

# DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Keyboard Musicianship

#### Exemption Exam

*First Year (MUS 113-114) and Second Year (MUS 213-214)*

Music Majors with advanced keyboard ability can examine out of either level of Keyboard Musicianship classes at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters. It is advisable to take the exam at the start of school in the Fall; should the student not pass the exam, or passes only a portion of the exam, this would allow timely enrollment in the proper section of the course sequence. All music majors should try to fulfill the Keyboard Musicianship requirement during the Freshman and Sophomore years.

#### *Exemption Examination*

- two levels of examinations are available – First Year (MUS 113, 114) & Second Year (MUS 213,214);
- exams will be given by appointment only, and must be completed by 12:00 noon of the final day for adding classes each semester;
- exam packets may be obtained from Ms. Diane Wang, 237 Music Bldg., Room 102, two weeks prior to the exam deadline. Students will not be permitted to attempt an exam unless an exam packet has been issued at least 24 hours prior to the exam deadline. To pass the exam, students must demonstrate fluency in all aspects of the exam. Upon successful completion, the exam results and a written statement certifying exemption from Keyboard Musicianship will be placed in the student's file in the departmental office.

#### *Content of Exemption Examination*

- MUS 113-114: test materials will be drawn from Piano Lab: An Introduction to Class Piano (4<sup>th</sup> edition), by Carolyn Lindeman, as well as other supplementary materials. Skills to be tested include:
  - *Technique* – all major scales, some white key harmonic minor scales (a, e, d, g and c), 2 octaves up and down, hands together, each ending with a I-IV-I-V-I cadential chord progression (use closest position chords, utilizing inversions for the IV and V chords). Correct fingering must be demonstrated, rhythm must be steady. All major and minor five finger pentascales, up and down each ending with a I-V-I cadential chord progression (use closest position chords).
  - *Repertoire* – One prepared piece, appropriate for first year level.
  - *Transposition* – One simple piano piece with choral accompaniment, transposed up to a third above or below the original key, and two alto clef examples.
  - *Harmonization* – Two folk songs or simply melodies. Block chord accompaniment, using I, IV and V chords. Closest position chords (using inversions of IV and V chords) must be used.
  - *Score Reading* – one short three part vocal or instrumental score.
  - *Sight Reading* – Two contrasting pieces appropriate for first year level.

- MUS 213-214: test materials will be drawn from Piano Lab: An Introduction to Class Piano (4<sup>th</sup> edition), by Carolyn Lindeman, Essential Keyboard Repertoire, Volume 7, selected and edited by Willard Palmer, as well as other supplementary materials. Skills to be tested include:
  - *Technique* – all major scales, white key harmonic minor scales (a,e,b,d,g,c and f), with arpeggios, 2 octaves up and down, hands together, each ending with a I-IV-I-V-I cadential chord progression. (use closest position chords, utilizing inversions for the IV and V chords). Correct fingering must be demonstrated, rhythm must be steady. All major and minor pentascales, up and down, each ending with a I-V-I cadential chord progression (use closest position chords).
  - *Repertoire* – One prepared piece, appropriate for second year level. One vocal or instrumental accompaniment.
  - *Transposition* – One piece, transposed up to a fourth above or below original key.
  - *Harmonization* – Two melodies, one using a left-hand block chord accompaniment, and the other a left hand patterned accompaniment (*i.e.*, waltz, march, Alberti, etc). Closest position chords (using inversions) must be used.
  - *Score Reading* – one four part vocal or instrumental score.
  - *Sight Reading* – Two contrasting pieces appropriate for second year level.

### Proficiency Exam (required of all music majors)

The purpose of this exam is to ensure that all students obtaining an undergraduate degree from Ole Miss have acquired the requisite keyboard skills deemed necessary by the faculty. Passage of the exam is required prior to degree completion; passage of the exam is a prerequisite to enrollment in MUS 422.

The test is administered in the following manners:

- Undergraduate students who complete their entire degree Ole Miss are required to pass the proficiency exams at the end of each semester of Keyboard Musicianship classes. Thus, instrumental music education students are required two final (proficiency) exams (at the conclusion of MUS 113 and MUS 114), while instrumental performance, vocal performance and vocal music education students are required to four final (proficiency) exams (at the conclusion of MUS 113, MUS 114, MUS 213 and MUS 214). Exams consist of the skills covered during each semester. Students must pass the exams in order to pass to the next level of the sequence (in addition to satisfying other course requirements);
- Transfer students are required to take a Keyboard Proficiency Exam, equivalent in content to the final (proficiency) exams appropriate to their degree (see above). The exams must be taken immediately upon entrance to Ole Miss. Deficiencies will be remedied by required enrollment in appropriate levels of Keyboard Musicianship classes, wherein the students will pass final (proficiency) exams with all other students enrolled.

To permit implementation of this process, all incoming freshman music majors will be enrolled in MUS 113 during their initial semester on campus. Those who believe that their keyboard skills are sufficiently advanced to test out of the courses should follow the process set forth above for exemption.

For additional information concerning Keyboard Exemption or Proficiency requirements, contact Ms. Diane Wang, 915-7029, [dwang@olemiss.edu](mailto:dwang@olemiss.edu)