



Department of Music
Keyboard Studies for Music Majors (“Keyboard Skills”)
Updated in June 2018

All music majors, with the exception of piano majors, at TCNJ are required to complete several levels of Keyboard Skills depending upon one's major as follows:

BA Major: Keyboard Skills I, and II (MUS 111, MUS 222)

BM Major in Instrumental Performance and Instrumental Music Education: Keyboard Skills I, and II (MUS 111, MUS 222)

BM Major in Vocal Performance, Vocal Music Education, Guitar/Choral Music Education: Keyboard Skills I, II, and III (MUS 111, MUS 222, MUS 233)

In addition, all music majors are required to successfully complete the Keyboard Proficiency Exam (MUS 330) in prior to 1) an application for one's student teaching, or 2) one's graduation depending upon one's major.

Standard Sequence of Keyboard Studies

Semester	Course	Note
Fall	MUS 103 Beginning Class Piano Level 2	Optional remedial study
Spring	MUS 111 Keyboard Skills I	Prerequisite: Musicianship 1
Fall	MUS 222 Keyboard Skills II	Prerequisite: KSI
Fall-	MUS 330 Keyboard Proficiency Exam	Prerequisite: KSII's course work
Spring	MUS 233 Keyboard Skills III	Voice majors only: Prerequisite: KSII

The standard sequence is to start Keyboard Skills I during the second semester of one's study. Students who have prior experience at the keyboard may take a placement audition to gain advanced standing. The placement audition is given during the orientation week in summer and during the first week of each semester. **Students will be given only one chance to take the placement audition: a re-examination is NOT available at other points in the program of study.**

Who Should Take the Placement Audition?

One does NOT need to take the Placement Audition in order to register for Keyboard Skills I.

Those students who have had a **substantial background both in keyboard (or piano) study and music theory** may attempt the placement exam, which could advance them into Keyboard Skills II (MUS 222) or III (MUS 233). Such students still have to take the Keyboard Proficiency Exam (MUS 330) during one of the regular testing periods.

The keyboard study at TCNJ is very rigorous, so it is highly recommended that one be enrolled in this first level even if s/he has had one semester of study at another institution. If a student has had less than one year of keyboard (or piano) study, they should simply register for Keyboard Skills I (MUS 111). If a student has had more than one year of keyboard (or piano) study, but has had no substantial study in music theory, it is still recommended that s/he register for Keyboard Skills I. Please note that **placement in these courses depends more on an application of one's knowledge of music theory onto keyboard, and far less on piano repertoire study**, which tends to be the main focus of the traditional piano private instructions.

Students Who Have Had No Previous Keyboard Training

Those who have no previous keyboard experience are encouraged to get started before the school year. The required textbooks for Keyboard Skills I include:

Alfred's Group Piano for Adults Book 1 (second edition), Lancaster/Renfrow, Alfred Publishing Co., ISBN 0-7390-3526-6

The First Book of Scales, Chords, Arpeggios & Cadences (Alfred's Basic Piano Library), Palmer, etc., Alfred Publishing Co., ISBN 0-7390-1297-5

Additionally, a remedial keyboard skills class (MUS 103: Beginning Class Piano for Non-Majors Level 2) is offered during the fall semesters. This is a non-required class that freshmen may take on a voluntary basis in prior to the first required Keyboard Skills class that is taken in the second semester.

Students Who Wish to Test Out of Keyboard Skills I and/or II (Advanced Placement Audition)

To be exempted from Keyboard Skills I, one must be able to demonstrate the following skills:

1. Scales
All Major Scales: 2 octaves hands together with appropriate fingerings.
All Harmonic Minor Scales: 2 octaves hands together with appropriate fingerings.
2. Cadence Pattern (RH: chords, LH: roots)
All Major Cadence Pattern (I-IV-I-V₇-I) in root position.
All Minor Cadence Pattern (i-iv-i-V₇-i) in root position.
3. One Solo Piece
A prepared piece equivalent to J. S. Bach Anna Magdalena Notebook or Burgmüller Op.100 (of any.) Memorization is NOT required.

4. Harmonization

Harmonize the given melody with using I, ii, IV, V₇, and/or vi and the inversions. (Play the melody in RH with the LH block chord accompaniment.) *The excerpt may have the indication by roman numerals or letter symbols, or without any indications. The assignment is given at the exam site.

[Sample excerpt]

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system is for the vocal part, marked 'Moderato' and '1'. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note G4. The second system is for the piano accompaniment, marked 'mp'. It features a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The left hand plays a steady quarter-note accompaniment of G3, A3, B-flat3, and G3. The right hand plays a melody that begins with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, a quarter note B-flat3, and a quarter note G3. The score includes various musical notations such as clefs, key signatures, time signatures, and dynamic markings.

5. Transposition

Transpose the above Harmonization excerpt up and down a step.

6. Sight Reading

Sight-read a piece that uses intervals up to (and including) an octave and chordal patterns.

To be exempted from Keyboard Skills II, one must be able to demonstrate the following skills:

1. Scales

All Major Scales: 2 octaves hands together with appropriate fingerings.

All Natural, Harmonic, and Melodic Minor Scales: 2 octaves hands together with appropriate fingerings.

2. Cadence Pattern (RH: chords, LH: roots)

All Major Cadence Pattern (I-IV-I-V₇-I) in root position, 1st and 2nd inversions.

All Minor Cadence Pattern (i-iv-i-V₇-i) in root position, 1st and 2nd inversions.

3. Two Solo Pieces

Two prepared pieces in contrasting styles. (The level of the pieces is to be equivalent to Beethoven Sonata Op. 49 or J. S. Bach Two Part Inventions.) Memorization is NOT required.

4. SATB Chorale Score

Sight-read a Chorale Score (in 4 voices).

[Sample excerpt]

I've Got Peace Like a River
Traditional

♩ = 80

The score consists of four staves. The first three staves are vocal lines with lyrics: "I've got peace like a ri ver, I've got peace like a ri ver, I've got". The fourth staff is a bass line. The tempo is marked as *♩ = 80*. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes first and second endings, with the first ending leading back to the beginning and the second ending leading to a final cadence marked "Fine".

5. Instrumental Score Reading

Sight-read a two-part instrumental score with one transposed instrument.

[Sample excerpt]

Moderato

Clarinet in B \flat

Bassoon

The excerpt is for a Clarinet in B \flat and a Bassoon. The tempo is marked **Moderato**. The key signature has two flats (B \flat and E \flat). The time signature is 3/4. The Clarinet part starts with a first ending marked "1" and a second ending marked "2". The Bassoon part starts with a first ending marked "1" and a second ending marked "2". The score includes fingerings and dynamics such as *f* (forte).

6. Harmonization

Harmonize the given melody with using I, ii, IV, V $_7$, and/or vi and the inversions. In addition to the above, at least one secondary dominant chord has to be included. (Play the melody in RH with the LH in an accompaniment pattern of your choice except for holding block chords.) *The excerpt may have the indication by roman numerals or letter symbols, or without any indications.

[Sample excerpt]

Spirited March

The excerpt is for a "Spirited March" in 4/4 time, key of D major. The melody is written on a single staff. The harmonic analysis below the staff indicates the following chords: I, IV $_6/4$, I, V $_7/7$ /vi, vi, ii $_6$, V $_7$, and I.

7. Transposition

Transpose the above Harmonization excerpt up and down a step.

8. Sight Reading/Accompanying
Sight-read a piece, while the examiner plays another part.

KEYBOARD PROFICIENCY EXAM (MUS 330)

Note: one's first KPE attempt is as the KSII Final Exam in most cases.

I. Basic Skills

- 1) Major Scales 2 octaves (up and down)*
- 2) Harmonic Minor Scales 2 octaves (up and down)*
*Fingerings that are in the course textbook must be used; no memorization required. Play two scale notes per beat (=56 or up)
- 3) I-IV-I-V₇-I chord progression in root position, first and second inversions
- 4) i-iv-i-V₇-I chord progression in root position, first and second inversions

II. Repertoire and Accompanying

- 1) Prepared solo repertoire. Memorization is not required.
- 2) Prepared accompaniment with soloist. (Please bring your soloist.)

III. Reading

- 1) SATB Chorale Score: Play the entire 4 voices, and then play 2 voices that are assigned by the examiner*
- 2) 2-part instrumental score with one transposing part*
- 3) Sight Reading**

*The testing materials (except for sight reading) will be provided approximately 1 week prior to the test. **You will have some time to look at the sight-reading material immediately prior to your test.

IV. Harmonization and Transposition

- 1) Harmonization by the chord symbols and its transposition (up and down a step)*
- 2) Harmonization by the roman numerals and its transposition (up and down a step)*
- 3) Harmonization with no indication and its transposition (up and down a step)*

*Student will play the melody in RH, while playing the accompaniment with appropriate chords in LH. The accompaniment has to be in a style suitable to the song, instead of simply holding the block chords. The excerpts will be provided approximately 1 week prior to the test. The excerpts may include secondary chords. Transposition up and down can be either by a whole step or a half step, depending on the student's choice.

V. Assembly Songs

- 1) Happy Birthday in F-Major*
- 2) America in chorale style**

*This will be played without the music. ** The excerpt will be provided in advance

Questions/Concerns: E-mail Dr. Kanamaru at kanamaru@tcnj.edu