

Division of Music Orientation 2018
Class Piano Requirements and Testing

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Piano Requirements for Degrees in Music (*All undergraduate music degrees include a piano requirement.*)

B.M. degrees in Performance, Composition, Music Education and Therapy require a total of four credits of class piano. For students with less than two years of formal piano study prior to college, this is normally satisfied with PERB 1131, 1132, 2131, and 2132 – four one-hour courses taken in each of the first four semesters at SMU. Keyboard majors and students in other music majors that have extensive pre-college keyboard background normally enroll for PERB 1233 and 1234 – two two-hour courses taken in either the second or third year at SMU.

The **B.A.** degree in Music requires two credits of class piano – PERB 1131 and 1132 or PERB 2131 and 2132 according to proficiency or placement exam. B.A. students with a piano concentration may satisfy this requirement by taking PERB 1233 or 1234.

The **Minor in Music** does not require class piano or a piano proficiency.

Testing and Placement: Saturday, August 18, 1:00-3:00 pm, OFAC B018 (Mr. Gunter's Studio) Please email Professor Gunter at kgunter@smu.edu to schedule a placement appointment time. **The deadline to schedule appointments is Wednesday, August 1. After that date, no additional appointments for August 18 will be accepted.**

- Prospective music majors with no prior formal piano study should enroll for PERB 1131 in their first semester at SMU. There is no need to schedule testing with Mr. Gunter. See your advisor for specific section information.
- Prospective music majors (non-piano major) with any amount of prior formal piano study must be individually tested with Mr. Gunter for placement in the appropriate section of Class Piano
- For students wishing to gain academic course credit, and/or a waiver of the Class Piano requirement (non-piano major), you must also be individually tested, and the requirements are as follows:

Students wishing to be tested for exemption from PERB 1131 should prepare the following items:

- 1) Piano solo at the level of a L. Mozart minuet (memory not required)
- 2) All major scales two octaves ascending and descending hands separately
- 3) **Major and minor triads and inversions on any tonic**
- 4) Primary triad progression in keyboard voicing in any major key

In addition, students will be asked to **sight-read and transpose** material at appropriate level and to supply a **harmonization** for a given diatonic melody using primary triads.

Students wishing to be exempted from PERB 1132 should prepare the same items, plus:

- 1) All minor scales two octaves ascending and descending hands alone
- 2) All major scales two octaves ascending and descending hands together
- 3) Five qualities of seventh chords on any tonic
- 4) Progressions of diatonic triads that include primary and secondary harmonies
(e.g. I vi IV V I)

In addition, students will be asked to **sight-read and transpose** material at appropriate level and to supply a **harmonization** for a given diatonic melody using primary and secondary triads.

Students wishing to be exempted from PERB 2131 should prepare:

- 1) Piano solo of the level of a J.S. Bach minuet
- 2) Major and harmonic minor scales two octaves ascending and descending hands together
- 3) Chord progressions that include any primary or secondary harmony in minor
(e.g. I VI IV ii6 i6/4 V7 I)
- 4) Construct and play secondary dominants of any scale degree in any major key

In addition, students will be asked to **sight read** material at the level of a L. Mozart minuet, **transpose** the same material at sight and supply a **harmonization** for a given diatonic melody that includes 7th chords and secondary harmonies indicated by Roman numerals.

Piano performance majors and concentrations **are not required** to take a placement examination. After advising, they will enroll in PERB 1233/1234 during the 2nd or 3rd year of study.