

Piano Proficiency Requirement

All music majors must demonstrate proficiency at the piano equivalent to one year of private or class piano study. The examination must be taken no later than the end of the semester in which the student takes MUSTH 221 (normally the second semester in the major program). Students also have the option of fulfilling the Piano Proficiency Exam requirements by taking **MUSPF 214: Piano II**. The final exam for the Piano II class is identical to the Piano Proficiency Exam.

Passing the examination is a requirement for graduation and must be accomplished before a graduation audit form will be signed. Students entering Hunter with limited keyboard background must take MUSPF 213-214 (Piano 1 and 2) for elective credit or private lessons in piano at their own expense. Students must pass all sections of the exam to fulfill the requirement. The minimum requirements for the Piano Proficiency Examination are as follows:

I. Scales:

Major: ALL major scales played hands together an octave apart; ascending and descending for one octave; correct fingering and hand position, quarter note = 80; in 4/4 meter

Minor: C,D,E,F,G,A, and B harmonic and melodic minor scales played hands together an octave apart; ascending and descending for one octave; correct fingering and hand position, quarter note = 80; in 4/4 meter

II. Chords:

Play any major or minor triad with inversions, in both blocked and broken forms, hands separately.

III. Arpeggios:

Play any major and minor triad and inversions hand-over-hand style.

IV. Two prepared pieces chosen by the student, as follows (memorization optional):

1. One work from the Baroque or Classical era. The selection should either be drawn from, or equivalent in level to at least one work listed below (more advanced repertoire is also permissible, and encouraged):

Bach: any selection from the *Little Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*

Clementi: *Sonatina, Op. 36, No. 1* (any movement)

Haydn: any of the *German Dances*

2. One work from the Romantic era, or a piece written in the 20th/21st Century. The selection should either be drawn from, or equivalent in level to at least one work listed below (more advanced repertoire is also permissible, and encouraged):

Bartók: pieces from *Mikrokosmos*, Vols. 3 and 4

Burgmüller: any pieces from *Twenty-Five Easy & Progressive Studies, Op. 100*

Finney, Ross Lee: pieces from the *25 Inventions*

Gillock: *Aeolian Harp*

Gillock: *Rondo in Classic Style*

Gretchaninov: movements from *Glass Beads, Op. 123*

Kabalevsky: selections from *Children's Pieces, Op. 27*

Prokofiev: any pieces from *Music for Children, Op. 65*

Persichetti: pieces from *Parades, Op. 57*

Schumann: from *Album for the Young, Op. 68: Nos. 6, 7, 8, 14 or 16*

Tchaikovsky: easier pieces from *Album for the Young, Op. 39*

V. Sight-Reading:

A short piece or excerpt, to be selected by the examiner, equivalent in difficulty to easier works from the *Little Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*, or Bartók's *Mikrokosmos*, Vol. 2 or 3.

Ready to Register?

To select an exam date and to submit the titles of the prepared pieces, go to:

<http://www.music.hunter.cuny.edu/piano-proficiency-exam-registration-form/>

This piano proficiency exam registration form should be submitted at least two months prior to the date on which you plan to take the examination.