

PIANO CURRICULUM AND JURY REQUIREMENTS, updated Fall, 2023:  
[Links to contents](#)

[Grading \(general\)](#)

[Jury procedures](#)

[Jury make-up](#)

[First year/freshman \(overview\)](#)

[Repertoire jury: fall](#)

[Technique jury: fall](#)

[Repertoire jury: spring](#)

[Technique jury: spring](#)

[Second year/sophomore \(overview\)](#)

[Repertoire jury: fall](#)

[Technique jury: fall](#)

[Repertoire jury: spring](#)

[Technique jury: spring](#)

[End-of-year qualifying jury](#)

[Qualifying jury policies](#)

[Not continuing as major](#)

[Third year/junior \(overview\)](#)

[Repertoire jury: fall](#)

[Repertoire jury: spring](#)

[Technique jury: spring](#)

[Junior recital](#)

[Fourth year/senior \(overview\)](#)

[Repertoire jury: fall](#)

[Repertoire jury: spring](#)

[Senior Recital](#)

[Fifth year \(overview\)](#)

[Master of Music](#)

# **Northwestern University Bienen School of Music**

## **PIANO JURIES AND CURRICULUM\***

### **Piano Student Evaluation Schedule**

On average, every piano student performs for the faculty two times each year at piano juries. The piano jury is usually held in Galvin Hall with 2-3 members of the piano faculty attending, including the student's teacher. Students should check with their applied teacher for variations and exceptions to the curriculum.

### **Jury procedures**

1. Sign-up sheets with specific jury dates and times are posted on the piano bulletin board in advance of juries. The juries are generally scheduled on the Monday of exam week.
2. Students should consult with their performance teacher concerning specific jury requirements.
3. Students are excused from presenting a jury during the quarter in which they have performed or will perform a solo or degree-required recital. This dispensation does not include sophomores wishing to continue as piano performance majors.

### **Grading (overview)**

Each faculty member will give a numerical grade that adheres to the system outlined below. Technique grades are submitted to the principal instructor who will average them and assign the grade according to the guidelines listed below. Undergraduates may receive intermediate grade averages (A-, B+, etc.) as a result of the jury average.

The final grade during the quarters when juries are presented will be a combination of the following:

- 60% jury grade average. For undergraduates who are required to take technique class, one-third of the jury grade (20% of the grade for the quarter) will be from the technique class instructor, submitted to the principal professor and averaged.
- 40% lesson grade. This will be determined by the professor based

on preparation, performances, attendance and participation at studio classes. The faculty understanding of the various letter grades is as follows:

A = 100-93 (work of the highest caliber)

B = 92-85 (excellent achievement)

C = 84-75 (satisfactory achievement)

D = 74-65 (unsatisfactory achievement)

F = 64 and below (failure to achieve anything)

### **Jury Make-up**

A student who cannot perform for the jury at the end of the quarter must make up the examination. The make-up examination must take place within the next quarter in which the student registers for performance study. Under no circumstances will the time limit extend beyond one academic year.

### **Freshman/First year**

**161-1 Fall:** The grade will be given by the principal teacher (40%), together with 40% from the repertoire jury (which will include the etude, when applicable) and 20% from the technique or scale class, as outlined above.

### Repertoire jury

10 minutes of music chosen by the student in consultation with the teacher.

In addition, an etude must be presented at the jury. Any short, brilliant piece may be used as an etude with the approval of the teacher.

The student should thus sign up for a total of 15 minutes.

### Technique Jury

In preparation for the technique portion of the jury, freshmen are required to take the course PIANO 102-0-1 during the fall quarter.

The technique jury portion will be administered by the technique class instructors in their class final exam.

Required scales and their minimum tempo requirements:

1. Major scales in 4 octaves, quarter=120, 4 notes per quarter.
2. Major arpeggios and their inversions, 4 octaves, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter.
3. Chromatic scales in 4 octaves, quarter=120, 4 notes per quarter.
4. Broken-chord arpeggios in major keys, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter.
5. Major scales in double octaves, 3 octaves, quarter=80, 3 notes per quarter.
6. Chromatic scales in double octaves, 3 octaves, quarter=80, 4 notes per quarter.

161-2 **Winter:** No jury. 100% of the grade will be assigned by the principal instructor.

161-3 **Spring:** The grade will be given by the principal teacher (40%), together with 40% from the repertoire jury and 20% from the technique or scale class, as outlined above.

### Repertoire jury

10 minutes of music chosen by the student in consultation with the teacher.

### Technique jury

In preparation for the technique portion of the jury, freshmen are required to take the course PIANO 102-0-1 during the spring quarter. The technique jury portion will be administered by the technique class instructors in their class final exam.

Required scales and their minimum tempo requirements:

1. Harmonic minor scales, 4 octaves, quarter=120, 4 notes per quarter.
2. Minor arpeggios, 4 octaves, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter.
3. Broken-chord arpeggios in minor keys, 4 octaves, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter.
4. All harmonic minor scales in double octaves, 3 octaves, quarter=80, 4 notes per quarter.

Performance requirement: at least one appearance in Piano Forum during the academic year. By the end of the first year of study, the student has performed at least once in a public situation and twice in juries. The repertoire jury is waived if a solo recital is presented during the freshman year.

## **Sophomore/Second year**

The sophomore year brings the Core Studies program to a conclusion. The jury and performance requirements of the sophomore year are intended to build on the accomplishments of the previous year by adding public performance experience, and for those electing to major in piano, the spring quarter jury includes 30 minutes of music drawn from 4 periods, including a Prelude and Fugue by J.S. Bach. The faculty will select 20 minutes of the program at the repertoire jury. Sophomores may elect to perform a public solo recital of the 30 minutes of music drawn from 4 periods to prepare for the jury. As such, the recital should be presented before the end of the winter quarter.

### **261-1 Fall**

#### Repertoire jury

An Allegro movement of a sonata by Haydn, Mozart, Clementi, or Beethoven (5-10 minutes)

#### Technique jury

In preparation for the technique portion of the jury, sophomores are required to take the course PIANO 202-0-1/2 during the fall quarter.

The technique jury portion will be administered by the technique class instructors in their class final exam.

Required scales and their minimum tempo requirements:

1. Major scales in 3rds, 6ths and 10ths, 4 octaves, hands together, quarter=120, 4 notes per quarter.
2. Major arpeggios in any inversion, 4 octaves, hands together, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter.
3. Diminished seventh arpeggios and their inversions, 4 octaves, hands together, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter.
4. Dominant seventh arpeggios and their inversions, 4 octaves, hands together, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter.

261-2 **Winter:** No jury. 100% of the grade will be assigned by the principal teacher.

261-3 **Spring:**

Qualifying jury repertoire: 30 minutes of music drawn from 4 periods, out of which faculty will select 20 minutes at the jury. A Prelude and Fugue by J.S. Bach must be included.

Qualifying jury skills

In addition, prior to the qualifying jury repertoire component, sophomores declaring the performance major will need to complete the technique jury outlined below as well as the following:

1. self-prepared piece (not memorized), provided by the faculty 7 days before the jury.
2. sight-reading chosen by the faculty
3. etude

Technique jury

In preparation for the technique portion of the jury, sophomores are required to take the course PIANO 202-0-1/2 during the spring

quarter. The technique jury portion will be administered by the technique class instructors in their class final exam.

1. Harmonic minor scales in 3rds, 6ths and 10ths, 4 octaves, hands together, quarter=120, 4 notes per quarter.
2. Minor arpeggios in any inversion, 4 octaves, hands together, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter.
3. Dominant seventh arpeggios in any inversion, 4 octaves, hands together, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter
4. Diminished seventh arpeggios in any inversion, 4 octaves, hands together, quarter=84, 4 notes per quarter
5. All chromatic scales in double minor thirds, 3 octaves, hands together, quarter=66, 4 notes per quarter.

The qualifying jury determines whether the student may continue as a performance major. Students who pass this jury are approved for registration at the 300-level. Should the sophomore receive a “fail” at this jury, the piano faculty reserves the right to recommend a different course of study, effective immediately. At the discretion of the faculty, and in consultation with the applied teacher, the student may be allowed one opportunity to replay the jury at the beginning of the following fall quarter. Also at the discretion of the faculty, the student may be asked to replay just part of the repertoire jury in the fall. (Up to 50% of the repertoire presented at the replay may be the same as that performed at the original jury.) Students who are denied upper-class performance-major standing after this process is completed should discuss plans for another major with an advisor or the assistant dean.

Performance requirement: at least two appearances in Piano Forum.

Students electing not to continue as piano majors will complete their year with a repertoire jury of 10 minutes of music chosen in consultation with the teacher. Additionally, these students must also complete the technique portion of the spring quarter by taking the same technique class as mandated for those continuing as majors. There will be no etude requirement.

### **Junior/Third year**

361-1 **Fall:** Repertoire Jury (5 to 10 minutes) at end of quarter. Music of the student's choice not previously presented.

361-2 **Winter:** No jury

361-3 **Spring:** The grade will be given by the principal teacher (40%), together with 40% from the repertoire jury and 20% from the technique or scale class, as outlined above.

### Repertoire jury

Music of the student's choice not previously presented (10 minutes); Repertoire must include a work written post-1970, to be presented at either the fall or spring juries, or at the junior recital.

### Technique jury

In preparation for the technique portion of the jury, juniors are required to take the course PIANO 202-0-3 during the spring quarter. The technique jury portion will be administered by the technique class instructors in their class final exam.

Required scales and their minimum tempo requirements:

1. Major and harmonic minor scales in broken octaves, 2 octaves, hands together, quarter=80, 4 notes per quarter.
2. Chromatic scales in broken octaves, 2 octaves, hands together, quarter=120, 4 notes per quarter.
3. Diminished seventh arpeggios in double octaves, 3 octaves, hands together, quarter=74, 4 notes per quarter.
4. Major scales in double thirds, 3 octaves, hands together, quarter=66, 4 notes per quarter.
5. An etude (or any short piece of a brilliant nature as selected by the instructor) must be presented at the repertoire jury.

NOTE: The repertoire jury will be waived in the quarter in which the student's **junior recital** is presented. If, however, a post-1970 work is



not included in a recital presented in the second quarter, it will have to be performed on either a first or third quarter jury. Students who have presented their junior recitals during the spring quarter must still play the scales within the technique class and sign up for a 5-minute slot to play the etude or virtuosic piece at the spring quarter juries. Anyone not completing all components will have a grade of "Incomplete" or "Y." The missing portion must be made up during the first quarter of the senior year.

Performance requirement: Piano majors must perform at least once in Piano Forum and present a half solo recital of 30-40 minutes minimum duration.

### **Senior/Fourth year**

**361-4 Fall:**

#### Repertoire jury

Music of the student's choice not previously presented (10 minutes).

**361-5 Winter:** No jury

**361-6 Spring:**

#### Repertoire jury

Music of the student's choice not previously presented (10 minutes) or senior recital. Repertoire for the year must include an Impressionistic or 20<sup>th</sup> century work, to be presented at the fall or spring jury, or during the recital. NOTE: The repertoire jury will be waived in the quarter in which the student's senior recital is presented.

Performance requirement: Piano majors must perform at least once in Piano Forum and present a **senior recital** of 60 minutes minimum duration. The second option (half solo + half ensemble + accompany one recital) must be approved by the piano faculty.

## **Fifth year**

Dual-degree students may petition for a 5<sup>th</sup> year of lessons. Approval is contingent on available space in the studios and the principal teacher reserves the right to deny the request.

If approved for lessons, the student will perform 10 minutes of music chosen in consultation with the principal teacher at both fall and spring juries.

## **Master of Music**

MM students are required to give two recitals to fulfill their degree requirements: one collaborative recital and one solo recital. Students are encouraged to perform the collaborative recital in the first year of study and the solo recital in the second year. MM students are required to take PIANO 435: MM Collaborative Recital Preparation Class taught by Dr. Oura in winter and spring quarters of their first year.

Collaborative recital repertoire generally includes both vocal and instrumental music. Repertoire and partners will be selected in consultation with Dr. Oura.

In the fall and spring quarters, the repertoire jury requirement is for 10 minutes of solo music of the student's choice. Juries are waived in the quarters when either of the recitals is presented.

*\*Updated on October 23, 2023*