Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons
Discipline: Strings – Cello

General Information:

• The stated proficiencies below apply to all students taking lessons in the particular discipline.

• Level of difficulty for specific repertoire will be adjusted based upon the student's degree program.

• These proficiencies are the minimums for a passing grade in the discipline.

• Any student wishing to take 300-level applied lessons must successfully pass an upper division jury demonstrating the proficiencies as articulated below.

Proficiencies for a 1-credit lesson

Freshman Level

➢ Scales and arpeggios in 2 or 3 octaves, varied rhythms/bowings
➢ Etudes appropriate to level (Dotzauer, Lee, Schroeder)
➢ Expanded techniques and musicality as appropriate to level – accuracy of pitch and rhythm, shifting, vibrato, good characteristic sound, expression of dynamics and musicality

➢ Solos appropriate to level (Goltermann, Squire or equivalent)
➢ Additional exploration of solo pieces as determined by teacher

Sophomore Level

➢ Scales and arpeggios in 2 or 3 octaves, varied rhythms/bowings
➢ Etudes appropriate to level (Dotzauer, Lee, Schroeder)
➢ Expanded techniques and musicality as appropriate to level – accuracy of pitch and rhythm, shifting, vibrato, good characteristic sound, expression of dynamics and musicality
Solos appropriate to level (pieces by Bach, Haydn or equivalent
Additional exploration of solo pieces as determined by teacher

Upper Division Jury (end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons)
Proficiency demonstrated by a set of repertoire including scales, etudes, and contrasting pieces as determined by the teacher

Junior Level
Scales and arpeggios in 3 octaves, varied rhythms/bowings
Etudes appropriate to level (Dotzauer, Popper)
Continued developing artistry
Solo pieces appropriate to level (pieces by Bach, Popper, Saint-Saens or equivalent
Additional exploration of solo pieces as determined by teacher
Junior recital (required based upon degree program)

Senior Level
Scales and arpeggios in 3 octaves, varied rhythms/bowings
Etudes appropriate to level (Popper, Piatti)
Solo pieces appropriate to level (pieces by Bach, Brahms, Piazzolla, Lalo or equivalent
Additional exploration of solo pieces as determined by teacher
Senior Recital (required based upon degree program)
Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

Freshman Level

- Scales and arpeggios in 2 or 3 octaves, varied rhythms/bowings
- Etudes appropriate to level (Dotzauer, Lee, Schroeder)
- Expanded techniques and musicality as appropriate to level – accuracy of pitch and rhythm, shifting, vibrato, good characteristic sound, expression of dynamics and musicality
- Solos appropriate to level (Goltermann, Squire or equivalent)
- Additional exploration of solo pieces as determined by teacher

Sophomore Level

- Scales and arpeggios in 2 or 3 octaves, varied rhythms/bowings
- Etudes appropriate to level (Dotzauer, Lee, Schroeder)
- Expanded techniques and musicality as appropriate to level – accuracy of pitch and rhythm, shifting, vibrato, good characteristic sound, expression of dynamics and musicality
- Solos appropriate to level (pieces by Bach, Haydn or equivalent)
- Additional exploration of solo pieces as determined by teacher

Upper Division Jury (end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years
- Proficiency demonstrated by a set of repertoire including scales, etudes, and contrasting pieces as determined by teacher
Junior Level
- Scales and arpeggios in 3 octaves, varied rhythms/bowings
- Etudes appropriate to level (Dotzauer, Popper),
- Continued developing artistry
- Solo pieces appropriate to level (pieces by Bach, Popper, Saint-Saens or equivalent
- Additional exploration of solo pieces as determined by teacher
- Junior recital (required based upon degree program)

Senior Level
- Scales and arpeggios in 3 octaves, varied rhythms/bowings
- Etudes appropriate to level (Popper, Piatti)
- Continued developing artistry
- Solo pieces appropriate to level (pieces Bach, Brahms, Piazzolla, Lalo or equivalent
- Additional exploration of solo pieces as determined by teacher
- Senior Recital (required based upon degree program)