

Beginning Piano

What You Should Already Know

You must have some interest in music, or you probably would not have signed up for this course. Besides a willingness to learn more, you do not need to have any natural talent or prior knowledge about the piano to take this course.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Play notes correctly on the keyboard by reading them on the musical staff.
2. Play rhythms correctly by reading them on the staff.
3. Identify and interpret musical symbols in your performances.
4. Exhibit hand and finger control, which allows you to play with two hands at once, while shifting positions on the keyboard and playing the correct notes and rhythms.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of basic music theory and how theory applies to playing the piano.

This is a beginning course, and the skills outlined by these outcomes will give you the confidence to learn even more and build a solid foundation as a musician. This is a great place to start.

Course Materials

Piano or keyboard

You're going to need access to a piano or keyboard that you can play almost every day while you are taking this course. An actual piano is preferred.

If you choose to use a keyboard, look for one that has at least five octaves (sixty-one keys, including black and white). A piano has eighty-eight keys, but an electric keyboard that has less keys is acceptable (although not preferable).

Any video recording device that also captures audio

Every unit includes assignments that require you to play the piano. You will need to follow the Instructions to Upload Videos to upload your videos to an online storage site and obtain a sharable link.

In addition to improving the security of the the recitals, videos also allow me to visually spot any problems (or perfection) that you may have.

Assignments

Unit quizzes

This course has nine units that will each introduce new concepts about the piano as an instrument as well as introducing some necessary music theory concepts. Each unit is set up with clearly stated outcomes, and at the end of each lesson you will have the opportunity to check your understanding by answering the Self Check questions. At the end of most units, you will be required to complete a unit quiz. These quizzes will assess your ability to understand the concepts in each chapter. If you correctly answer the Self Check in each lesson, you should do well on the quizzes.

Recital assignments

Most units have several activities to turn in. See the specific assignment for assignment format and submission instructions.

Exams

Once you have completed all nine units, there will be a final exam. This will not include any recordings of your playing. It will be a compilation of multiple-choice questions that are similar to those from the quizzes. The final exam will cover material from the entire course.

Grading

The following table outlines the graded weight for each of the assignments in the course.

Assignment	Points	Percentage of Grade
7 Quizzes	5 each	35%
8 Recital Assignments	5 each	40%
1 Final Exam	25	25%
Total	100	100%

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Course Policies

These policies are specific to this course. For additional information about general policies, please refer to [Independent Study Course Policies page](#).

Assignments

Summary: 7 computer-graded quizzes and 8 instructor-graded recital assignments, may be resubmitted once for a fee

Unit quizzes are computer graded quizzes you will complete at the end of most units. You will also complete recital assignments with most units. Each recital assignment must be complete upon submission. If you are missing any of the activities, you may receive a failing grade. Remember, there is room for a small amount of error in your recordings, so an imperfect submission is better than no submission at all.

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incomplete on the portfolio and must pay a fee to resubmit your own work. If you plagiarize twice, you will automatically fail the course.

Final Exam

Summary: 1 proctored, computer-graded exam