

Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: MUS 165

Course Title: Class Piano I

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 50.0903

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 2-0-2

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 2

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 2

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Group approach to teaching the fundamentals of piano playing. For students with little or no previous piano study. Sight-reading, harmonization, transposition, improvisation, technical studies, and solo ensemble literature.

General Course Objectives

Students will learn sight-reading, harmonization, transposition, improvisation, technical studies, and solo ensemble literature.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
None	Placement into CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

3-5 performance exams at the keyboard. 2-3 written quizzes on chapter material. 1 comprehensive final exam. At least 3 solo and/or ensemble performances throughout the semester as well as graded performances on midterm and final.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Keyboard Musicianship: Piano for Adults, Book One, 9th Edition. Lyke, Caramia, Alexander, and Haydon.

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.
- Creativity and Innovative Thinking: Students will design, present, and interpret materials, information, and ideas in innovative ways.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Keyboard Theory and Technique: fingering including keyboard direction, rhythmic drill, and keyboard (white keys, sharps, flats, naturals, double sharps, double flats, whole steps, and half steps)	1. Demonstrate how fingers are numbered for playing the piano. 2. Identify the names of the black keys (sharps and flats). 3. Identify half and whole steps on the keyboard.	2	0	0
The Major Chord, Chord Activity, Alternating Hands (Sharp and Flat keys), Playing Major Arpeggios, 6/8 Time Signature, Triplets, Sixteenth Notes, the Staff, and Repeated Notes	1. Demonstrate time signatures and play various note values. 2. Read notes in up and down patterns of steps and skips.	2	0	0
Interval Exercise Using Thirds and Fifths with Treble Clef, Bass Clef, The Grand Staff, Staccato, and Legato	1. Recognize and identify dynamic markings and what they mean. 2. Discuss the grand staff and the range of notes it covers; play chord arpeggios noted on the grand staff. 3. Identify the G clef and the F clef.	2	0	0
Improvisation Using Major Five Finger Patterns, Minor Arpeggios, Chord Qualities	1. Coordinate both hands, playing something different with each hand. 2. Play major 5 finger patterns with each hand and name the notes in a given rhythm pattern. 3. Demonstrate 6/8 meter and how to play note values in this meter.	2	0	0
Major Scale Tetrachord Drills (sharp and flat keys), Key Signatures (flat and sharp keys), Circle of Keys (Major)	1. Demonstrate triplets and 16th notes. 2. Identify the lines and spaces of the musical staff; the names of lines and spaces; and steps, skips, and repeated notes on the staff. 3. Read and interpret intervals of a 3rd and a 5th.	6	0	0
Scale Degree Exercise, Triads of the Key, Finger Coordination, Triads and Their Inversion	1. Explain the difference in staccato and legato touch, how they are indicated in music, and how to articulate each touch. 2. Play solo and ensemble pieces and create musical compositions from given notated phrases.	4	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Playing Chord Inversions from Letter Symbols with Harmonization	1. Harmonize given melodies with root position chords. 2. Create ostinato accompaniments.	2	0	0
Dominant Seventh Chord. Building chords from the top note. Pedal rhythms, damper pedal, una corda pedal, and sight reading examples with solo and ensemble repertoire and harmonization and improvisation.	1. Improvise melodies in 5 finger patterns to given accompaniments. 2. Sight read notated examples of music from the grand staff; transpose to closely related keys.	2	0	0
The Tonic and Dominant Chords	1. Create ensemble compositions from given notation and improvise melodies to given rhythms. 2. Play minor five finger scale patterns and minor chords in root position. 3. Play minor chords in arpeggios.	3	0	0
Sight Reading Examples	1. Read and play different rhythms with each hand in 2 3 4 5 and 6 4, 4, 4, 4 and 8 meters.	1	0	0
Solo and Ensemble Repertoire; Harmonization and Improvisation	1. Read and play solo and ensemble pieces that call for independent playing in each hand and require legato, staccato touch, use of tied notes, slurs, repeat marks, dynamics, and fingering out of 5 finger pattern. 2. Harmonize melodies in minor with root position chords; create an ostinato or other accompaniment pattern; create a new melody above ostinato accompaniment. 3. Improvise a piece utilizing the process of imitation to a given rhythm pattern. 4. Build and play major scales in the circle of fifths in sharp keys and flat keys. 5. Relate to and understand key signs. 6. Write in sharp and flat key signatures on the staff. 7. Play any major scale beginning on a note other than the first. 8. Play triads built on each degree of a major scale. 9. Play different 5 finger patterns with each hand simultaneously.	4	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
30	0	0