

Welcome to Arkansas Tech University! We hope you will be joining us in the fall, becoming part of our musical family. All music majors are required to take either class piano or applied piano lessons. Piano majors are required to take applied lessons. If piano is not your primary instrument, **placement in applied lessons requires an audition** and must have the approval of the department chair. Students must continue piano study (at least four semesters) until completion of the **Piano Proficiency Exam** (degree specific). The following skills are required for successful completion of the Piano Proficiency Exam:

## **Piano Majors: B.A. & B.M.E. (Piano Proficiency):**

**You have four semesters of study to complete items 1-8:**

1. Performance of a Bach Two-Part Invention.
2. Performance of a Clementi or Kuhlau Sonatina (or stylistic equivalent).
3. Construct major, minor, diminished, & augmented triads beginning with any note.
4. Harmonize melodies which may include primary & secondary triads or secondary dominants.
5. Play a piece with short-term preparation.
6. Play a four-part patriotic song or hymn, prepared in advance.
7. Sight read a short vocal accompaniment.
8. Melodic Transposition

**Items 9-11 must be completed during the fourth semester of study:**

9. Play I-IV-I-V7-I cadences in any major or minor key, hands together
10. Play major, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales, four octaves, hands together.
  - Minimum metronome: Q = 88
11. Play major and minor arpeggios, four octaves, hands together.
  - Minimum metronome: Q = 88

## **Music Majors with Piano as a Secondary Instrument: B.M.E. (Piano Proficiency):**

### **Semester I**

- Play major-augmented-minor-diminished triads beginning on any note.
- Play all major scales that begin on white keys hands together, two octaves.
- Play major arpeggios that begin on white keys hands separately, two octaves.

### **Semester II**

- Play cadences in all major & minor keys.
- Play all minor scales that begin on white keys hands together, two octaves.
- Play minor arpeggios that begin on white keys hands separately, two octaves.
- Harmonize melodies which include primary & second triads.

### **Semester III**

- Play all major scales that begin on black keys hands together, two octaves.
- Play major arpeggios that begin on black keys hands separately, two octaves.
- Perform a solo from approved literature.
- Transpose a melody.

### **Semester IV**

- Play a “short-term preparation” piece.
- Sight-read an elementary piece.
- Play “America”.

## Music Majors with Piano as a Secondary Instrument: B.A. (Piano Proficiency)

### Semester I

- Play 5-finger patterns in all major & minor keys, hands separately.
- Play major-augmented-minor-diminished triads, beginning on any requested key.
- Play major scales, two octaves, hands together, & major arpeggios, two octaves, hands separately, beginning on any white key. (I-347, 348)

### Semester II

- Play harmonic minor scales two octaves, hands together, and minor arpeggios two octaves, hands separately. (II-347, 348)
- Harmonize a melody which includes primary & secondary triads.
- Play a solo from approved repertoire list.
- Play I-IV-I-V7-I cadences in all major and minor keys.

### Semesters III & IV

- Students may continue their study of piano or choose an approved course substitution for these two semesters.

It is strongly recommended that students considering a music major have some familiarity with basic keyboard skills. We provide you with the above proficiency requirements so that you and your teacher have an idea of what will be expected regarding piano skills for music majors at ATU.

## Piano Faculty

Dr. Jeff Bright  
Dr. Tim Smith  
Dr. Mi-Jin Kim  
Patty Oeste  
Kristy Buck

Department Head  
Applied Piano  
Class Piano, Applied Piano  
Class Piano  
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For information on performance scholarships or to learn more about auditioning to be a music major, visit:  
[www.atu.edu/music/auditions](http://www.atu.edu/music/auditions) or [auditions@atu.edu](mailto:auditions@atu.edu)

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