

Piano Proficiency for non-piano Music Majors:

All non-piano B.M., B.M.E., and B.M.A. music students must pass piano proficiency as a part of their degree requirements. The non-piano music major piano curriculum is divided into 4 sequential levels, typically to be completed by the end of the sophomore year. The requirements for each level are listed below. All non-piano B.M., B.M.E., and B.M.A. students must satisfactorily complete Level 4 to complete their piano proficiency requirements.

OBU offers a common piano curriculum for all music students their first four semesters of piano study, Levels I-IV. Students may move from one level to the next by obtaining a semester grade of “C” or better in the class. In Level IV, students must also pass each element of the exam (given at the end of the semester) in order to pass their proficiency requirements. If not all components are passed, then the student will need to retake those components the following semester by either retaking that class or by taking an additional semester of applied lessons, as determined by the piano faculty. Any students currently in Levels I-III who feel prepared to attempt components from Level IV are encouraged to attempt those portions during their final exam, in consultation with their instructor, and those components, if passed, will not need to be re-attempted in Level IV. Students who require additional semesters of piano study for their degree programs will enroll in applied lessons following completion of Levels I-IV.

All new music students with piano proficiency requirements will take a placement exam during orientation and may be placed into the appropriate level of class piano, or into applied lessons if they demonstrate the skills required in Level IV. In exceptional circumstances, applied lessons may be substituted for one or more of the Class Piano courses with the approval of the coordinator of secondary piano and the student’s academic advisor.

Specific requirements for each level are listed below. Any additional questions can be directed to Dr. Mark Franklin, the coordinator of secondary piano.

CLASS PIANO CURRICULUM, LEVELS I-IV

LEVEL I

Repertoire:

- Early to mid-elementary level (5-8 pieces)

Technique:

Skill	Number of Octaves	Hands separate (HS) or hands together (HT)	Beats per minute (metronome speed)	Notes per beat
M/m five-finger scales in all keys	N/A	HT	40-60	2:1
Major scales	2	HS	50-72	2:1
Major arpeggios	2	HS	60	1:1
M/m blocked/broken chords	N/A	HS	N/A	N/A
Major chord progression (I-IV-I-V7-I)	N/A	HS	N/A	N/A

Harmonization:

- Prepared examples in major keys using I/IV/V7 chords in both RN and lead sheet notation

Sight-Reading:

- Melodies or simple 2-hand textures

Transposition:

- Prepared melodies in major keys

LEVEL II

Repertoire:

- Late elementary level (~5 pieces)

Technique:

Skill	Number of Octaves	Hands separate (HS) or hands together (HT)	Beats per minute (metronome speed)	Notes per beat
M/m scales	2	HS	60-80	2:1
M/m arpeggios	2	HS	80-100	1:1

M/m blocked/broken chords and inversions	1	HS	N/A	N/A
M/m chord progressions (I-IV-I-V7-I)	N/A	HS	N/A	N/A

Harmonization:

- Prepared examples in major and minor keys using I/IV/V7 chords in both RN and lead sheet notation

Sight-Reading:

- Various simple textures

Transposition:

- Prepared melodies in major and minor keys

LEVEL III

Repertoire:

- Early intermediate level solo works (3-4 pieces)
- One hymn in 3-4 voices, chosen in consultation with instructor.

Technique:

Skill	Number of Octaves	Hands separate (HS) or hands together (HT)	Beats per minute (metronome speed)	Notes per beat
M/m scales	4	HS	88-100	2:1
M/m arpeggios	2	HS	40-50	2:1
M/m chord progressions (I-IV-I-V7-I), RH plays blocked chords while LH plays roots only	N/A	HT	40-60	1:2

Harmonization:

- At-sight examples in major keys using I/IV/V7 chords
- Prepared major or minor lead sheet examples with a wider range of harmonies (I, II, IV, V, VI)
- Composition majors only: Prepared realization of a figured bass example approximately two phrases in length.

Sight-Reading:

- Approximately Level I difficulty literature
- Prepared examples involving two lines from a four-part open score.

Transposition:

- At-sight melodies in major and minor keys

LEVEL IV (Proficiency Exam)

Repertoire:

- Intermediate level (2 pieces)
- One hymn in 4 voices, chosen in consultation with the instructor
- One accompaniment appropriate to your degree and prepared to a credible performance level with a soloist. Chosen in consultation with instructor.
 - Vocal: Italian art songs such as *Nina* or *Caro mio ben*, some Broadway musical solos, and some African-American spirituals are suitable.
 - Instrumental: Suzuki or other intermediate method piece.

Technique:

Skill	Number of Octaves	Hands separate (HS) or hands together (HT)	Beats per minute (metronome speed)	Notes per beat
M/m scales	4	HS Comp degrees: HT	60-69	4:1
M/m arpeggios	4	HS Comp degrees: HT	60-80	2:1
M/m chord progressions (I-IV-I-V7-I), RH plays blocked chords while LH plays roots in octaves	N/A	N/A	60-80	1:2

Harmonization:

- At-sight example in a major key using I/IV/V7 chords
- Prepared major or minor lead sheet example with a wider range of harmonies (I, II, IV, V, VI, VII, V7/V, V7/ii, V7/vi, V7/IV).
- Comp degrees only: Prepared realization of a figured bass example approximately two phrases in length.

Sight-Reading:

- Approximately Level II (late elementary) difficulty literature
- Vocal/Choral degrees only: Prepared example involving two lines from a four-part open score. Examination faculty will determine which two parts will be played during the exam.

- Instrumental and composition degrees only: Prepared example involving two lines from an instrumental score which include one transposing instrument and one non-transposing instrument

Transposition:

- Vocal/Choral degrees only: At-sight melody in a major or minor key

Note: Students will have approximately 24 hours for prepared harmonizations or open score reading.