

Keyboard Proficiency Guideline

All music majors at UND must demonstrate proficiency at the piano. This can be fulfilled either through taking the Keyboard Skills courses or testing out of them with the Piano Proficiency Exams. Students are encouraged to take any level(s) of the Piano Proficiency Exam if they feel they have the skills to test out of any level(s) of Keyboard Skills. Regardless, all skill levels must be passed in order to fulfill the keyboard proficiency requirement.

- The Bachelor of Arts degree requires two semesters of Keyboard Skills, Levels I & II; or passing Levels I and II of the Piano Proficiency Exam.
- The Bachelor of Music degrees (Performance, and Music Education) require all four semesters of Keyboard Skills, Level I, II, III, & IV; or passing all four levels with the Piano Proficiency Exam.

Students may sign up to take any level(s) of the Piano Proficiency Exam during the first week of classes or on the first Monday of the fall semester during Orientation Day. Students interested in taking the Piano Proficiency Exam should contact Dr. Ling Lo (ling.lo@und.edu) to arrange a time.

Most of the test examples are in *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book I & II, 2nd ed.*, by E. L. Lancaster, Kenon D. Renfrow, unless otherwise noted.

Please find the following details for the requirements of each level(s).

Keyboard Proficiency Exam

Keyboard Skills Level I (MUSC 133) – Alfred Group Piano for Adults Book I

- 1) All First Group Major Scales: C, D, E, G, A. Hands together, one octave, with a consistent tempo and logical fingerings.
- 2) Harmonize by sight one simple melody with or without given chords, using I, IV, V, V7 ii, iii, vi chords. Study examples:
 - o Book I: p. 131 5-25 Adagio
- 3) Sight-read and transpose one simple melody, chosen by the instructor. Maintaining a steady tempo is of utmost importance. Study examples:
 - o Sight Read – Book I: p. 153 6-10 Moderato
 - o Transpose – Book I: p. 126 5-17 Allegro non troppo
- 4) Prepare one of the following pieces:
 - o Book I: p. 116: 4-29 Dream Echoes by E. L. Lancaster
 - o Book I: p. 160: Minuet by Leopold Mozart

Keyboard Skills Level II (MUSC 136) – Alfred Group Piano for Adults Book I

- 1) Major and Minor scales in following keys: C, D, E, F, G, A, B; only Major Scales in following keys: Db, Eb, Gb, Ab, Bb. (all three forms). Hands together, two octaves, with a consistent tempo and logical fingerings.
- 2) Arpeggios in all major and minor white key scales (C, D, E, F, G, A, B). Hands separate, two octaves.
- 3) Chord progression **I-IV-I-V7-I** in assigned keys above. Must be played with the sustain pedal.
- 4) Harmonize by sight one simple melody with or without given chords. Selection may include primary chords, and secondary chords. Study examples: Unite 18
 - o Book I: p. 258 10-41 Ecossaise
- 5) Sight read and transpose one melody, chosen by the instructor. Maintaining a steady tempo is of utmost importance. Study examples:
 - o Sight Read – Book I: p. 247 10-15 Etude by C. Gurlitt
 - o Transpose – Book I: p. 246 10-14 Dance by L. Schytte
- 6) Prepare one of the following pieces. You may substitute a piece of your own choosing if you wish, as long as it is a similar difficulty level.
 - o Book I: p. 243 10-11 Waltz by A. Diabelli
 - o Prelude in C Major by J. S. Bach

[Prelude in C major BWV 846 Well Tempered Clavier - J. S. Bach.pdf](#)

Keyboard Skills Level III (MUSC 233) – Alfred Group Piano for Adults Book II

- 1) All major scales, plus C, D, E, G, and A, B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, and F minor scales (all three forms). Hands together, two octaves, with a consistent tempo and logical fingerings.
- 2) Arpeggios in all major and minor white key scales (C, D, E, F, G, A, B). Hands together, two octaves.
- 3) Chord progression **I-IV-I-V7-I** in all major and minor keys. Must be played with the sustain pedal.
- 4) Harmonize by sight one simple melody with or without given chords. Selection may include primary and secondary chords, as well as secondary dominants and various seventh chords.
Study examples:
 - o Book II: p. 166
 - o Book II: p. 180
 - o Book II: p. 190
- 5) Sight read and transpose one melody, material will be provided on the exam. Maintaining a steady tempo is of utmost importance. Study examples:
 - o Sight read – Book II: p. 176-177, 188-189, 222-223
 - o Transpose – Book II: p. 156, 167-168, 192, 203
- 6) Prepare and perform the four-part piece *America, the Beautiful* by Samuel A. Ward.
 - o [America the Beautiful by Samuel A. Ward.pdf](#)
- 7) Prepare one of the following pieces. You may substitute a piece of your own choosing if you wish, as long as it is a similar difficulty level.
 - o Book I: p. 317 Ecossaise by L. v. Beethoven
 - o Book II: p. 348 Musette in D Major by J. S. Bach
 - o Air in D Minor by H. Purcell ([Air in D Minor - Henry Purcell.pdf](#))
 - o Minuet in F by W. A. Mozart ([Minuet in F MAjor - W. A. Mozart.pdf](#))

Keyboard Skills Level IV (MUSC 236) – Alfred Group Piano for Adults Book II

- 1) All major and minor scales. Hands together, two octaves, with a consistent tempo and logical fingerings.
- 2) Arpeggios in all major and minor keys. Hands together, two octaves.
- 3) Chord progression **I-IV-I-V7-I** in all major and minor keys. Must be played with the sustain pedal.
- 4) Sight read, transpose, and harmonize given melodies; material will be provided on the exam. Maintaining a steady tempo is of utmost importance. Study examples:
 - o Sight Read – Book II: p. 341 26-4 Russian Folk Song by L. v. Beethoven;
26-5 Allegro by L. v. Beethoven
 - o Harmonization – Book II: p. 300 23-25 Charlie Is My Darling
p. 310 24-9 Allegretto
 - o Transpose: Book II: p. 222 17-12 German Dance by L. v. Beethoven
p. 223 17-14 Etude by C. Gurlitt
- 5) Selected tasks for specific majors. Prepare one of the following pieces as specified by your major.
 - o Vocal: You'll Never Walk Alone from Carousel
[You'll Never Walk Alone from Carousel.pdf](#)
 - o Instrumental: Sicilienne by F. Francoeur
[Scilienne - F. Francoeur.pdf](#)
 - o Music Therapy: sing and play Green sleeves (first verse).
[Green sleeves.pdf](#)
 - o Piano: perform Mozart's *Allegro in B-flat*, from memory.
[Sonatina n° 1. minuetto - W. A. Mozart.pdf](#)
- 6) Prepare and perform all 4-parts of Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*.
 - o [Ave verum corpus KV 618 by Mozart.pdf](#)
- 7) Prepare one of the following pieces. You may substitute a piece of your own choosing if you wish, as long as it is a similar difficulty level.
 - o Book II: p. 306 24-3 Menuet in G Major by J. S. Bach
 - o Allegro in B-flat by W. A. Mozart
[Allegro in Bb major K3 - W. A. Mozart.pdf](#)
 - o Bagatelle, Op.119, No.9 by L. v. Beethoven
[Bagatelle in A Minor Op. 119 No. 9 - L. v. Beethoven.pdf](#)