

Towson University – Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

Discipline: PIANO

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.

Proficiencies for a 1-credit lesson

Freshman Level

- Study and perform 10 minutes of approved solo repertoire each semester for a total of 20 minutes. Repertory will be chosen from a minimum of 4 style periods. Repertory will include a classical sonata movement and a polyphonic work from the Baroque period.
- Technical studies will include major and minor scales, arpeggios and broken chords on white keys

Sophomore Level

- Study and perform 10 minutes of approved solo repertoire each semester for a total of 20 minutes. Repertory will be chosen from a minimum of 4 style periods and must include a composition by an American composer.
- Technical studies will include major and minor scales, arpeggios, and broken chords on black keys

Upper Division Jury (*end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons*)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

Junior Level

- Study and perform 10 minutes of approved solo repertory each semester for a total of 20 minutes. Repertory will be chosen from a minimum of 4 style periods and will include a composition for prepared piano. Technical studies will include a Concert-Etude of the Romantic period

Senior Level

- Study and perform 10 minutes of approved solo repertory each semester for a total of 20 minutes. Repertory will be chosen from a minimum of 4 style periods and will include a composition composed within the last decade.
- Technical studies will include a Concert-Etude of the Romantic period.
- Senior recital (required based upon degree program)

Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

Freshman Level

- Study, memorize, and perform 15 minutes of approved solo repertory each semester for a total of 30 minutes. Repertory will be chosen from a minimum of 4 style periods. Repertory will include a classical sonata movement and a polyphonic work from the Baroque period.
- Technical studies will include major and minor scales, arpeggios, and broken chords on white keys

Sophomore Level

- Study, memorize and perform 15 minutes of approved solo repertory each semester for a total of 30 minutes. Repertory will be chosen from a minimum of 4 style periods and must include a composition by an American composer and a complete sonata of the Classical period.
- Technical studies will include major and minor scales, arpeggios, and broken chords on black keys

Upper Division Jury (*end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons*)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

Junior Level

- Study, memorize, and perform 15 minutes of approved solo repertory each semester for a total of 30 minutes. Repertory will be chosen from a minimum of 4 style periods and will include a minimum of 4 style periods and will include a composition for prepared piano.
- Technical studies will include a Concert-Etude of the Romantic period and improvisation of a concerto cadenza in the early classical style.

Senior Level

- Study, memorize and perform 15 minutes of approved solo repertory each semester for a total of 30 minutes. Repertory will be chosen from a minimum of 4 style periods and will include a composition composed within the last decade.
- Technical studies will include a French Impressionistic etude and the improvisation of a concerto cadenza in the style of choice
- Senior recital (required based upon degree program)