

**University of South Carolina
School of Music
Group Piano Program
Advanced Placement Exam
Permission to Take Proficiency**

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BA, BM, BME (excluding choral) students: If the prior skill level is sufficient, the student is given permission to **independently prepare for the basic proficiency exam**. Note that successfully completing this exam **does not** exempt students from the proficiency exam requirement. Proficiency exams are administered twice throughout the academic year: finals week of Fall and Spring Semester. Proficiency exams are not given at any other time. Two weeks prior to finals week, students can sign-up and receive exam requirements by contacting Dr. Roy.

The following skills will need to be demonstrated in an audition with Dr. Roy.

1. Solo Repertoire: performed by memory or with score
Demonstrate a difficulty level achieved with 5-6 years of keyboard study
To be eligible for the proficiency exam, at least 10 years of keyboard study is expected.
2. Five Finger Patterns: all major and minor keys, hands together
3. Scales and Arpeggios: all major and harmonic minor scales, 2 octaves, hands separately with standard fingerings
Scales at minimum of MM=112, eighth note subdivision
Arpeggios at minimum of MM=63, triplet subdivision
4. Modal Scales: one octave, starting from any pitch
Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Phrygian, and Dorian
5. Primary and Secondary Chord Progression: I-vi-IV-ii⁶-I₆/4-V₇-I in all major keys



6. Seventh Chords: M7, Mm7, m7, Half-dim 7, Dim 7
Starting from any pitch, hands together

7. Harmonization: Play a RH melody accompanied by primary and secondary chords in the LH



8. Two-Hand Accompaniment: Play a two-handed harmonic accompaniment while singing the above melody (No. 7).

9. Improvisation: Improvise a RH melody with the following LH chord pattern.
3/4 time signature, Key of D major
Each chord symbol represents one measure (inversions may be used)

I I IV I I IV V7 I

10. Sight Reading: Read an example similar in difficulty

