

**Applied Piano Guidelines**  
*SIU School of Music*  
Revised August 2015

**Applied Piano is designed for the study of standard classical solo piano literature.**

**Repertoire Requirements:**

It is expected that all repertoire assigned for applied lessons, juries and degree recitals will be newly learned repertoire since coming to SIU. Repertoire selections that have been performed for a previous piano jury at SIU may not be repeated for credit in the following semester, nor used in any subsequent jury, including the Upper Divisional Juries.

Applied piano students are permitted to receive credit for the study of specific assigned pieces (or movements of larger works) for a maximum of two semesters of applied piano lessons with prior consent of the applied instructor. In preparation for degree recitals, students may be allowed to study a large work (at least 20 minutes in length) for a longer period than 2 semesters with the consent of the applied piano faculty.

Certain compositions written after 1970 may be performed with the score for jury or in degree recitals *if prior consent is given by the major teacher.*

**140 Level**

Performance and Music Education Majors:

Must study 3 pieces of contrasting styles each semester and have these pieces prepared and memorized for the jury.

Other majors:

Must study 2-3 pieces of contrasting styles each semester. Two of these pieces must be prepared for jury with at least one piece played from memory.

**240 Level and Above**

Performance and Music Education Majors:

Must study 3-4 pieces of contrasting styles each semester with a minimum of three pieces prepared and memorized for jury.

Other majors:

Must study 3 pieces of contrasting styles each semester. Two of these pieces must be prepared for jury with at least one piece played from memory.

**Etude requirement:**

All BM and MM Performance and MM Pedagogy Majors are required to complete one etude of appropriate technical difficulty within two semesters of study. This etude must be performed for either the fall or the spring jury examination, or on a degree recital. The etude will be chosen with the major teacher's advice and may count either as one of the repertoire selections or as the technical requirement for that jury. In certain cases, advanced repertoire assigned may be

substituted for the etude requirement if the student already has an extensive etude repertoire, or if the student's current assigned repertoire is considered to be of the same or of greater technical benefit as an etude. This decision will always rest with the discretion of the applied piano teacher.

### **Additional Playing Requirements:**

#### **Studio Class**

Every piano student enrolled in studio class must perform in class at least once each semester. This performance and participation will be documented and will constitute a portion of the student's semester grade. In addition, the following requirements are listed under specific majors for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. For each of these performances, at least one of the applied piano faculty should be present at the performance. In some cases, a recording of the performance may be substituted, with prior consent of the major teacher.

#### **BM Piano Performance:**

1) One half degree recital given in collaboration with a) a voice major or vocal ensemble (opera, choir, etc.); or b) an instrumentalist (other than piano). This can be in conjunction with enrollment in chamber music or accompanying lab, as approved by appropriate applied faculty, and may also count towards the regular semester accompanying requirement.

2) One successful performance of a movement or complete instrumental chamber work consisting of more than 2 players, i.e. piano trio or piano quartet. It may occur at Convocation, non-degree recital, off-campus recital or degree recital of a member of the chamber group. If necessary, the applied piano faculty may permit the substitution of a duo work of comparable difficulty for this requirement. This requirement should be filled in conjunction with enrollment in chamber music, MUS 365. **All chosen repertoire and collaborative groups are subject to prior approval by the applied piano faculty.**

#### **Piano Juries**

All 1, 2 and 3 credit applied piano students are required to play a final jury examination for the piano faculty at the end of each semester of study. Semester juries are scheduled on the Saturday prior to the finals week of each semester. Juries will last approximately 15 minutes each for 3 credit students and 10 minutes each for 1 and 2 credit students. Students who have given a degree recital or taken an Upper Divisional Jury in the same semester only need to perform a 10-minute technique and sight reading jury (no repertoire). See the SIU Undergraduate Course Catalog for further details pertaining to Upper Divisional Juries. The Piano Jury schedule will be posted on the Piano Board at least one week prior to the jury date.

The Piano Jury will evaluate five specific areas: 1) adherence to musical style 2) musicianship 3) preparation/memory 4) technique and 5) sight reading. The jury grade constitutes 25% of the semester grade. Students should dress appropriately for the jury: comfortable, but dressed as for a daytime performance. For more information on technique, see below.

## **Piano Jury Information Sheets**

List all repertoire, technique, and other specific requirements completed during the semester. These must be filled out and submitted to the major teacher no later than the last lesson of the semester. Students may only list repertoire/technique that they played in lessons during the semester. The major teacher has the authority to delete any selections listed if they were never covered in lessons. Students who do not submit a Piano Jury Information Sheet will not be allowed to perform a final jury.

## **Technique**

All piano students are expected to spend daily practice time on technique, endeavoring to continually expand and develop complete keyboard facility. Specific technical assignments for skill, format and speed will be given by the major teacher to each individual student within the first 3 lesson of each semester. Successful completion of these assignments will be evaluated at each jury. All applied piano students who receive lower than a C grade in the technique component of the jury will not receive a passing semester grade. All 2 and 3 credit piano students majoring in music are also required to meet a satisfactory level of proficiency in each of the specific areas listed below upon completion of undergraduate and graduate degrees. Occasionally, the major teacher may opt to waive these basic technical requirements in the rare case that a student demonstrates prior completion of rigorous technical training; however, even the most advanced students will be expected to continue their technical growth with appropriate etudes and other work.

### **Mandatory Skills for all 2 and 3 credit music majors** (piano as major instrument)

- 1) All Major scales: hands together, 4 octaves
- 2) Minor scales: keys from 0 to 3 flats or 3 sharps
- 3) Major, minor, diminished 7<sup>th</sup> and Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> CHORDS, blocked and broken  
(multiple acceptable formats, check with major teacher)

### **Mandatory Skills for Music Education Piano Majors:**

- 1) All major and minor scales: hands together 4 octaves
- 2) Major, minor, diminished 7<sup>th</sup> and Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> CHORDS, blocked and broken  
(multiple acceptable formats, check with major teacher)
- 3) All Major, minor, diminished 7<sup>th</sup> and Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggios: hands together, 4 octaves, all inversions

### **Mandatory Skills for all Piano Performance and MM Pedagogy Majors:**

- 1) All major and minor scales: hands together 4 octaves
- 2) Major, minor, diminished 7<sup>th</sup> and Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> CHORDS, blocked and broken  
(multiple acceptable formats, check with major teacher)
- 3) All Major, minor, diminished 7<sup>th</sup> and Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> arpeggios: hands together, 4 octaves, all inversions
- 4) All Major and minor scales, hands together, in the following formats: a) in contrary motion; b) in thirds; c) in sixths; and d) in tenths.
- 5) Chromatic scales, hands together- there are many acceptable formats, one or more of which may be chosen by the student and the major teacher.

### Recommended Additional Skills:

- Blocked and broken Major and minor chord exercises- format chosen by the major teacher
- Scales in double octaves and in broken octaves
- Arpeggios in double octaves and in broken octaves
- Scales in double thirds and double sixths
- Additional exercises, etudes as recommended by the major teacher

### Program Notes

For each piece studied during the semester, students should write a brief biographical summary of the composer and a well-researched description of the composition, which should cover both historical and analytical aspects. These notes are to be typed and no longer than 1/2 to 1 page in length per piece. Please be aware that plagiarism is unacceptable and can result in serious sanctions. Each semester, program notes are due to the major teacher no later than the last lesson of the semester or at any earlier deadline given by the instructor. For students presenting a degree recital, program notes and a typed program will be due at the recital preview.

### Degree Recitals

#### **Repertoire:**

Must exhibit a well-balanced variety of styles representing at least 2, but preferably 3-4 of the main music periods. Half recitals should last between 30 and 40 minutes, and full recitals should last between 55 and 75 minutes total playing time. Students may use repertoire for degree recitals which they prepared for previous jury examinations held within one year prior to the recital. Encores are not allowed in degree recitals, due to time limitations of both faculty and the facilities.

#### **Preview:**

All students preparing a one half or full degree recital must present a recital preview for the applied piano faculty no later than 3 weeks before the proposed recital date. The preview, which counts as the student's repertoire jury for that semester, will evaluate the student's preparation of the recital program. The student is required to take the technique and sight reading jury during finals week. If the student does not pass the preview, he/she must postpone the recital date until the preview can be retaken and passed. Previews may be presented in an applied faculty studio, in the Piano Seminar Room, Altgeld 110 or in OBF, provided that the student reserves time in Altgeld 110 or OBF according to the School of Music Handbook guidelines.

Recital programs (3 copies) and program notes (1 copy to major teacher) are due at the time of the recital preview. If these are not submitted, the student will not be allowed to play the preview. It is the student's responsibility to provide all of the information necessary on the program and to have it proofread by his/her major teacher before this due date.

It is critical that all students receive consent from the major teacher and all recital jury members for the preferred recital date before finalizing that date.

**Programs:**

Students are responsible to submit their recital program information to the Music Office at least 2 weeks in advance to have them printed. Students who miss the deadline will be held responsible for making adequate copies of the program for the recital. See the Concert Office Assistant in the Music Office for recital program format guidelines, and refer to the School of Music Handbook for specific deadlines and procedures. Procedural guidelines concerning the reservation and scheduling of OBF for degree recitals are explained in the School of Music Handbook.

**Accompanying Requirement**

Undergraduate Performance and Music Education Majors are required to accompany assigned voice majors and/or instrumental students by the Collaborative Piano Faculty during all semesters they are enrolled in applied piano lessons. See the School of Music Accompanying Policy for details.

**Change in Degree Program or Secondary Concentration**

Students wishing to change their degree program or to pursue a secondary concentration in piano must first pass an audition for the area faculty.

**Repertoire Lists**

For piano majors to whom this requirement applies (see your applied teacher's syllabus), a complete cumulative list of all major solo, concerto, and collaborative repertoire studied should be well-organized, typed, and submitted on or before the deadline given by your applied piano teacher, with name and date on the top of the first page. Students should group the repertoire by genre (solo, concerto, etc.), and may list repertoire either 1) alphabetically by composer, or 2) by major periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20<sup>th</sup> Century/Contemporary), or 3) if there is not a large amount of repertoire, simply group the repertoire by each school year in which it was studied. Students are free to choose the format that works best for their particular needs. Students may also select a code (\* or other symbol) to designate whether the piece was memorized and/or performed. If a student was involved in a significant collaborative commitment such as serving as accompanist for a choir or musical production, or as keyboardist in an orchestra, the student should also include a category which lists the specific ensemble, the years of involvement, title of position ('Accompanist', 'Keyboard Principal', etc.) and a representative list of the most significant literature studied/performed.

**Practice Room Policy**

Applied piano students should familiarize themselves with the established practice room policy as well as the policy for the use of the Piano Seminar Room, Altgeld 201. It is expected that all piano students will uphold the highest standard of abiding by this policy, treating instruments and SIU property with great respect and care, reporting any known abuse of SIU property immediately to the appropriate authorities, and setting and excellent example to the rest of the students and faculty. Regardless of whether or not other SIU music students are held accountable for any violation of this policy, the applied piano faculty will hold all applied piano students accountable, and enforce the stated sanctions if necessary.

## **Performance Dress Policy**

It is expected that students will dress professionally and appropriately for every performance occasion, including juries and recital previews. General guidelines are listed below:

### **Daytime Performance** (Convocation, jury, recital preview, masterclass, etc.)

**Men:** neat slacks, shirt and tie (jacket if desired, i.e. for convocation). Hair should be worn away from face.

**Women:** elegant, comfortable skirt or dress cut below the knee (please, no tight fitting short skirts!); good shoes for pedaling (no thickly soled shoes or loose fitting sandals). Please wear hair so that the audience can see your face when you play.

### **Accompanying**

Follow above guidelines, except be more careful (especially women) to compliment the soloist. Dark, neutral colors are usually best.

### **Evening Performance** (Degree recital, concerto performance, etc.)

**Men:** Suit with jacket or tuxedo, depending on formality and specific time of event (6 pm may be less formal than 8 pm)

**Women:** formal full-length dress, comfortable for performing. Make sure your hem does not obstruct the pedals! Good shoes for pedaling, hair worn away from face.

### **Page Turning**

Very dark colors, simple, no large jewelry, and hair pulled away from face. Dressy slacks are acceptable for women, black turtleneck acceptable for men. For very formal concerts, suits for men and all black attire for women are best.