

BHSU Keyboard Proficiency Requirements

The purpose of the keyboard proficiency exam is for students to demonstrate their musicianship and knowledge of basic theory concepts through mastery of rudimentary keyboard skills. The music proficiency exam must be taken in the presence of three or more music faculty members. At least four tasks must be attempted. Sections which are not passed may be retaken the following semester. Each task will be graded by each faculty member present. Each task must be completed with an average grade of C or better to pass the exam. Music students will not be permitted to student teach or graduate until the exam is passed. **(Students who are not Music Education Majors may elect to pass any 6 of the following.)**

1. Be able to play, by memory, all major and minor (natural, harmonic, and melodic) scales, hands together, one octave.
2. Perform one piece of prepared piano literature from *Easy Classics to Moderns* (Agay, ed.) or an approved piece of equal or greater difficulty. The piece must be performed with accurate adherence to written pitches, rhythms, dynamics, and other musical indications. Memory is desirable but not necessary.
3. Play accurately a simple melody or folksong chosen by the examiner at sight and provide a simple chordal accompaniment using I, IV, and V7 chords.
4. Sight read a melody which has a simple notated I-IV-V7 chordal accompaniment. Transpose up or down a step.
5. Play one prepared hymn-style (4-part) piece chosen from the following list: America, America the Beautiful, Star Spangled Banner, Battle Hymn of the Republic, Doxology.
6. Play a prepared piano accompaniment with a soloist.
7. Improvise for a minimum of 2 minutes on the piano using a pre-approved simple harmonic frame such as a 12-bar blues.