Towson University – Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

Discipline: PERCUSSION

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

✔ Working concept of tone production
✔ Understanding of grip and techniques
✔ Kraus scale forms in major keys
✔ Rhythmic and melodic reading and improvisation
✔ Mastery of repertoire for snare drum and 2-mallet keyboard

Sophomore Level

✔ Above proficiencies plus:
✔ Advanced concept of tone production
✔ Mastery of 13 Essential Rudiments
✔ Kraus scale forms in minor keys
✔ All major and minor scales/arpeggios
- Mastery of repertoire for snare drum and keyboard
- Timpani tuning, tone production and lift strokes

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

**Junior Level**
- Above proficiencies plus:
- 4-mallet exercises and repertoire
- Timpani repertoire

**Senior Level**
- Above proficiencies plus:
- Vibraphone and Multi-percussion repertoire
- Accessory percussion
- Senior Recital (required based upon degree program)

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**Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson**

**Freshman Level**
- Working concept of tone production
- Understanding of grip and techniques
- Kraus scale forms in major and minor keys
- Rhythmic and melodic reading and improvisation
- Mastery of repertoire for snare drum and 2-mallet keyboard
- Timpani tuning, tone production and lift strokes

**Sophomore Level**
- Above proficiencies plus:
- Advanced concept of tone production
- Mastery of 40 PAS Rudiments
- All major and minor scales/arpeggios
- 4-mallet exercises and repertoire
- Mastery of repertoire for snare drum, keyboard and timpani

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

**Junior Level**
- Above proficiencies plus:
- Timpani, vibraphone and multi-percussion repertoire
- Accessory percussion
- Junior recital (required based on degree program)

**Senior Level**
- Above proficiencies plus:
- Orchestral excerpts
- Senior recital (required based upon degree program)