

DEGREE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Bachelor of Arts in Music—Piano Concentration

The following is an explanation of the expectations and procedures for students seeking the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music with a concentration in the piano applied area. The motivation behind the requirements set forth within these guidelines is the desire of the Arkansas State University Music Department to ensure that the graduates have various career opportunities as well as studying music in combination with other subjects. The BA degree provides versatility in coursework and is not intended as preparation for graduate study in music, although it can successfully serve this purpose. It is neither designed to produce professional musicians, rather, an exploration of this possibility. These criteria pertain to students entering the BA in Music program whose applied area of concentration is piano during the Spring of 2019 or thereafter.

LEVELS OF STUDY

The applied requirements for all BA students are to complete 9 credit hours of study. Incoming students will begin with MUSP 1111 or 1112. The appropriate level of study based upon the student's talent, work ethic and degree of advancement will be designated by the major applied teacher. BA students may or may not progress to Upper Level study.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

Lower Level: Literature from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary Periods

Upper Level: Literature from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary Periods

1 credit hour at least one memorized piece, other pieces as assigned

2 credit hours at least one memorized piece, other pieces as assigned

The above repertoire requirements are the minimum to be accomplished each semester. The teacher will assign literature (with student input) not only in contrasting genres and styles. As each student advances to a higher level, the difficulty of the repertoire assigned will increase. Failure to learn and/or perform the selected repertoire at the appropriate level will affect the final lesson grade. When the student has successfully completed 6 credits hours of applied piano, he or she may be advised to advance to Upper Level Study. Upper level study must meet the University requirement of 45 hours of upper level study after the first 30 credit hours.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements may be revised by the major applied teacher in order to better suit the student's capabilities, needs or intentions in seeking the BA Degree in Music.

All students at least **1 Studio Class** per semester
First Semester Freshmen **may** be excused from the student recital performance

Studio Classes will occur in the Recital Hall on a weekly basis. Each is typically conducted as a performance class and/or master class in which members of the piano faculty will critique the performers; pedagogical aspects of the instrument will also be covered.

Student Recitals involve all applied areas and occur periodically in the Recital Hall on Tuesdays at 11:00. The format is a traditional recital for which the appropriate attire is required. Normally, pianists perform 2 pieces of contrasting styles on one recital. All performances require consent of the major applied teacher by filling out the *Tuesday Morning Recital Form* found on the A-State Music Department Website under *Important Links*.

THE JURY

Students will perform a standard Jury (final exam) before a majority of the piano faculty at the end of each semester. For the typical Jury, a grade will be given by each faculty member, the average of which will be the Jury Grade. An Applied Lesson Record will be presented to the Jury Committee by each teacher, and each faculty member present will submit an online Assessment Form. After a brief discussion, a final grade will be determined by the major applied teacher based on the jury grade, input from the Jury Committee and the student's progress throughout the semester. Attributes of a fine jury performance demonstrate mastery of style, interpretation, technique, and emotional expression. Exceptions to the jury requirement include students giving a full recital that semester, either for course credit or not, or those attempting to pass the **Admittance Exam** (see next section). The following outline will be used by the applied piano teacher for assigning appropriate literature.

Literature for all Juries

- A **minimum of one** representative selection of sufficient difficulty from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary eras must be performed from memory.
- Repertoire must be from the current semester.

Presentation—Each student's performance of the literature will be examined for the following qualities:

- **Musicianship**—Ongoing progress in musical accuracy.
- **Expressive Interpretation**—Progressive improvement in conveying the appropriate style and character of the music.
- **Technique**—Continuing development of all technical skills necessary to become a professional pianist.
- **Stage Presence**—Growth in professionalism regarding poise, artistry and communication skills.