

PIANO DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

The piano faculty welcomes you to Lawrence! We hope you'll find this handbook useful in preparing for your studies; please refer to it often! Here's where you'll find information:

I. B.Mus. Degree : A. Performance major p. 2, B. Education major p. 5 , C. Theory/Composition major p. 6, II. B.A. in Music and Double Degree p. 7, III. Elective Study p. 9

I. THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC DEGREE

Lawrence offers a variety of degrees with piano as the major applied study: the Bachelor of Music in Performance; the Bachelor of Music in Performance with an Emphasis in Piano Pedagogy; the Bachelor of Music in Performance with an Emphasis in Collaborative Piano; the Bachelor of Music in Performance with an Emphasis in Jazz Studies; the Bachelor of Music in Education; and the Bachelor of Music in Theory/Composition.

Each of these degrees and emphases has its own curriculum, its own expectations, and its own requirements.

A. ENTERING THE PIANO MAJOR: An audition, normally prior to entering Lawrence, is required for all of the degrees listed above under "The Bachelor of Music Degree." In audition you are expected to perform a piece by Bach which includes a fugue, a Sonata-Allegro movement of a Classical sonata, a Romantic period piece, and a piece from the 20th or 21st century. Acceptance for admission through audition indicates that in our judgment you have the potential to meet our minimum expectations; it does not guarantee that you will be able to fulfill requirements for the degree you have chosen to pursue.

Successful applicants will normally register for six course units for applied study during each term of the Freshman year. Five-year double-degree students will register for either three or six course units depending on their other studies. (Requirements during subsequent years vary according to the degree program selected.)

The piano faculty will make studio assignments by the beginning of the academic year. If a student requests placement in a particular studio, a written request to that effect should be sent to the professor involved and the chairperson of the department as early as possible. The department makes every effort to honor such requests, though occasionally they must be denied if a studio is full.

ALL Bachelor of Music candidates with piano as primary applied area are required to complete the two-term course, Functional Skills for Keyboard

Majors (MURP 301, 302) during the freshman year. This course emphasizes the development of functional keyboard skills including sightreading, score-reading, transposition, keyboard harmony, playing by ear, improvisation, and conducting from the keyboard. Taken at one unit per term, the grade affects the student's GPA, but the credits do not apply toward satisfying the minimum number of credits for graduation. All Bachelor of Music piano majors must pass a departmental exam covering all chord progressions taught in this course. Students interested in attempting to test out of the Functional Skills for Keyboard Majors course should see Ms. Van De Loo early in the freshman year.

B. THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN PERFORMANCE (INCLUDING THE EMPHASES IN PIANO PEDAGOGY, COLLABORATIVE PIANO, & JAZZ STUDIES)

Requirements for the Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance:

Piano performance: 54 units

A minimum of 54 units in MUIN 301

Presentation of a half recital during junior year and a full recital during senior year

Supporting courses for the major: 18 units

MURP 451, 452: Literature of the Piano I, II (12 units)

MUEP 301, 302: Piano Pedagogy I, II (6 units)

Keyboard skills: MURP 301, 302: Functional Skills for Keyboard Majors I, II

Ensemble: 12 units

3 units in major ensemble

3 units in chamber music

6 units in MUEN 250: Supervised Accompanying

Admission to any performance major requires successful completion of the appropriate qualifying examination. Students who have not passed the qualifying examination by the completion of 6 TERMS of applied study must petition the Conservatory Committee on Administration, supported by departmental recommendation, for a deferral.

Candidates for all Bachelor of Music degrees with piano as primary applied area will play a technique exam and a performance review during the freshman year and a qualifying exam for the specific major during the sophomore year. Examinations are normally heard at the conclusion of each term.

1. FRESHMAN YEAR:

Technique exam (may be played at the end of any term, may be split up between multiple terms, must be completed before the performance qualifying exam is attempted)

- a. all major and harmonic minor scales, hands together, four octaves. (♩ = M.M. 120, played in 16ths)
- b. all major and minor arpeggios, same format. (♩ = M.M. 120, played in triplet 8ths)
- c. all dominant and diminished seventh arpeggios, same format. (♩ = M.M. 120, played in 16ths)

Performance review (normally played at the end of Term II, should be completed during the first year.)

- a. 15 minutes of music, representing at least two different styles or periods.
- b. Exam repertoire must be memorized. Students who fail this review may repeat it one time.
- c. Either the Performance Review or the Performance Qualifying Exam must include a Bach Prelude and Fugue or another Bach work that includes a fugue and a Sonata Allegro movement from a Classical sonata. These requirements may be split between the two exams.

2. SOPHOMORE YEAR:

Performance qualifying exam (normally played at the end of Term II, should be completed during the second year)

- a. 20 minutes of music representing at least three different styles or periods, at a level of difficulty suitable to the performance major.
- b. Exam repertoire must be memorized. Students who fail this exam may repeat it one time.
- c. Either the Performance Review or the Performance Qualifying Exam must include a Bach Prelude and Fugue or another Bach work that includes a fugue and a Sonata Allegro movement from a Classical sonata. These requirements may be split between the two exams.
- d. QUALIFYING EXAM MUST BE PASSED TO CONTINUE IN A PIANO PERFORMANCE MAJOR AT LAWRENCE WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC PROGRAM. All juries and exams will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

3. JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS:

The piano performance major requires presentation of a half-recital (25-30 minutes of music) during the Junior year, and a full recital (50-60 minutes

of music) during the Senior year. Students must pass a pre-recital hearing no less than 2 weeks before the scheduled recital. Recital program should be comprised of solo piano repertoire, memorized except in the case a difficult contemporary score. Students pursuing the emphasis in jazz studies will present approximately half classical and half jazz works on the full recital.

Students in the piano performance major are required to present in examination one totally self-prepared piece, memorized, before the end of their senior year.

PRIOR TO SCHEDULING A HALF RECITAL, STUDENTS MUST PERFORM TWICE ON A PIANO DEPARTMENTAL RECITAL, MASTERCLASS, OR IN ANOTHER DEPARTMENTALLY - APPROVED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE VENUE.

Non-required recitals require recommendation from the piano faculty to the recital committee.

4. ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION:

All piano performance majors are required to earn 12 units in ensemble participation, participating in an ensemble during each term they are in residence on the Appleton campus. Specifically 3 units in major ensemble, 3 units in chamber music other than jazz combos, and 6 units in supervised accompanying are required.

5. EMPHASIS IN COLLABORATIVE PIANO:

In addition to all requirements for the major in piano performance, the following are required:

a. Supporting courses for the emphasis: 12 units

MURP 420: Piano Accompaniment: Vocal (3 units)

MURP 425: Piano Accompaniment: Instrumental (3 units)

MURP 420 or 425 – repetition of one course (3 units)

MURP 272 English Singing Diction (1 unit); must be fulfilled before requirement 1.e. below

Two of the following in a language not used to satisfy the General Education language requirement , noted in “c” below (2 units): MURP 273 Italian and Latin Singing Diction, MURP 274 German Singing Diction, MURP 275 French Singing Diction.

One term of Opera Scenes, which may count toward fulfillment of the Supervised Accompanying requirement for all piano performance majors.

b. The emphasis in collaborative piano requires playing for one half vocal recital and one half instrumental recital (in addition to completing the normal solo degree recitals). Repertoire from these recitals must be

prepared under supervision of keyboard faculty member(s) through registration in an accompanying class, supervised accompanying, or chamber music. Collaborative recitals typically should not be scheduled during the same term as a solo piano degree recital.

- c. General Education Requirement (required of all B.M. students): 12 units of one of the following (or placement at the intermediate level): French, German, or Italian, taken for a grade

6. Emphasis in piano pedagogy:

In addition to all requirements for the major in piano performance, the following are required:

Supporting courses for the emphasis: 15 units

MUEP 303: Piano Pedagogy III (3 units)

Two of MUEP 502: Early Advanced Piano Pedagogy;

MUEP 503: Group Piano Pedagogy;

MUEP 505: Internship in Piano Pedagogy (6 units);

MUEP 581, 582: Student Teaching in Piano I, II (6 units)

General Education: completion of the requirement must include:

PSYC 260 or PSYC 340

7. Emphasis in Jazz and Improvisational Studies:
Find relevant information by following this link:

https://www.lawrence.edu/conservatory/degrees_information/the_major_in_performance

C. THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN EDUCATION (Piano)

Like all candidates for the Bachelor of Music degree with piano as primary applied area, potential education majors will play a technique exam and a performance review during the freshman year and a qualifying exam for the specific major during the sophomore year. Examinations are normally heard at the conclusion of each term. Students passing requirements for the Music Education major will normally continue applied piano instruction at the rate of 3 units per term.

1. FRESHMAN YEAR:

Technique exam (may be played at the end of any term, may be split up between multiple terms, must be completed before the performance qualifying exam is attempted)

- a. all major and harmonic minor scales, hands together, four octaves. (♯ = M.M. 100, played in 16th notes)

b. all major and minor arpeggios, same format. (♩ = M.M. 100, played in triplet 8ths)

Performance review (normally played at the end of Term II, should be completed during the first year.)

- a. 15 minutes of music, representing at least two different styles or periods.
- b. Exam repertoire must be memorized. Students who fail this review may repeat it one time.
- c. Either the Performance Review or the Performance Qualifying Exam must include a Bach Prelude and Fugue or another Bach work that includes a fugue and a Sonata Allegro movement from a Classical sonata. These requirements may be split between the two exams.

2. SOPHOMORE YEAR: Performance qualifying exam (normally played at the end of Term II, should be completed during the second year)

- a. 15 minutes of music representing at least three different styles or periods.
- b. Exam repertoire must be memorized. Students who fail this exam may repeat it one time.
- c. Either the Performance Review or the Performance Qualifying Exam must include a Bach Prelude and Fugue or another Bach work that includes a fugue and a Sonata Allegro movement from a Classical sonata. These requirements may be split between the two exams.
- d. THE TECHNIQUE EXAM, THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW, AND THE QUALIFYING EXAM MUST BE PASSED TO CONTINUE IN A MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR, AT LAWRENCE WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC PROGRAM WITH PIANO AS THE MAJOR INSTRUMENT.

3. JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS: The Music Education major requires presentation of a half-recital (approximately 25-30 minutes of music) during either Junior or Senior year. (In the latter case, recitals should NOT be scheduled during the term of practice teaching.)

PRIOR TO SCHEDULING A HALF RECITAL, STUDENTS MUST PERFORM TWICE ON A PIANO DEPARTMENTAL RECITAL, MASTERCLASS, OR IN ANOTHER DEPARTMENTALLY - APPROVED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE VENUE.

Non-required recitals require recommendation from the piano faculty to the recital committee.

D. THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN THEORY/COMPOSITION (Piano)

Candidates for the Bachelor of music in Theory/Composition (with piano as primary applied area) will play a technique exam and a performance review

during the freshman year and a qualifying exam for the specific major during the sophomore year. Examinations are normally held at the conclusion of each term.

1. FRESHMAN YEAR:

Technique exam (may be played at the end of any term, may be split up between multiple terms, must be completed before the performance qualifying exam is attempted)

- a. all major and harmonic minor scales, hands together, four octaves. (♩ = M.M. 112, played in 16th notes)
- b. all major and minor arpeggios, same format. (♩ = M.M. 112, played in triplet 8ths)
- c. all dominant and diminished seventh arpeggios, same format. (♩ = M.M. 112, played in 16th notes)

Performance review (normally played at the end of Term II, should be completed during the first year.)

- a. 15 minutes of music, representing at least two different styles or periods.
- b. Exam repertoire must be memorized. Students who fail this review may repeat it one time.
- c. Either the Performance Review or the Performance Qualifying Exam must include a Bach Prelude and Fugue or another Bach work that includes a fugue and a Sonata Allegro movement from a Classical sonata. These requirements may be split between the two exams.

2. SOPHOMORE YEAR: Performance qualifying exam (normally played at the end of Term II, should be completed during the second year)

- a. 15 minutes of music representing at least three different styles or periods. One of the pieces performed in the Qualifying Exam must be in a contemporary idiom.
- b. Exam repertoire must be memorized. Students who fail this exam may repeat it one time.
- c. Either the Performance Review or the Performance Qualifying Exam must include a Bach Prelude and Fugue or another Bach work that includes a fugue and a Sonata Allegro movement from a Classical sonata. These requirements may be split between the two exams.

THE TECHNIQUE EXAM, THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW, AND THE QUALIFYING EXAM MUST BE PASSED TO CONTINUE IN A THEORY/COMPOSITION MAJOR, WITH PIANO AS MAJOR INSTRUMENT AT LAWRENCE WITHIN THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC PROGRAM.

Students passing requirements for the Theory/Composition major will normally continue applied piano instruction at the rate of 3 units per term.

Non-required recitals require recommendation from the piano faculty to the recital committee.

II. THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC (Piano)

BA students will be required to pass an entry exam by the end of their freshman year, which will admit them to the music major. The exam shall consist of 10 minutes of music, memorized, and learned since matriculation at Lawrence. Pieces performed should be drawn from at least two different style periods and be at a minimum level of an easier classical sonata-allegro movement, a Bach 3 part Invention, and an easier Chopin Nocturne.

Students must pass a qualifying exam by the end of their sophomore year to include:

- All major and harmonic minor scales, hands together, four octaves, quarter note=80, played in 16th notes
- 15 minutes of music, memorized representing at least three different style periods (baroque, classical, romantic, impressionist, 20th-21st century). The exam must include a sonata-allegro movement of a classical sonata and a contrapuntal work of Bach if these categories were not covered in the freshman entry exam.

At the completion of the exam, students will be advised whether they may continue in the major, and, if so, whether it is recommended that they pursue a recital performance as their final project or a more academic presentation.

Music Minor

Requirements for the music minor

1. Music theory: 18 units: MUTH 151, 161, and 171 or 201, 211, and 221; 152, 162, and 172 or 202, 212, and 222; 251, 261, and 271
2. Music history: 12 units: MUHI 201, 202
3. Performance: MUIN (Applied Individual Instruction) 9 units and 3 terms of study
4. Ensemble: MUEN (Ensemble Performance Study): 3 units and 3 terms participation
5. Keyboard skills: 3 units: MURP 201, 202, 203 or 2 units: MURP 301, 302 or demonstrated proficiency
6. C average in the minor

III. ELECTIVE STUDY

Students with previous piano study may be placed, based on audition, in private lessons or an Intermediate Piano Class. Those interested in the class should speak with the keyboard skills coordinator. Those interested in lessons should contact the chair of the piano department to schedule an audition at the very beginning of the term.

Students taking private lessons will be expected to practice a minimum of 1-1/2 hours a day. Concert attendance may be required. Studio assignment will be based upon your audition and teacher availability.

We urge non-major piano students to take MUTH 100 (Theory for non-majors) as an adjunct to their piano study. This 3-unit course is usually offered during Term III. Non-majors taking piano lessons are strongly advised to study for a minimum of two terms. A single ten week term of study is likely to be of little long term benefit.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PIANO STUDY

Attending Performances

The importance of listening to music performed by others cannot be emphasized too strongly. Much about literature, style, musicianship, technique, and stage deportment can be learned through seeing and hearing others perform. Each piano student is required to attend all piano recitals given by students, professors, and visiting artists. Knowledge of vocal, instrumental, choral, and orchestral literature is essential for any well-educated musician as well, so a broad spectrum of concert attendance will be expected.

Practice

It is impossible to set strict requirements for practicing. It seems safe to say, however, that a minimum of three hours daily practice for each one-hour lesson is necessary for suitable progress. More than three hours is often needed, especially when preparing for performances. In any case, use your time wisely. When you have graduated from Lawrence you will very likely discover that three hours practice is a luxury hard to find! Take advantage of this opportunity while you have it!

Your methods of practicing are at least as important as the amount of time devoted to it. Think; plan; concentrate.

Accompanying

The Piano Department considers accompanying an integral part of your experience at Lawrence University. The Instrumental Accompanying Coordinator will oversee repertoire assignments for student collaborative pianists accompanying instrumental students; the Vocal Accompanying Coordinator will

oversee repertoire assignments for student collaborative pianists accompanying vocal students. All student soloists, collaborative pianists, and their teachers should completely fill out and sign a Student Collaborative Pianist Contract, available at the Conservatory Office. The contract will state the specific repertoire to be prepared, performance date, number of rehearsals, lessons, and studio classes, and the fee (if applicable). Cancellations for accompanying commitments will not be tolerated except in cases of family bereavement or physical injury (requiring a doctor's note). In these cases, the pianist is responsible for finding a replacement. If piano students need help with their accompanying parts, they should feel free to consult their studio teachers during lessons.

Lawrence student pianists are reimbursed for their accompanying services as Accompanying Fellows, through hourly pay, or by receiving ensemble credit (in Supervised Accompanying or Chamber Music). All piano performance majors are required to earn six units in Supervised Accompanying as part of their ensemble requirement. Accompanying Fellows may receive Supervised Accompanying credit for their accompanying fellowship assignments.

All students registering for Supervised Accompanying must complete the Supervised Accompanying registration form, available online or from the Registrar, to be signed both by their studio teacher and the supervising voice or instrumental faculty member. In addition, the Piano Department will assign piano students each term for piano parts in all large ensembles.

Studio Changes

Although studio changes are generally discouraged, a student may consider such a change if there is an irreparable personality conflict or a serious lack of communication which inhibits progress. In any case, please discuss the problem first with the teacher involved. Other resource people include your advisor, the chairperson of the Keyboard Department, and the Dean. If the situation does not improve, the student may ask the Dean of the Conservatory to request the Keyboard Department for a new studio assignment.

Missed Lessons

Students are expected to attend all lessons as scheduled unless they are ill and have a physician's note to that effect. Absences without prior notification will be considered unexcused. Unexcused absences will not be rescheduled.

If you know you are going to miss a lesson, let your teacher know as soon as possible. This is a courtesy much appreciated. Avoid missing lessons for any but the most important reasons! It is debilitating for both student and teacher if regular contact is needlessly interrupted. The idea of a make-up (rescheduled) lesson is not merely to go through the formality of replacing a lesson. It should be undertaken only when you have recovered, practiced, and are fully ready to play and to gain from the experience.

Non-required Performances

Students are encouraged to participate in collaborative performances through accompanying other students in lessons, juries, and recitals and through participation in chamber-music groups. Please, however, consult with your teacher each time before undertaking a new assignment. It's all too easy to become so involved in such activities that you have inadequate time and energy for your own individual progress, both musical and academic.

Please get the approval of your studio teacher for ANY public performance, either on campus or off campus. The purpose of this is not to inhibit your performance opportunities, but to safeguard you against over-extending. In addition, as a student, your performances represent not just you, but also your teacher and the Lawrence Conservatory. We have a professional interest in the quality of your performances!