

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH
Piano Proficiency Exam REQUIREMENTS
Fall 2008

1. Keyboard Technique / Theory:

a) Major and harmonic minor scales (up to five accidentals) to be played hands together, two octaves, ascending and descending.

b) Arpeggios (in scale keys) to be played hands together, two octaves, ascending and descending.

c) Blocked root-position triads and their inversions (in scale keys) to be played hands together, two octaves, ascending and descending.

d) Chord Progressions (in scale keys) to be played either with chords in both hands, or in keyboard style with octaves in the L.H.:

a) I-IV-I-V-I

b) I-VI-IV-II-V-I

c) I-IV-V/V-V-I

2. Harmonization:

1) Play both the melody and a simple accompaniment pattern (not blocked chords)

2) Play a two-handed accompaniment (without the melody)

Students may be asked to sing along (lyrics or solfege) while performing either option. Be able to do so at a steady, non-interrupted tempo.

(QUICK-STUDY - given one week to prepare two or three melodies with or without chord symbols/roman numerals.)

3. Transposition:

Prepare a *minimum* of:

a) 2 folk and/or children songs (one must be “Happy Birthday” – by ear)

b) 2 patriotic songs (one must be “The Star-Spangled Banner”)

These should be in the format of melodies with simple accompaniments (including appropriate introductions), prepared in three keys: the original, one step above, and one step below. Be able to sing at a steady, non-interrupted tempo while playing these songs.

4. Score Reading:

Examples will be taken from **both** choral and instrumental open score:

Choral score – 3 parts in any combination

Instrumental score – 3 parts in any combination

(with at least one transposing part (ex. French Horn, Saxophone, etc.))

(QUICK-STUDY: given one week to prepare two open scores (both choral and instrumental) – 3 parts in any combination.)

5. Repertoire:

Perform *one* memorized piece from the classical piano literature (intermediate level or higher).

6. Sight Reading:

Examples to play at sight will include simple melodies with accompaniment.