Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons
Discipline: Jazz/Commercial Guitar

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 compositions; transcribe a solo from a recording; and demonstrate improvement with sight-reading.

Freshman Level
➤ All 12 major scales and modes – 2 octaves
➤ Blues scale and its possible applications
➤ Drop 2 and Drop 3 seventh chords and inversions
➤ Common 7th chord arpeggios

Sophomore Level
➤ Melodic minor scales – ascending form only
➤ Harmonic minor scales
➤ Major and Minor Pentatonic scales – 2 octaves, Half-whole diminished, Whole Tone, Blues, and Chromatic scales
➤ Improvising on Rhythm Changes progression and Blues progressions
Basic 7th chord arpeggios from any root
Drop 2/Drop 3 root position through diatonic scale

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

**Junior Level**
- Modes of Melodic Minor focusing on modes 3, 4, 7
- Common 7th chord arpeggios with upper extensions
- Intervals 2nds – 7ths, 2 strings
- Scale sequences, intervals, triads, 7th chords
- Junior recital *(required based upon degree program)*

**Senior Level**
- Modes of Harmonic Minor focusing on 4, 5, 6
- Harmonized Triads in major and harmonic minor scales
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas
- Drop 2/Drop 3 and inversions through diatonic scale
- 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 a solo from a recording; and demonstrate improvement with sight-reading.

Freshman Level
- All 12 major scales and modes – 2 octaves
- Blues scale and its possible applications
- Cycle of 5ths 1235 patterns
- Triads in harmonized scales (close-voiced)
- Drop 2 and Drop 3 seventh chords and inversions
- Common 7th chord arpeggios
- Improvisation – thematic development, modal
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas

Sophomore Level
- Melodic Minor scales – ascending form only
- Harmonic Minor scales
- Major and Minor Pentatonic scales – 2 octaves – Half-whole diminished, Whole Tone, Blues, and Chromatic scales
- Improvising on Rhythm Changes progression and Blues progressions
- Basic 7th chord arpeggios from any root – 2 octaves
- Drop 2/Drop 3 and inversions through diatonic scale
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas

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

- Modes of Melodic Minor focusing on modes 3, 4, 7
- Harmonic Minor triads in harmonized scales
- Common 7th chord arpeggios with upper extensions
- Intervals 2nds-7ths, 2 strings
- Scale sequences, intervals, triads, 7th chords
- Giant Step Sequence
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas
- Junior recital (required based upon degree program)

Senior Level

- Modes of Harmonic Minor focusing on 4, 5, 6
- Expanded scale practice
- Prepared Etudes – Bach violin sonatas and partitas
- Hexatonics
- Harmonizing Chord Clusters
- Senior Recital (required based upon degree program)