

B.A. in **MUSIC**

THE LEADERS

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ASSESSMENT

Among the proficiencies needed by music majors are keyboarding skills, which is why the faculty offers two required courses and conduct assessments early in the program to prepare students for success. Fundamental keyboard skills contribute in a holistic way to students' growth as musicians and place emphasis on the practical application of music theory involving harmonization and transposition. Piano skills instructors assess students using a common rubric with multiple sections that reflect the range of techniques needed. Faculty and the piano program coordinator then review the results.

IMPACT

The process in fall 2016 of developing and piloting the rubric served the basic function of creating a consistent tool for evaluating students' skills for instructors in Piano I and II to use. More importantly, the conversations and collaboration that led to those tools unified the adjunct faculty and the course content for the two-course sequence, which improved the piano skills program as a whole. As such, faculty members plan to discuss assessment results in 2016-17 as well, incorporating relevant materials into the course syllabi. Faculty members planned to use the new rubric in the first week of fall 2016 to gather baseline data about student skills, which they'll compare to results late in the semester to see if their changes had the desired impact.



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