in length with no intermission; the Senior Recital should be approximately 45 minutes may include a brief intermission. Repertoire for both recitals will be selected by the teacher and student. A typed program with times for all selections along with notes will be provided by the student, and will be turned in for grading at least two weeks prior to the recital hearings.

Hearing—Four weeks prior to the Junior and Senior Recitals, the student must perform a pre-recital hearing for the piano faculty to determine the readiness of the student to perform the recital repertoire. The student should be prepared to play any selections on the recital from memory (a portion of each piece set will be heard, including different stylistic periods). A typed draft of the recital program will be presented at this time as well as notes and translations.

Literature—All pieces programmed for any recital must have teacher approval. Some literature may be from previous semesters of study.

Presentation—Similar to the Admittance Exam, the Junior and Senior Recitals will be examined for the following qualities, but with higher expectations:

- **Musicianship**—Ongoing progress in musical accuracy.
- **Expressive Interpretation**—Progressive improvement in conveying the appropriate style and character of the music.
- **Technique**—Continuing development of all technical skills necessary to become a professional pianist.
- **Stage Presence**—Growth in professionalism regarding poise, artistry and communication skills.

Evaluation—After the recital presentation, the piano faculty in attendance will determine whether the student has met the requirements for the Junior or Senior Recital. If requirements are not met, an incomplete for the course (MUSV 3130 or MUSV 4131) will be given; the student will be notified of the procedure for deficiency removal.

OTHER POLICIES

Practice: For Piano Performance and Pedagogy Majors, optimal results will occur with at least 3 hours of daily practice.

Sight Reading: Piano Students should take the SASR (Standard Assessment of Sight Reading) test on Piano Marvel at least ten times during the semester. See www.pianomarvel.com.

Learning/Memorization Schedule: The student will make a Learning/Memorization Schedule for each piece for the entire semester, due the second week of the semester. The schedule will include the following:

- Date by which student will look up all terms in foreign languages in the score (prior to first lesson on that piece)
- Date by which student will have all fingerings written in for each piece
- Dates by which student will complete a Memory Chart (Measure-by Measure Form and Harmonic Analysis) for each piece
- Dates by which student will have piece learned accurately and in consistent, slow tempo, using the music
- All dates to play in Studio Class, including performances using music and from memory

Collaborative Piano: Each student is strongly encouraged to collaborate with at least one singer or instrumentalist each semester, whether or not he or she is enrolled in the Collaborative Piano course. The pianist may invite that person to piano lessons for coachings.