MUS 2261.01

Keyboard Skills
Credit by Exam (EM)

Students who demonstrate proficiency in the keyboard skills included in this course will receive credit by exam (EM credit). One semester hour of credit. Exams for EM credit are administered during the first week of every semester in the piano lab (Hughes Hall Room 212).

Students must pass all sections of the exam to receive credit for the course. Students who do not pass all parts of the test must enroll in the course. Students may not repeat an EM test.

Students may take EM tests for any level(s) at the beginning of a semester. Students who pass the test for this course receive credit for this course only. Passing this test does not satisfy the requirements for prerequisite courses.

Students are encouraged to complete the required courses in keyboard skills by the end of the second year of study in the School of Music. Functional keyboard skills are foundational for many upper-level Music courses. Students must complete the required courses in Keyboard Skills before enrolling in Applied Piano as a Secondary Instrument.

MUS 2261.01 is offered only in the Autumn semester.


Technique: Play major and minor five-finger patterns in all keys hands together.
Play two-octave major scales starting on white keys hands separately with conventional scale fingering.
Theory: Play Major, minor, augmented and diminished triads in root position.
Play diatonic triads (triads built on each scale degree) in C, G and F.
I  ii  iii  IV  V  vi  vii°  I
Harmonic Progressions: Play a progression using tonic, subdominant and dominant chords in all major keys hands together. I  IV₆  I  V₆₃  I
Harmonization and Transposition: Be able to harmonize and transpose a short melody at sight.
Accompaniments: Students should be able to play broken-chord, Alberti bass and waltz bass accompaniments in the left hand while playing a melody in the right hand.
Rhythm: Students will tap and count rhythm patterns for two hands.
Play at Sight: Students will play several short melodies with a variety of accompanimental patterns.
The written component of this test will include identification of key signatures, identification of chord functions with Roman numerals and scale fingering. Students should be proficient in reading both treble and bass clefs.