

# Towson University – Department of Music

## Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

### Discipline: JAZZ/COMMERCIAL GUITAR

#### *General Information:*

- The stated proficiencies below apply to all students taking lessons in the particular discipline.
  - Level of difficulty for specific repertoire will be adjusted based upon the student's degree program.
  - These proficiencies are the minimums for a passing grade in the discipline.
  - Any student wishing to take 300-level applied lessons must successfully pass an upper division jury demonstrating the proficiencies as articulated below.
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#### *Proficiencies for a 1-credit lesson*

*Each semester the student will be required to memorize and improvise on assigned compositions; transcribe a solo from a recording; and demonstrate improvement with sight-reading. .*

#### Freshman Level

- All 12 major scales and modes – 2 octaves
- Blues scale and its possible applications
- Drop 2 and Drop 3 seventh chords and inversions
- Common 7<sup>th</sup> chord arpeggios

#### Sophomore Level

- Melodic minor scales – ascending form only
- Harmonic minor scales

- Major and Minor Pentatonic scales – 2 octaves, Half-whole diminished, Whole Tone, Blues, and Chromatic scales
- Improvising on Rhythm Changes progression and Blues progressions
- Basic 7<sup>th</sup> chord arpeggios from any root
- Drop 2/Drop 3 root position through diatonic scale

**Upper Division Jury** (end of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

**Junior Level**

- Modes of Melodic Minor focusing on modes 3,4,7
- Common 7<sup>th</sup> chord arpeggios with upper extensions
- Intervals 2nds – 7ths, 2 strings
- Scale sequences, intervals, triads, 7<sup>th</sup> chords
- Junior recital (*required based upon degree program*)

**Senior Level**

- Modes of Harmonic Minor focusing on 4, 5, 6
- Harmonized Triads in major and harmonic minor scales
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas
- Drop 2/Drop 3 and inversions through diatonic scale
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)

**Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson**

*Each semester the student will be required to memorize and improvise on assigned compositions; transcribe a solo from a recording; and demonstrate improvement with sight-reading.*

**Freshman Level**

- All 12 major scales and modes – 2 octaves
- Blues scale and its possible applications

- Cycle of 5ths 1235 patterns
- Triads in harmonized scales (close-voiced)
- Drop 2 and Drop 3 seventh chords and inversions
- Common 7<sup>th</sup> chord arpeggios
- Improvisation – thematic development, modal
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas

### Sophomore Level

- Melodic Minor scales – ascending form only
- Harmonic Minor scales
- Major and Minor Pentatonic scales – 2 octaves – Half-whole diminished, Whole Tone, Blues, and Chromatic scales
- Improvising on Rhythm Changes progression and Blues progressions
- Basic 7<sup>th</sup> chord arpeggios from any root – 2 octaves
- Drop 2/Drop 3 and inversions through diatonic scale
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas

### Upper Division Jury (end of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

### Junior Level

- Modes of Melodic Minor focusing on modes 3, 4, 7
- Harmonic Minor triads in harmonized scales
- Common 7<sup>th</sup> chord arpeggios with upper extensions
- Intervals 2nds–7ths, 2 strings
- Scale sequences, intervals, triads, 7<sup>th</sup> chords
- Giant Step Sequence
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas
- Junior recital (*required based upon degree program*)

## Senior Level

- Modes of Harmonic Minor focusing on 4, 5, 6
- Expanded scale practice
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas
- Hexatonics
- Harmonizing Chord Clusters
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)