Department of Music
Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons
Discipline: Jazz/Commercial Bass

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
Each semester the student will be required to memorize and improvise on assigned composition and demonstrate improvement with sight reading.

Freshman Level
➢ One Octave Scales at 120BPM
➢ Major Scale, Dorian Scale, Mixolydian Scale
➢ One Octave Arpeggios at 120BPM
➢ Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor 7
➢ Jazz Songs as assigned
➢ Transposition: Play Blues in Bb, F, Eb and C
➢ Transcription: One Bass line Transcription of at least 24 bars

Sophomore Level
➢ Two Octave Scales at 120BPM, Major and Minor Pentatonic, Blues Scale, Phrygian, Lydian, Aeolian, Locrian
Jazz Songs on Rhythm Changes Form
Transcription: One solo of at least 16 Bars

Upper Division Jury (end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons)
Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

Junior Level
Two Octave Scales at 120 BPM Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor
Standards as assigned
Transcription: One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars
Junior recital (required based upon degree program)

Senior Level
Two Octave Scales at 120 BPM Half Whole Diminished Scale, Whole Tone
Standards as assigned
Transcription: One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars
Senior Recital (required based upon degree program)

Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson
Each semester the student will be required to memorize and improvise on assigned compositions, transcribe at least one solo from a recording; and demonstrate improvement with sight reading.
Freshman Level

- One Octave Scales at 120 BPM
- Major Scale, Dorian Scale, Mixolydian Scale, Chromatic Scale (Open E for 1 ½ Octaves) Major and Minor Pentatonic, Blues Scale, Phrygian, Lydian, Aeolian, Locrian
- One Octave Arpeggios at 120BPM, Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor 7, Half Diminished 7, Diminished 7
- Jazz Songs as assigned
- Transposition: Play Blues in all 12 Keys at 120BPM
- Transcription: One Bass line Transcription of at least 24 Bars

Sophomore Level

- Two Octave Scales at 1209BPM, Chromatic Scale (Open E for 2 ½ octaves), Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, Half Whole Diminished Scale, Whole Tone
- Three Octave chromatic scale
- Two Octave Arpeggios at 120BMP, Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor 7
- Jazz Songs on Rhythm Changes Form
- Standards as assigned
- Transposition: Play Rhythm Changes in all 12 Keys 120BPM
- Transcription: One Solo of at least 32 Bars

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

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years.
Junior Level

- Two Octave Scales at 1209BPM, Modes of Melodic Minor focusing on 4th mode
- Standards as assigned
- Transposition: *It Could Happen to You* in all 12 keys 120 BPM, *Have You Met Mrs. Jones* in all 12 keys 120 BPM
- Transcription: *One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars*
- Junior recital (required based upon degree program)

Senior Level

- Two Octave Scales at 120 BPM, Modes of Harmonic Minor focusing 5th mode
- Standards Pick 3
- Transposition: *All the Things You Are* in all 12 Keys 120BPM
- Transcription: *One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars*
- Standards as assigned
- Senior Recital (required based upon degree program)