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Memorandum

To: Undergraduate Programs Committee  
From: Rebecca Lautar, Chair, Department of Music  
Re: Piano Proficiency process and Class Piano changes  
Date: November 1, 2017

The Department of Music proposes changes to the MVK Class Piano sequence. Piano proficiency is a requirement of our accrediting body (National Association of Schools of Music). The Department recently underwent Program Review, and the reviewers strongly suggested that our piano proficiency documentation process be formalized by including class piano to each degree as a degree requirement. The current department policy requires completion of piano proficiency, which credits are not included in the degrees, and the process is difficult to document on the transcript. Piano proficiency deficiency is a barrier to successful graduation; however, with the implementation of the courses as degree requirements, the completion of the courses becomes the documentation of piano proficiency. MVK Class Piano will become a graded course, with a requirement of C or better to count towards the major.

*(This change will not add any credits to the existing degree requirements.)*

### **Class Piano Proposals**

The following changes are proposed regarding the course change documents for MVK 1111 Class Piano 1, MVK 1112 Class Piano 2, MVK 2121 Class Piano 3 and MVK 2122 Class Piano 4:

- The courses will contain the same content (syllabi attached)
- Titles will be changed to document which level the course addresses
- Grading will be changed from S/U to letter grades
- MUT Music Theory prerequisite will be removed

### **Catalog Listing Change**

The Department of Music proposes the revision of piano proficiency content from the catalog to the following:

**Piano Proficiency:** All students must complete the department piano proficiency required in their degree by enrolling in class piano and earning a letter grade of C or higher. Transfer students must take a placement exam to demonstrate proficiency if they have not already completed the required level of class piano with C or better at their previous institution. Students who study piano as their applied major instrument are exempt from class piano, except for Commercial Music Composition students, who must enroll in MVK 3173 Commercial Class Piano. Piano majors will be advised of suitable substitutions regarding the credit requirements in degrees where they are exempt from class piano.

Music majors must complete the piano proficiency according to degree requirement deadlines as follows:

Commercial Music: Prior to enrollment in MUS 4911 Topic Research .

Music Education: Prior to enrollment in ESE 3940 Secondary School Effective Instruction.

Music Performance concentrations: Prior to MVO 3330 Junior Performance Recital pre-hearing.

