

PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION

Spring 2026

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION:

1. Everyone taking the exam should be enrolled in a keyboard (piano) course and have the permission of their instructor to take the Exam.
2. All those students in Piano IV (class or private): MFB 2120 or MSA 2184
3. All those students in Piano III (class or private) who have the permission of their instructor: MFB 2110 or MSA 2183
4. All students taking the Exam will have the results of the exam (P or F) reported in MUG 2010.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T PASS THE EXAM:

1. Class Piano IV students (or the equivalent in private study) can fail up to two parts of the exam without failing the whole exam. If you fail more than two parts you will receive an F for the course and will have to retake Class Piano IV and the entire Proficiency Exam again next semester.

2. Class Piano III students (or the equivalent in private study) can fail up to two parts of the exam without failing the whole exam. If you fail more than two parts you will have to take the next course in your sequence (Class Piano III students will have to take Class Piano IV) and will have to take the entire Proficiency Exam again next semester.

3. All Students. If you fail one or two parts of the Exam, you should plan to **retake those parts later in the day**. There will be a sign-up sheet on the piano bulletin board where you originally signed up for a Prof. Exam time. If you fail any of those parts again, you will fail the entire Piano Proficiency Exam and will have to take another semester of piano and then retake the **ENTIRE** exam again the next time it is offered. If you fail one or two parts and don't re-take those parts later **THE SAME DAY**, then you will automatically fail the Proficiency Exam and will have to retake the **ENTIRE** exam again the next time it is offered.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Students have to be registered in a piano course (either class or private) in order to take the Proficiency Exam.
2. Students should continue to be enrolled in piano until the Proficiency Exam is passed.
3. Level IV students (class or private) are required to take the Proficiency Exam.
4. Level III students (class or private) must have the permission of their instructor to take the Proficiency Exam
5. All students taking the Jury part of the Exam should have already completed the "in class" portion of the Exam with their instructor.
6. Level III students who pass the Proficiency Exam should have their advisor fill out a WAIVE (Substitution) Form for Level IV piano. Otherwise Level IV Class Piano will continue to appear on your DegreeWorks file. This form is available in the Music Office.

PROFICIENCY SHEETS

Students taking the Proficiency Exam should fill out the TWO (2) **Keyboard Proficiency Examination Report Forms** found in this packet. Please fill these forms out completely and present them when you take the Exam paying particular attention to the course number of the section of piano in which you are enrolled. If you do not know your course number, then you will have to go online to BANNER and look it up or ask your teacher. You will not be allowed to take the Exam unless you bring these completed forms with you.

HARMONIZED MELODY

PROCEDURE:

1. Below is a melody to which you will supply a simple accompaniment.
2. Use at least ONE OF EACH of the following secondary dominants:

V7/iv V7/V

All secondary dominants must be resolved correctly (for example, V7/V does not resolve to I).

3. Go slowly and keep a steady tempo.
4. Consult the Cadence information in your Class Piano book.
5. For the Harmonic Rhythm, use 1 or 2 chords per measure.
6. You can write in the chords if you wish (recommended).

The image shows a musical score for a melody in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is written on three staves. The first staff begins with a dotted quarter note on G4. The second staff has a sharp sign above the eighth measure. The third staff ends with a double bar line.

TRANSPOSITION

PROCEDURE:

1. For the following example, transpose each hand separately UP a whole step.
You might have to play each hand in the exam.
2. Go slow.
3. Keep a steady tempo.
4. Do not write note names or fingering in the music.

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass clef staff contains a bass line of quarter notes: C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3.

The second system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melody of quarter notes: D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The bass clef staff contains a bass line of quarter notes: D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3.

IMPROVISATION

PROCEDURE:

1. Below is a chord progression to which you will improvise a melody.
2. Give each chord 2 beats
3. Consult the Cadence information included with this packet if you need help with specific chord voicings.
4. Your improvised melody should be simple but show some sense of creativity as well as display characteristics of good melody.
5. Play the improvisation in ALL the following MAJOR keys:

C, G, F, D, B-flat

A key will be selected at random for you to play.

Here is the chord progression:

I	I	V7/IV	V7/IV	IV	V7/V	V	V7
I	V7/ii	ii	V7/V	V	V7	I	I

Piano Proficiency Examination Report
Piano Secondary

Name _____ Date _____

Belmont ID # _____ Local Phone (or cell phone) # _____

E-mail Address _____ Class Standing (circle one): Fresh. Soph. Junior Senior

Degree: _____ Principal: _____

If your degree is Commercial Music, what is your EMPHASIS AREA: _____

Are you enrolled in MUG 2010 (Piano Proficiency) this semester: Yes No

Are you enrolled in a piano course this semester: Yes No If YES, then circle one of the following:

Class Piano III Class Piano IV Private Piano Level III Private Piano Level IV

Who is your piano instructor? _____ Who is your advisor? _____

If you are NOT currently enrolled in piano then you CANNOT take the Piano Proficiency Examination.

You must pass the Piano Proficiency Examination before you will be allowed to register for your Senior Recital.

Evaluation
(to be complete by Jurors)

RECOMMENDATION:

_____ The student has completed all secondary piano proficiency requirements.

_____ The student has NOT completed all proficiency requirements and must repeat the following items:

_____ The student must repeat the entire examination.

COMMITTEE: _____

Sections of the Proficiency Examination for the Piano Secondary Jury:

- A. Harmonized Melody
- B. Improvisation
- C. Transposition
- D. Repertory
- E. Hymn/Chorale

Students can fail up to TWO parts and not fail the entire exam. However, these parts must be made up later in the day or the student's grade for the Piano Proficiency Course (MUG 201) will be "F" and they will have to repeat the entire exam the next time it is offered.

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Piano Secondary

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Belmont ID # _____ Local Phone (or cell phone) # _____

E-mail Address _____ Class Standing (circle one): Fresh. Soph. Junior Senior

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