



UIW Department of Music

(guidelines updated Oct 2019)

Keyboard Proficiency Exam Guidelines

The Keyboard Proficiency Exam is required of all music majors.

There are two sections of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam: I. the **Prepared Section**; II. the **At-Sight Section**. These are described below.

I. Prepared Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam:

A. **SCALES/ARPEGGIOS**: All major and harmonic minor scales and arpeggios played 2 octaves, hands together, in parallel motion, ascending and descending.

Criteria for passing: Prompt and secure rendition, both in structure and fingering; steady rhythm, moderato tempo. No trial and error.

B. **REPERTOIRE**: A prepared piece chosen from the approved repertoire list. (See p. 3)

Criteria for passing: Solid performance, no stops; appropriate tempo; dynamics and other expression marks.

C. **HARMONIZATION/TRANSPOSITION**: Two prepared harmonizations from the approved list of melodies (See p. 3), using secondary dominants: V7/IV, V/V, V/ii, V/vi, & V/iii.

In the original key with RH melody and LH accompaniment pattern. This LH accompaniment must do something beyond just blocking the chord on the main beats. (You can choose from a variety of styles).

Criteria for passing: Solid execution (no stops; generally accurate rendition); proper use of chords and chord progression. Play melody and chords together.

D. **TRANSPOSITION/SCORE READING**:

1) Play an individual part from a band or orchestral score. Be able a) to transpose B-flat, F, and E-flat instruments to concert pitch, and b) to read alto clef. (See p. 4)

2) Play all four parts of an SATB open choral score. (See p. 5)

Criteria for passing: Solid execution at marked tempo.

All parts of the Prepared Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam will be graded in class by your Keyboard Skills IV instructor.

Students must pass all parts of the Prepared Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam before they can take the final exam for MUSI 2120 Keyboard Skills IV.

Once the Prepared Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam is completed, the student may take the At-Sight Section, described below.

II. At-Sight Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam:

A. IMPROVISATION: Improvise a melody based on given chords. (See p. 6) You will have 2 minutes to prepare the improvisation.

Criteria for passing: Solid execution; meter accuracy and rhythmic steadiness; evidence of motivic organization and consistency.

B. SIGHT-READING: You will be asked to play a short passage at sight in the written key. This passage will not be given to you in advance. (See p. 6) You will have 2 minutes to prepare the example.

Criteria for passing: Solid sight-reading (no stops; generally accurate rendition); play both hands together.

C. HARMONIZATION/SIGHT-TRANSPOSITION: **The student may choose either to harmonize or transpose a passage.**

- You will be asked to harmonize a melody. You will have 2 minutes to prepare the example.
- You will be asked to transpose a short passage at sight. You will have 2 minutes to prepare the example. (See p. 6)

Criteria for passing: Solid sight-reading (no stops; generally accurate rendition); play both hands together.

The Keyboard Skills IV (MUSI 2120) final exam is the At-Sight Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam. The student must pass this exam in order to complete the UIW keyboard proficiency requirement. If a student fails (anything lower than a "C" is considered failing) any section of the At-Sight Section, the student may still receive a passing grade for the course. However, any failed item must be retaken and passed before the student can be certified as having met the UIW keyboard proficiency requirement. The student who has failed a part of the At-Sight Section has the following options:

Option 1: Students who have passed Keyboard Skills IV (MUSI 2120) but not the final At-Sight Section may enroll in the Proficiency Review Private Lesson (MUAP 2146) during the summer, fall, and/or spring semester at arranged times. They may retake the parts of the proficiency that they did not pass at the end of the semester in which they are enrolled.

Option 2: Students who have dropped or failed Keyboard Skills IV (MUAP 2146) for any reason will be advised to enroll in the Proficiency Review Private Lesson (MUAP 2146) during the fall semester at arranged times. They will not be eligible to take the proficiency in the fall semester. They must retake Keyboard Skills IV (MUSI 2120) in the spring.

Once all parts of the At-Sight Section of the Keyboard Proficiency Exam are passed, the student and the Registrar will receive official notice of this achievement.

SAMPLES OF THE KEYBOARD PROFICIENCY COMPONENTS

I. Prepared Section:

B. REPERTOIRE: Approved Repertoire List

Choose **one** from the following list for the Keyboard Proficiency Exam:

Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book I:

Beethoven, Ludwig van	<i>Ecossaise</i>	(p. 317)
	<i>German Dance</i>	(p. 129)Beyer,
Ferdinand	Allegretto, Op. 101, No. 43	(p. 342)
Couperin, François		<i>The</i>
	<i>Cuckoo</i>	(p. 224)
Grieg, Edvard		<i>In the Hall of the</i>
	<i>Mountain King</i>	(p. 338)
Haydn, Franz Joseph	<i>German Dance</i> (D Major)	(p. 331)
	<i>German Dance</i> (G Major)	(p. 335)
Lully, Jean-Baptiste	Minuet in D Minor	(p. 336)
Neeffe, Christian Gottlob	Dance	(p. 238)
Rollin, Catherine	Prelude No. 1	(p. 346)

Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book II:

Bach Johann Sebastian	Musette in D Major	(p. 349)
Bach Wilhelm Friedmann	Minuet in G Major	(p. 137)
Burgmüller Johann	<i>Arabesque</i>	(p.362)
Diabelli Anton	Bagatelle	(p.186-187)
Haydn Franz Joseph	Minuet in G Major	(p.121)
Krieger Johann	Minuet in A Minor	(p.345)
Mozart Leopold	Minuet in D Minor	(p.208)
Streabbog Jean Louis	<i>A Pleasant Morning</i>	(p.58-59)
Tingley George Peter	Giga	(p.174-175)

C. HARMONIZATION:

Choose **two** tunes from the following list for the Keyboard Proficiency Exam. (The tunes will be provided during Keyboard Skills IV.)

1. Roses from the South
2. Yankee Doodle Boy
3. Amazing Grace
4. Cassion Song
5. I've Been Workin on the Railroad
6. Comin' Round the Mountain

E. TRANSPOSITION/SCORE READING

1. Transposition (SAMPLE ONLY – YOU WILL BE GIVEN A DIFFERENT PASSAGE)

1. B \flat Clarinet

MERRY WIDOW WALTZ

2-22

Franz Lehár (1870–1948)
Arr. John Kinyon and John O'Reilly

Moderato

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

6-35

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)
Arr. John O'Reilly and Mark Williams

Andante

(From *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults*, Book 2, by E.L. Lancaster and Kenon D Renfrow, 2004)

2. Four-Part Score Reading (SAMPLE ONLY – YOU WILL BE GIVEN A DIFFERENT PASSAGE):

CREDO
(EXCERPT FROM MASS IN G)

♩ 14-32 (65) Franz Peter Schubert (1797–1828)
D. 167

Allegro moderato

Modes Related to Minor ■ Unit 29 329

(From *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 2*, by E.L. Lancaster and Kenon D Renfrow, 2004)

II. At-Sight Section

A. IMPROVISATION (SAMPLE ONLY – YOU WILL BE GIVEN A DIFFERENT PASSAGE):

B. SIGHT-READING (SAMPLE ONLY – YOU WILL BE GIVEN A DIFFERENT PASSAGE):

Allegro moderato

(From *Alfred's Group Piano for Adults, Book 2*, by E.L. Lancaster and Kenon D Renfrow, 2004)

C. SIGHT-TRANSPOSITION (SAMPLE ONLY – YOU WILL BE GIVEN A DIFFERENT PASSAGE):

A musical score for piano in 4/4 time, featuring a melody in the right hand and chords in the left hand. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

The right-hand melody consists of the following notes and rests across eight measures:
Measure 1: G4, A4, Bb4, C5 (quarter notes)
Measure 2: D5 (quarter note), Bb4 (quarter note), A4 (quarter note), G4 (quarter note)
Measure 3: F4 (quarter note), E4 (quarter note), D4 (quarter note), C4 (quarter note)
Measure 4: Bb4 (quarter note), A4 (quarter note), G4 (quarter note), F4 (quarter note)
Measure 5: E4 (quarter note), D4 (quarter note), C4 (quarter note), Bb4 (quarter note)
Measure 6: A4 (quarter note), G4 (quarter note), F4 (quarter note), E4 (quarter note)
Measure 7: D4 (quarter note), C4 (quarter note), Bb4 (quarter note), A4 (quarter note)
Measure 8: G4 (quarter note), F4 (quarter note), E4 (quarter note), D4 (quarter note)

The left-hand accompaniment consists of chords in the following sequence across eight measures:
Measure 1: G4, Bb4, C5 (chord)
Measure 2: G4, Bb4, C5 (chord)
Measure 3: F4, E4, D4 (chord)
Measure 4: F4, E4, D4 (chord)
Measure 5: F4, E4, D4 (chord)
Measure 6: F4, E4, D4 (chord)
Measure 7: F4, E4, D4 (chord)
Measure 8: G4, Bb4, C5 (chord)