

SPU Music Department

Piano Class Benchmarks for Music Majors

MUS 1250 - Beginning Keyboard Class (2 credits)

- This class is open to both music majors and non-music majors.
- There are no pre-requisites for this course, and students may repeat the course multiple times.

MUS 1251 - Intermediate Keyboard Class (2 credits)

- This course is open to both music majors and non-music majors who have successfully completed MUS 1250 - Beginning Keyboard class.
- Students who have not passed MUS 1250 but have had previous piano training must pass an audition, held by the instructor, to be allowed to register for the class. To pass the audition students must demonstrate the ability to:
 - sight-read at an intermediate level
 - play late elementary level piano pieces
 - harmonize melodies using lead sheet notation
 - play at least three major scales and their primary chord cadential patterns
- This course may be repeated.

MUS 2200 - Piano Proficiency (1 credit)

All music majors must pass the Piano Proficiency exam as part of their graduation requirements.

- This is a one-credit class that is designed to provide a testing environment for SPU music majors to pass the Piano Proficiency requirement.
- This course can be repeated no more than three times.
- Students may register for the class ONLY after successfully passing MUS 1250 and MUS 1251, or after taking Individual piano, organ, harpsichord, or jazz piano courses, listed below.
- Keyboard Scholarship students are exempt from the MUS 1250 and MUS 1251 pre-requisites for entry into MUS 2200. Music major students with many years of extensive piano studies may be also allowed to register for the class if they passed the audition held by the head of keyboard studies.
- In exceptional circumstances, the Piano Proficiency exam may be arranged to be given on an individual basis by, and with the consent of, the head of keyboard studies, in cases where students are unable to graduate because of the lack of completion of the Piano Proficiency requirements.
- Appropriate courses for continued growth in keyboard skills and styles are listed in the next section, below.

Individual Keyboard Studies – Piano, Organ, Harpsichord, Jazz Piano (1 or 2 credits)

MUS 2217 - Individual Piano Instruction

MUS 2216 - Individual Organ Instruction

MUS 2225 – Individual Harpsichord Instruction

MUS 2224 - Individual Jazz Piano Instruction

- These courses are open to students who have successfully completed the MUS 1250 and MUS 1251 class sequence.
- These courses offer students the opportunity to explore and examine a wide variety of musical styles, and to expand their familiarity with nuanced, stylistic keyboard idioms and techniques, ranging from the Baroque era to present-day contemporary music and jazz.
- Each of these courses may be taken to aid continuing preparations for successfully completing the Piano Proficiency requirements.
- Individual instruction in these courses is typically provided by SPU adjunct keyboard faculty with a specialty in these instruments and/or stylistic areas.