

# Towson University – Department of Music

## Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

### Discipline: JAZZ/COMMERCIAL PIANO

#### *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.

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#### *Proficiencies for a 1-credit lesson*

##### Freshman Level

- All major and minor scales, 4 part harmonization of a standard
- ii-V-I linear and harmonic progressions in all keys
- Basic 3-note left hand rootless voicings for standard chord symbols
- Memorization of basic standard tunes and jazz compositions
- Improvise over blues progression

##### Sophomore Level

- All seven diatonic modes in all keys
- Advanced left hand rootless voicings for standard chord symbols
- Linear transcription of a piano solo from the late swing or bebop period
- Rootless harmonization of standard tunes and jazz compositions
- Memorization of standards and jazz compositions

### Upper Division Jury (end of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

### Junior Level

- Modes of melodic minor, diminished, pentatonic modes in all keys
- Linear transcription of modal or atonal piano or other instrumental solo
- Advanced harmonization and re-harmonization of standards
- Full solo transcription (both hands) of Bill Evans or another pianist of similar difficulty
- Junior recital (*required based upon degree program*)

### Senior Level

- Demonstrate use of the diminished scale in linear improvisation and harmonization
- Demonstrate motivic development in linear improvisation
- Linear transcription of Herbie Hancock or pianists of similar difficulty
- Sight-read published transcriptions of piano or other instrumental solos
- Solo piano arrangement of a standard
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)

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### Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

#### Freshman Level

- All major and minor scales
- Four part harmonization of a standard
- Linear transcription of a piano solo from the late swing or bebop period
- ii-V-I linear and harmonic progressions in all keys
- Basic 3-note left hand rootless voicings for standard chord symbols
- Memorization of basic standard tunes and jazz compositions
- Improvise over blues progression

### Sophomore Level

- All seven diatonic modes in all keys
- Advanced left hand rootless voicings for standard chord symbols
- Rootless harmonization of standard tunes and jazz compositions
- Linear transcription of a piano solo from the bebop or post-bop period
- Memorization of standards and jazz compositions

### Upper Division Jury (end of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

### Junior Level

- Modes of melodic minor, diminished, pentatonic modes in all keys
- Linear transcription of modal or atonal piano or other instrumental solo
- Advanced harmonization and re-harmonization of standards
- Comping patterns for Latin rhythms (Afro-Cuban and Brazilian)
- Piano comping transcription
- Full solo transcription (both hands) of Bill Evans or another pianist of similar difficulty
- Junior recital (*required based upon degree program*)

### Senior Level

- Demonstrate use of diminished, 9-note and other symmetrical scales in linear improvisation and harmonization
- Full solo transcription (both hands) of McCoy Tyner, Keith Jarrett or another pianist of similar difficulty
- Demonstrate compositional techniques discussed in lessons in solo piano arrangement
- Sight-read published transcriptions of piano or other instrumental solos
- Solo piano arrangement of a standard utilizing compositional techniques discussed in lessons
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)