



Fall | 14

Student Handbook

Sheridan College Department of Music

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Introduction

The Department of Music Student Handbook is distributed electronically to all music majors and faculty at the beginning of each fall semester. It is intended to highlight college policies and procedures that are particularly relevant to students seeking the Associates of Fine Arts degree in Music and/or the Certificate of Completion in Music Technology.

Music Department Mission Statement

The Sheridan College Department of Music is committed to providing quality music instruction, numerous performing opportunities, and diverse cultural enrichment for the college populace and the surrounding community.

Program Outcomes

Associate of Fine Arts Degree in Music (General or Music Technology Emphasis)

Graduates of the Music A.F.A. Program will be able to:

1. perform varied repertoire associated with the student's primary instrument.
2. summarize musical styles, genres, traditions, and major figures from various cultures and historical periods.
3. analyze written and aural examples from music literature.
4. use basic music technology tools.
5. demonstrate competency in basic piano keyboard skills.

Certificate of Completion in Music Technology

Graduates of the Music Technology Certificate of Completion Program will be able to:

1. operate music technology-related software and hardware.
2. apply problem-solving skills to resolve technical or musical challenges.
3. design and realize musical compositions and productions.
4. assemble a portfolio for purposes of self-promotion and professional networking.
5. collaborate effectively with others in a creative team environment.

Faculty

Brian Casey

BA, Harding University; MM, University of Delaware; DA, University of Northern Colorado. Director of Bands and Brass Instruction. bcasey@sheridan.edu

Christian Erickson

BM, University of Wyoming; MM, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; DMA, University of Colorado Boulder. Coordinator of Music Theory & Technology. cerickson@sheridan.edu

Gene Sager

BA, BM, MM, University of Michigan; MA, Southern Oregon University. Director of Choral Music and Vocal Instruction. gsager@sheridan.edu

Adjunct Instructors

Jan Ambler, piano and music fundamentals; Dr. Timothy Buckman, guitar; Don Cherney, clarinet; Betsy Edwards, piano; McKay Fleck, guitar; Chris Hornung, double bass; DeeDee Johnson, music appreciation; Rod Jost, electric bass guitar; Ashley Lecholot, voice; Erik Olsen, piano and saxophone; Jordan Wirth, percussion; Leslie Viren, flute.

Academic Requirements for Programs of Study

The Sheridan College Music Department offers three programs of study: the Associate of Fine Arts Degree in Music (General Music Emphasis), the Associate of Fine Arts Degree in Music (Music Technology Emphasis), and the Certificate of Completion in Music Technology.

Associate of Fine Arts Degree in Music (General Emphasis)

The AFA Degree in Music delivers a full two-year curriculum which prepares students to transfer to baccalaureate institutions at a junior standing. This degree is designed for the music major desiring a career in areas of performance and/or academia. The curriculum focuses on the traditional core training of the conservatory model which includes foundations in music theory, history, keyboard skills, and performance. The degree consists of a minimum of 61 credit hours as summarized below:

Core Curriculum (31 credit hours)

- MUSC 1030 Written Theory I (3 credit hours)
- MUSC 1035 Aural Theory I (1)
- MUSC 1040 Written Theory II (3)
- MUSC 1045 Aural Theory II (1)
- MUSC 1300 Class Piano I (1)
- MUSC 1301 Class Piano II (1)
- MUSC 1302 Class Piano III (1)
- MUSC 1303 Class Piano IV (1)
- MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology (3)
- MUSC 2030 Written Theory III (3)
- MUSC 2035 Aural Theory III (1)
- MUSC 2040 Written Theory IV (3)
- MUSC 2045 Aural Theory IV (1)
- MUSC 2050 Music History Survey I (3)
- MUSC 2055 Music History Survey II (3)
- MUSC 2500 Music Portfolio (2)

Lessons Requirement (8 credit hours)

All music majors must enroll in one private lesson per semester. 1000-level lessons are intended for first-year study and 2000-level courses for second-year study. Students may choose private study in brass, guitar, percussion, piano, voice, or winds. All private lessons are 2 credit hours each for a total of 8 credit hours that can be applied toward the lessons requirement of an AFA in Music.

Ensemble Requirement (4 credit hours)

All music majors must enroll in one ensemble per semester. Students may choose to participate in chamber choir, collegiate chorale, jazz combo, jazz ensemble, music tech ensemble, wind ensemble, or woodwind ensemble. All ensembles are 1 credit hour each for a total of 4 credit hours that can be applied toward the ensemble requirement of an AFA in Music.

Piano Proficiency Exam (optional)

Although not required for graduation from Sheridan College, students are strongly encouraged to complete MUSC 2395 Piano Proficiency Exam. This is a zero-credit exam administered by a member of the piano faculty which certifies keyboard competency. This type of exam is required by most transfer institutions for a baccalaureate degree, and completion of the exam is a prerequisite for certain upper-level courses at some colleges and universities.

Sheridan College music majors are advised to complete the exam toward the end of MUSC 1303 Class Piano IV. Upon successful completion of the exam, a grade of “Pass” will be added to the student’s transcript documenting his or her keyboard competency. There is no limit to the number of times a student can attempt the exam. To initiate the exam, students should contact a member of the piano faculty.

General Education Requirements (18 - 21 credit hours) *

- ENGL 1010 English I (3 credit hours)
- Advanced Writing Requirement (3)
- Basic Math Requirement (3)
- Health & Wellness Requirement (2)
- US & WY Constitutions Requirement (3)
- Cultural Context Requirement (3)
- Science Requirement (4)

* The Cultural Context requirement may be fulfilled by completing the core curriculum courses MUSC 2050 Music History Survey I or MUSC 2055 Music History Survey II, in which case the total General Education requirements are 18 credit hours.

Recommended Course of Study for the Associate of Fine Arts Degree in Music (General Emphasis)

Freshman Year	
Fall Semester	Spring Semester
ENGL 1010 English I (3 credits)	AW 1xxx Advanced Writing Elective (3)
MUSC 1030 Written Theory I (3)	MUSC 1040 Written Theory II (3)
MUSC 1035 Aural Theory I (1)	MUSC 1045 Aural Theory II (1)
MUSC 1300 Class Piano I (1)	MUSC 1301 Class Piano II (1)
MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology (3)	MUSC 1xxx Lesson Elective I (2)
MUSC 1xxx Lesson Elective I (2) [†]	MUSC 1xxx Ensemble Elective (1)
MUSC 1xxx Ensemble Elective (1) [‡]	BM 1xxx Basic Math Elective (3)
WL 1xxx Health & Wellness Elective (2)	
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 16	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14

Sophomore Year	
Fall Semester	Spring Semester
MUSC 2030 Written Theory III (3)	MUSC 2040 Written Theory IV (3)
MUSC 2035 Aural Theory III (1)	MUSC 2045 Aural Theory IV (1)
MUSC 1302 Class Piano III (1)	MUSC 1303 Class Piano IV (1)
MUSC 2050 Music History Survey I (3)	MUSC 2055 Music History Survey II (3)
MUSC 2xxx Lesson Elective II (2)	MUSC 2500 Music Portfolio (2)
MUSC 1xxx Ensemble Elective (1)	MUSC 2xxx Lesson Elective II (2)
CNST 1xxx US & WY Constitutions (3)	MUSC 1xxx Ensemble Elective (1)
CC Cultural Context Elective (3) [optional]	SCI 1xxx Science Elective (4)
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14 - 17	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 17

Program Total Credit Hours: 61 - 64

[†] Students may choose private study in brass, guitar, percussion, piano, voice or winds.

[‡] Students may choose to participate in chamber choir, collegiate chorale, jazz combo, jazz ensemble, music tech ensemble, wind ensemble, or woodwind ensemble.

Associate of Fine Arts Degree in Music (Music Technology Emphasis)

The AFA Degree in Music (Music Technology Emphasis) combines the curriculum of the Music Technology Certificate of Completion, a traditional minor in music, and several music-tech related courses that go beyond the scope of the Music Technology Certificate. This degree is designed for the music major who may wish to transfer to either a traditional four-year music program or to a professional trade school. The curriculum focuses on recording arts, digital audio production and editing, music engraving, and self-promotion, as well as performance, music notation literacy, ear training, keyboard skills, and music history. The degree consists of a minimum of 61 credit hours as summarized below:

Core Curriculum (31 credit hours)

- MUSC 1070 Private Lessons: Composition (2 credit hours)
- MUSC 1030 Written Theory I (3)
- MUSC 1035 Aural Theory I (1)
- MUSC 1040 Written Theory II (3)
- MUSC 1045 Aural Theory II (1)
- MUSC 1300 Class Piano I (1)
- MUSC 1301 Class Piano II (1)
- MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology (3)
- MUSC 2050 Music History Survey I (3)
- MUSC 2055 Music History Survey II (3)
- MUSC 2410 Techniques for Live Sound (2)
- MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Technology (3)
- MUSC 2445 Topics in Music Technology (1)
- MUSC 2465 Directed Studies in Music (2)
- MUSC 2500 Music Portfolio (2)

Lessons Requirement (8 credit hours)

All music majors must enroll in one private lesson per semester. 1000-level lessons are intended for first-year study and 2000-level courses for second-year study. Students may choose private study in brass, guitar, percussion, piano, voice, or winds. All private lessons are 2 credit hours per semester for a total of 8 credit hours that can be applied toward the lessons requirement of an AFA in Music.

Ensemble Requirement (4 credit hours)

All music majors must enroll in one ensemble per semester. Students may choose to participate in chamber choir, collegiate chorale, jazz combo, jazz ensemble, music tech ensemble, wind ensemble, or woodwind ensemble. All ensembles are 1 credit hour each for a total of 4 credit hours that can be applied toward the ensemble requirement of an AFA in Music.

General Education Requirements (18 - 21 credit hours)[§]

- ENGL 1010 English I (3 credit hours)
- Advanced Writing Requirement (3)
- Basic Math Requirement (3)
- Health & Wellness Requirement (2)
- US & WY Constitutions Requirement (3)
- Cultural Context Requirement (3)
- Science Requirement (4)

[§] The Cultural Context requirement may be fulfilled by completing the core curriculum courses MUSC 2050 Music History Survey I or MUSC 2055 Music History Survey II, in which case the total General Education requirements are 18 credit hours.

Recommended Course of Study for the Associate of Fine Arts Degree in Music (Music Technology Emphasis)

Freshman Year	
Fall Semester	Spring Semester
ENGL 1010 English I (3 credits)	AW 1xxx Advanced Writing Elective (3)
MUSC 1030 Written Theory I (3)	MUSC 1040 Written Theory II (3)
MUSC 1035 Aural Theory I (1)	MUSC 1045 Aural Theory II (1)
MUSC 1300 Class Piano I (1)	MUSC 1301 Class Piano II (1)
MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology (3)	MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Tech (3)
MUSC 1xxx Lesson Elective I (2)**	MUSC 1xxx Lesson Elective I (2)
MUSC 1xxx Ensemble Elective (1) ^{††}	MUSC 1xxx Ensemble Elective (1)
WL 1xxx Health & Wellness Elective (2)	BM 1xxx Basic Math Elective (3)
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 16	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 17

Sophomore Year	
Fall Semester	Spring Semester
MUSC 1070 Pr. Lessons: Composition (2)	MUSC 2055 Music History Survey II (3)
MUSC 2050 Music History Survey I (3)	MUSC 2465 Directed Studies in Music (2)
MUSC 2410 Techniques for Live Sound (2)	MUSC 2500 Music Portfolio (2)
MUSC 2445 Topics in Music Tech (1)	MUSC 2xxx Lesson Elective II (2)
MUSC 2xxx Lesson Elective II (2)	MUSC 1xxx Ensemble Elective (1)
MUSC 1xxx Ensemble Elective (1)	SCI 1xxx Science Elective (4)
CNST 1xxx US & WY Constitutions (3)	
CC Cultural Context Elective (3) [optional]	
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14 - 17	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 14

Program Total Credit Hours: 61 - 64

** Students may choose private study in brass, guitar, percussion, piano, voice or winds.

^{††} Students may choose to participate in chamber choir, collegiate chorale, jazz combo, jazz ensemble, music tech ensemble, wind ensemble, or woodwind ensemble.

Certificate of Completion in Music Technology

The Sheridan College Music Technology Program offers a comprehensive course of study that leads to a Certificate of Completion in Music Technology. This certificate is designed for students desiring a career in areas of music production. The curriculum focuses on recording arts, digital audio production and editing, music engraving, performance and self-promotion. The certificate may be earned as a stand-alone credential, or as a supplement to any other degree offered by the college.

Core Curriculum (10 credit hours)

- MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology (3)
- MUSC 2410 Techniques for Live Sound (2)
- MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Technology (3)
- MUSC 2500 Music Portfolio (2)

Electives (2 - 4 credit hours)

- MUSC 1010 Music Fundamentals (2)

or

- MUSC 1030 Written Theory I (3) *and*
- MUSC 1300 Class Piano I (1)

**Recommended Course of Study for the Certificate of Completion in Music Technology
— One-Year Plan**

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology (3)	MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Tech (3)
MUSC 2410 Techniques for Live Sound (2)	MUSC 2500 Music Portfolio (2)
MUSC 1xxx Electives (2-4)	
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 7 - 9	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 5

**Recommended Course of Study for the Certificate of Completion in Music Technology
— Two-Year Plan**

Freshman Year	
Fall Semester	Spring Semester
MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology (3)	MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Tech (3)
MUSC 1xxx Electives (2-4)	
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 5 - 7	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 3

Sophomore Year	
Fall Semester	Spring Semester
MUSC 2410 Techniques for Live Sound (2)	MUSC 2500 Music Portfolio (2)
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 2	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 2

Program Total Credit Hours: 12 - 14

Financial Aid and Scholarships

The Financial Aid Office at Sheridan College assists students whose personal and family resources are not adequate to cover the costs involved in attending the institution. They provide assistance with:

- Processing financial aid forms to determine eligibility for grants, loans, and work-study employment.
- Advising students regarding financial aid and money management matters.
- Processing awarded scholarships.
- Answers to any and all of your financial aid-related questions.

The Financial Aid Office examines the student's total financial situation and uses that information to assemble a financial aid portfolio.

In the spring semester, the music department submits a prioritized list of top prospects and returning students to the Financial Aid Office for the awarding of scholarships and other aid. Students are notified by the Financial Aid Office of their total financial aid package shortly thereafter.

For incoming music majors wishing to be considered for financial aid, we offer the following tips:

- Apply for admission as soon as possible.
- Arrange to visit the campus and meet with a member of the music faculty.
- If visiting during the academic year, we encourage you to perform an audition on your major instrument and/or, if applicable, make a presentation of examples of your creative work (e.g. compositions, self-produced recordings, etc.). This is required of any student seeking a music scholarship.
- Fill out the appropriate paperwork with the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible. Note that recommendations for music scholarships are submitted to the Financial Aid Office by the music faculty no later than April 15 each year.

For consideration of renewal of awards, students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better, remain at full-time status, and satisfactorily complete all requirements of their declared degree track.

Music Scholarship Audition Guidelines

All students must audition in order to be considered for a music scholarship. Priority for scholarships is given to high-performing students who declare a music major. Talented non-majors are also encouraged to apply for a scholarship. Scholarship awards may be up to full tuition and lesson fees.

Scholarship recipients are expected to perform in at least one departmental ensemble every semester, and must enroll for private lessons in the music department. For music majors, satisfactory progress toward the completion of a music degree or certificate is required for scholarship renewal.

Live auditions are strongly encouraged. In lieu of a live audition, students may submit a video recording on DVD or sound recording on CD for consideration. Whether auditioning live or via recorded media, submission of letters of endorsement from teachers, music educators, or others familiar with scholarship applicant's musical abilities is highly recommended.

To initiate an audition, contact the appropriate faculty member for your instrument or area:

- Dr. Brian Casey — brass, winds, guitar, percussion; **bcasey@sheridan.edu**
- Dr. Christian Erickson — piano, composition, music production; **cerickson@sheridan.edu**
- Mr. Gene Sager — vocal arts; **gsager@sheridan.edu** (please CC Drs. Casey and Erickson as well)

The following are the audition requirements for each area:

Brass and Woodwinds

Perform an audition, up to 10 minutes, on your major instrument. It is not necessary to have an accompanist. The music performed should include the following:

- Two standard solos of contrasting styles (one movement of concerto or sonata or comparable solo of Class A level or above).
- Major and minor (all three forms - natural, harmonic and melodic) scales with arpeggios, and chromatic scales.
- Sight-reading of commensurate difficulty for all instruments.

Composition/Music Production

Present recordings or live performances of two musical compositions or productions to the faculty. Accompanying scores, if applicable, should be presented as well. The two works should be in contrasting styles or genres, and at least one of the two works should be for more than a single instrument. Scholarship applicants wishing to focus on composition and/or music production are expected to be proficient and active performers on at least one conventional instrument.

Guitar

Perform an audition up to 10 minutes. Your audition should include the following:

- Two movements or compositions in contrasting character or style, such as a fast and slow movement of a Sor Etude, Nos. 11-20 (Segovia edition).
- A movement of a Bach suite (or the equivalent).

Candidates will also be asked to sight-read a jazz lead sheet (once playing the melody and then once comping the harmonies) and demonstrate knowledge of major scales and arpeggios, and melodic minor scales arpeggios.

Percussion

Required audition areas (must do both)

- A solo on marimba, vibraphone, or xylophone. The solo may be for two or four mallets (a four-mallet solo is strongly encouraged).
- A snare drum solo that demonstrates concert style.

Choice areas (choose one or more)

- Timpani - A solo for two, three, or four drums. Excerpts from the standard orchestral repertoire would also be acceptable.
- Multiple percussion - A solo on any combination of percussion instruments.

- Drum Set - A prepared solo and/or improvisation in a variety of styles.
- World percussion instruments - A prepared solo and/or improvisation in an area of your choice.

Piano

Perform an audition up to 10 minutes. Your audition should include two *memorized* solos from any two of these four stylistic periods:

- A Bach keyboard composition with a contrapuntal texture (invention, fugue, etc.)
- A Bach keyboard composition with a contrapuntal texture (invention, fugue, etc.)
- A Romantic work by composers such as Chopin, Brahms, and Schumann
- A 20th century work by a composer such as Debussy, Bartok or other major composer writing after 1900

Candidates will also be asked to sight-read at least two excerpts and demonstrate knowledge of major and melodic minor scales.

Voice

Perform an audition up to 10 minutes. You may bring your own accompanist, or we will provide one. If you will require our accompanist, please send one copy of your audition music to arrive at least two weeks prior to the audition date. You will be evaluated based on tonal quality, rhythm, intonation, phrasing, interpretation, diction, and stage presence as well as overall musical ability and accuracy. Your audition should include:

- Two selections of contrasting styles to be sung by memory (may include an appropriate opera or oratorio aria). One song must be in English; the second song may be in English or a foreign language.

Candidates will also be asked to attempt a short ear-training exam and sight-read a few rhythmic exercises.

Department Policies—Academic

Private Music Lessons and Jury Requirements

All students enrolled in applied lessons will receive a minimum of 14 lessons per semester. Lessons duration is a minimum of 30 minutes. All lessons are listed as “TBA” (to be arranged) in the class schedule. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor to arrange a mutually-convenient meeting time for the semester. Contact must be made prior to the second week of classes. Students not making contact by that time will be dropped from the roster.

Applied music lessons are offered at two undergraduate levels:

- **1000 Level**—First year majors, second-year majors studying a secondary instrument, and non-majors. First-year majors have a required jury at the end of each semester of study.
- **2000 Level**—Second-year majors with two semesters of 1000-level lessons for the primary instrument or voice type completed. Jury required at the end of each semester of study.

Music Core Course Withdrawal or Failure

Music majors pursuing the AFA are expected to enroll in and satisfactorily complete one of *each* of the music course classes every semester (Written Theory, Aural Theory, Class Piano, a private lesson, and an ensemble). Grades below a C, withdrawal, or failure in any of the core classes may jeopardize a student’s good standing as a music major, and may result in music-related financial aid being cancelled.

Of particular concern is withdrawal or failure of theory/class piano courses. As these classes are offered only once a year, incompleteness of any one of them will add an additional year of study before the student can complete the AFA degree. The department strongly encourages students to complete the core within a four-semester timeframe. Most of these courses are prerequisites for upper-level study, so even if a student transfers without finishing a degree, deficiencies in the core classes will result in at least one additional year of study at the transfer institution. Given the trend of rising tuition rates at four-year colleges and universities, this may result in a significant, and unnecessary, financial cost for the student .

Tutoring Services

Free tutoring services are available to all students in a variety of subjects including music courses. To arrange for a tutor, visit the Student Success Center (Griffith Memorial Building 110) or call 674-6446, ext. 2701.

Piano Guidelines for Music Majors

As a general rule of thumb, all AFA-seeking music majors should enroll for and complete the entire four-semester sequence of Class Piano. This is particularly essential for those who plan to transfer to a four-year institution. More specific guidelines are as follows:

- Music majors with no prior keyboard experience, or those who have not studied piano within the five years prior to enrollment as a music major should enroll for MUSC 1300 Class Piano I and complete the four-semester sequence in order.
- Music majors with keyboard experience (three or more years of *recent* study) may elect to “test out” of one or more components of the four-semester sequence. Study materials for each test-out exam can be obtained from any of our piano faculty. Students should contact a piano instructor as soon as possible should they wish to schedule an appropriate test-out exam. A grade of “C” or better is considered a passing grade. A testing fee will apply and must be arranged through the Office of the Registrar as described below. Students should remain enrolled in class piano until they pass the exam or exams.

Class Piano Sequence Test-Out Policy for Experienced Piano Students

The purpose of the class piano sequence is to develop or expand solo performance and/or accompanying skills through individual instruction, ensemble activities, performance opportunities, and individual practice and study. The four courses of the class piano sequence are required for completion of the AFA in Music.

Students with several years of private piano training may find some of the content of the sequence rudimentary and unnecessary for completion of their core music training at Sheridan College. It is with these students in mind that the following policy procedure for challenging the sequence is implemented:

- **Step 1:** The student should consult with the class piano instructor to determine the best course of action for his or her particular situation.
- **Step 2:** For *each* of the four class piano courses to be challenged (MUSC 1300-1303), the student and instructor should fill out the top portion of the Petition for Course Proficiency form, available on the college website in the Student Forms section of the Records Office Page (web shortcut to Records Office page: mcaf.ee/o0dhr).
- **Step 3:** The student should take the partially-completed form(s) to the Records office, where eligibility for challenge will be verified.

- **Step 4:** The student then takes the form(s) to the Business Office to pay the testing fee(s). A mandatory \$40 examination fee is payable to the Records Office for each challenged course. Note that the entire four-course sequence does not have to be completed in a single examination, but rather can be spread out over the student's duration of study at the college.
- **Step 5:** The form should be returned to and retained by the instructor until completion of the exam(s).
- **Step 6:** The class piano instructor and student will meet at a mutually-convenient time for the administration of the challenge exam(s).
- **Step 7:** Upon satisfactory completion of said exam(s), the instructor will collect the remaining necessary signatures to complete the form. Once ultimately signed by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the form will be returned to the Records Office. Each successfully-challenged course will be noted as completed on the student's permanent transcript, and the requirement that each course fulfills for the AFA in Music will be satisfied.

For students who successfully challenge all four class piano courses, simultaneous satisfaction of MUSC 2395 Piano Proficiency Exam is granted without further examination. For this to be officially included on the student's transcript, an additional Petition for Course Proficiency form and fee for MUSC 2395 should be completed. Although the Proficiency Exam is not a requirement for graduation, it does serve as proof of keyboard competency for students transferring to a four-year college or university, and, in most cases, will excuse the student from further keyboard examination at the transfer institution (students should consult with the piano faculty at SC and the transfer institution to see if the Proficiency Exam will be beneficial to the student's transfer plan).

Piano Proficiency Examination Guidelines

Piano Proficiency Exam (General Transfer Emphasis^{††})

Requirements & Study Guide

1. Technique

Perform any major or harmonic minor scale, hands together in two octaves with correct fingering.

2. Prepared Harmonization

Harmonize lead sheets of two assigned melodies that employ both primary and secondary chords. One melody will be in a major key and the other in a minor key. They will be in different meters. Use an accompaniment appropriate for each melody (no block chords).

3. Sight-Reading Harmonization

Harmonize lead sheets of two simple melodies at sight using primary chords. One melody will be in a major key and the other in a minor key. Use an accompaniment appropriate for each melody (block chords are acceptable).

4. Transposition

Transpose one of the prepared lead sheets from the harmonization section above into two keys (M2, M3, P4 or P5 from the original key). Do the same for one of the sight-reading harmonizations. For each, use the same accompaniment applied to the original keys.

5. Accompaniment

Choose and prepare a simple vocal or instrumental accompaniment related to the student's area (it is not necessary to bring a soloist to the exam).

^{††} Students planning to transfer to UW or BHSU should prepare from those institutions' respective piano proficiency guidelines. Consult with a member of the piano faculty for more information.

6. Sing and Play

Prepare and sing, while accompanying yourself at the piano, a patriotic song such as “America,” “America the Beautiful,” or “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

7. Score Reading

Prepare and perform a three-part vocal score. The student must read from the score itself.

8. Improvisation

Improvise for a minimum of two minutes using a pre-approved harmonic framework such as the 12-bar blues pattern.

9. Prepared Literature

Prepare and perform two works from *Agay: Easy Classics to Moderns* (or other works of similar difficulty). The pieces should be from two contrasting stylistic periods.

10. Sight-Reading Literature

Perform at sight a homophonic composition that uses a simple chordal accompaniment and a simple four-part hymn.

Department Policies—Facilities

Music Room

W112 serves as a multi-purpose room, housing band and choir rehearsals, academic classes, recitals, and juries. Regularly scheduled events take precedence. The room is available for rehearsal any time that it is not reserved for regular events.

Students should stack any stands and chairs that are used for rehearsal back on their racks. Also, please keep the space clean of trash.

Practice Rooms

The department currently has four practice rooms that are dedicated to student use (located in the corridor south of the band room), with two additional rooms available when classes are not in session. Sign-up sheets are placed on the doors of the four dedicated rooms at the start of each semester. Students may reserve a regular practice time by blocking out time on the sign-up sheet. Otherwise, students are free to use any vacant room as needed. Please refrain from bringing food and beverages into the practice rooms. Issues with pianos should be reported to any member of the piano faculty.

Practice Rooms/Resources

- W109 - Guitar studio
- W123BCD - Percussion studio
- W123E - Class piano lab; 9 digital pianos and 2 upright pianos; computer
- W123F - 1 grand piano; computer
- W123G - 1 upright piano
- W123H - 1 upright piano
- W121E - 1 upright piano

Mac Lab

The Mac Lab is housed in W120 and contains music-specific software and general computing software for student use. This space doubles as a classroom and is shared by the Music and Art Departments. Please check the schedule on the door *before* entering the lab to verify that a class is not in session. Some instructors will allow students to work during their classes, but always ask before assuming that this is permissible.

Access to the lab is limited on weekends. Check signage for more information regarding weekend hours.

Any issue with computer software or hardware should be promptly reported to the I.T. office or any instructor who teaches a class in the lab.

Recording Project Studio

The Recording Project Studio houses a Pro Tools HD system along with a microphone locker and other recording accessories. The studio's main purpose is to serve the academic and creative needs of students currently enrolled in the Music Technology program at Sheridan College.

Students must successfully complete MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Technology before being eligible to use the project studio.

Alumni of the program may use the facilities when not in use by currently-enrolled students. General students and non-students may not book studio time. Access to the space for these individuals is restricted to their participation in the recording projects of currently-enrolled music technology students or approved projects of music technology alumni.

Detailed policies regarding the Project Studio may be obtained from the studio administrator.

Advising Tools

Completion Checklist for the AFA Degree in Music (General Emphasis)

Major Area: 43 credits

MUSC Course	Cr.	Year 1 FA	Year 1 SP	Year 2 FA	Year 2 SP
1xxx Lesson I	2	_____			
1xxx Lesson I	2		_____		
2xxx Lesson II	2			_____	
2xxx Lesson II	2				_____
1xxx Ensemble	1	_____			
1xxx Ensemble	1		_____		
1xxx Ensemble	1			_____	
1xxx Ensemble	1				_____
1030 Written Theory I	3	_____			
1035 Aural Theory I	1	_____			
1300 Class Piano I	1	_____			
1415 Intro to Music Tech	3	_____			
1040 Written Theory II	3		_____		
1045 Aural Theory II	1		_____		
1301 Class Piano II	1		_____		
2030 Written Theory III	3			_____	
2035 Aural Theory III	1			_____	
1302 Class Piano III	1			_____	
2050 Music History Survey I	3			_____	
2040 Written Theory IV	3				_____
2045 Aural Theory IV	1				_____
1303 Class Piano IV	1				_____
2055 Music History Survey II	3				_____
2395 Piano Proficiency Exam	0				_____
2500 Music Portfolio	2				_____

General Education Studies: 18 - 21 credits

Course	Cr.	Completed
ENGL 1010 English I	3	_____
Basic Math Requirement	3	_____
Advanced Writing Requirement	3	_____
Health & Wellness Requirement	2	_____
Government Requirement	3	_____
Cultural Context Requirement	3	_____
Science Requirement	4	_____

Note: The Cultural Context requirement may be fulfilled by the completion of MUSC 2050 Music History Survey I or MUSC 2055 Music History Survey II.

Completion Checklist for the AFA Degree in Music (Music Tech Emphasis)

Major Area: 43 credits

MUSC Course	Cr.	Year 1 FA	Year 1 SP	Year 2 FA	Year 2 SP
1xxx Lesson I	2	_____			
1xxx Lesson I	2		_____		
2xxx Lesson II	2			_____	
2xxx Lesson II	2				_____
1xxx Ensemble	1	_____			
1xxx Ensemble	1		_____		
1xxx Ensemble	1			_____	
1xxx Ensemble	1				_____
1030 Written Theory I	3	_____			
1035 Aural Theory I	1	_____			
1300 Class Piano I	1	_____			
1415 Intro to Music Tech	3	_____			
1040 Written Theory II	3		_____		
1045 Aural Theory II	1		_____		
1301 Class Piano II	1		_____		
2430 Intermediate Music Tech	3		_____		
1070 Pr. Lessons: Composition	2			_____	
2050 Music History Survey I	3			_____	
2410 Techniques for Live Sound	2			_____	
2445 Topics in Music Tech	1			_____	
2055 Music History Survey II	3				_____
2465 Directed Studies in Music	2				_____
2500 Music Portfolio	2				_____

General Education Studies: 18 - 21 credits

Course	Cr.	Completed
ENGL 1010 English I	3	_____
Basic Math Requirement	3	_____
Advanced Writing Requirement	3	_____
Health & Wellness Requirement	2	_____
Government Requirement	3	_____
Cultural Context Requirement	3	_____
Science Requirement	4	_____

Note: The Cultural Context requirement may be fulfilled by the completion of MUSC 2050 Music History Survey I or MUSC 2055 Music History Survey II.

Completion Checklist for the Certificate of Completion in Music Technology

Two-Year Option:

MUSC Course	Cr.	Year 1 FA	Year 1 SP	Year 2 FA	Year 2 SP
1010 Music Fundamentals	2	_____			
<i>or</i>					
1030 Written Theory I <i>and</i> 1300 Class Piano I	4	_____			
1415 Intro to Music Tech	3	_____			
2430 Intermediate Music Tech	3		_____		
2410 Techniques for Live Sound	2			_____	
2500 Music Portfolio	2				_____

One-Year Option:

MUSC Course	Cr.	Year 1 FA	Year 1 SP
1010 Music Fundamentals	2	_____	
<i>or</i>			
1030 Written Theory I <i>and</i> 1300 Class Piano I	4	_____	
1415 Intro to Music Tech	3	_____	
2410 Techniques for Live Sound	2	_____	
2430 Intermediate Music Tech	3		_____
2500 Music Portfolio	2		_____