

# SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND CENTER FOR WORSHIP ARTS

## PIANO PROFICIENCY

*Updated for 2016-17*

One of the requirements for earning a certificate or degree in Commercial Music, NPWI, or Worship Arts is passing the piano proficiency. A student will not be granted a certificate or degree until they have passed all sections of the exam. Instead of following the conventional model of taking one test multiple times, this proficiency is divided into five sections. The following guidelines will be observed:

1. Students will take a proficiency exam during the first week of school.
2. Students must demonstrate proficiency in all sections of each exam.
3. Students who pass some sections of an exam will not need to retest those sections (the moderator of the exam has the option to retest if there is a lack of progress per section).
4. Students can test multiple times.
5. Students who pass some of the sections per exam will still need to pass all five exams to become proficient.
6. Students who show a lack of progress might be asked to enroll in private lessons or piano class in addition to regular coursework.
7. Underlined sections indicate the minimum requirement to pass piano class.
8. Students are strongly advised to set a daily practice regimen for success.
9. Students may test out of different exams without going in a specific chronological order.
10. Each exam is proficiency-based.

NPWI	Commercial
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### Exam 1: The Basics

#### Section 1

Name all the white and black keys and identify middle C

#### Section 2

Play all Major chords in blocked position (root position) with right hand

#### Section 3

Play all minor chords in blocked position (root position) with right hand

#### Section 4

Play 3 two-octave arpeggios in C,D,E,F,G,A,B with both hands together or with right hand

#### Section 5

Demonstrate good sitting position and hand position

### Exam 2: Chords and charts

#### Section 1

Play and say 1, 4/1, 1, 5/7 progressive chords in C,D,E,F,G,A,B

12 bar Blues

Play 2-5-1 Major

Play 2-5-1 minor

#### Section 2

Play chords (no rhythm) from a chord chart with right hand and bass note with left hand

#### Section 3

Transpose and play a chord chart with right hand and bass note with left hand

Transpose a more complex written chart

#### **Section 4**

Perform a blues progression in three keys

#### **Section 5**

Demonstrate proper fingering throughout

### **Exam 3: Scales and Inversions**

#### **Section 1**

Name accidentals for each white key (C,D,E,F,G,A,B)

#### **Section 2**

Play two-octaves all white key Major scales (C,D,E,F,G,A,B) with right hand at a set metronome tempo

Play blues, Ionian, Aeolian, Dorian, Mixolydian, Locrian, Diminished

#### **Section 3**

Play one-octave all black key Major scales (Db,Eb,Gb,Ab,Bb) with right hand at a set metronome tempo

#### **Section 4**

Play three Major chords in root position, 1<sup>st</sup> inversion, 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion with right hand

#### **Section 5**

Demonstrate proper fingering, wrist and hand position, and connection between notes when playing scales.

### **Exam 4: Improvisation**

#### **Section 1**

Play chromatic Maj chords up and down one-octave that would be primarily used for warm-ups

#### **Section 2**

Improvise over a recording using chords, inversions, and rhythmic patterns

Right hand plays chords while left hand plays the bass part

Blues progression, 12-bar blues

Sightread simple melody

Sightread simple chord progression

### **Exam 5: Accompany**

#### **Section 1**

Play piano and sing 3 songs

#### **Section 2**

Playing and singing for a band challenge counts towards an accompanied song

Perform a tune, accompaniment in left hand and melody in right, then improvise