

Piano Pedagogy, M.M.

Degree Offered

- Master of Music

Nature of the Program

WVU offers a Master of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy. This program offers a variety of courses and comprehensive experience in individual and group piano instruction.

This Master of Music degree is designed to provide advanced training to help prepare students to teach piano successfully in an independent studio, community music program or college. Topics covered may include:

- Teaching students of all ages
- Teaching students at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels
- Teaching in private- and group-lesson formats
- Evaluating recommended music, methods and materials
- Using technology to enhance music teaching
- Developing well-rounded curriculum for pre-college students
- Teaching students how to help their pupils develop a healthy and efficient technique as well as musical and stylistic playing
- Reviewing research on learning theory, memorization and other topics of importance to piano teachers
- Operating the independent studio as a successful business
- Special topics related to teaching college group instruction and private students
- Special topics related to teaching pre-college and advanced students

Admissions for 2025-2026

All applicants to the MM in Performance degree must demonstrate proficiency in the primary area of specialization via an audition before a panel of School of Music faculty; in-person auditions are preferred, but video auditions may be considered via consultation with appropriate faculty. Applicants must earn a Performance Level nine for admission.

An undergraduate piano performance or collaborative piano degree is required. Applicants to this program must present the necessary credentials to evaluate previous training and experience to the School of Music.

These include transcripts from all institutions previously attended showing a grade point average of at least 3.0 in all undergraduate studies to be considered for admission. A jury is required at the end of the first semester.

Major Code: 3743

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher required.		
Performance: Piano (four semesters at two credit hours each)		8
MUSC 700E	Performance: Piano (Repeated)	
MUSC 689	Master's Recital	2
MUSC 771	Music Research and Bibliography	3
Keyboard Performance/Pedagogy		6
MUSC 630	Keyboard Performance and Pedagogy (Repeated)	
Pedagogy Project		4
MUSC 695	Independent Study	
Complete one Music Theory course or one Music History course from the following:		2-3
Music Theory		
MUSC 460S	Upper Division Composition	
MUSC 462	Counterpoint, 18th Century	
MUSC 463	Analysis of Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Music	
MUSC 464	Compositional Techniques in Contemporary Music	

MUSC 465S	Electronic Music	
MUSC 466	Techniques for Electronic Music Performance	
MUSC 468	Jazz and Commercial Music Harmony	
MUSC 761	Theory Topics	
MUSC 762	Pedagogy of Theory	
MUSC 763	Analytical Techniques	
MUSC 764	Compositional Techniques in Contemporary Music	
Music History		
MUSC 470A	Topics in Popular Music	
MUSC 470B	Topics in the Study of Western Art Music	
MUSC 470C	Topics in the History of Jazz	
MUSC 470D	Topics in Music of Sub-Saharan Africa	
MUSC 470E	Topics in Musics of the Americas	
MUSC 470F	Topics in Musics of East Asia	
MUSC 470G	Topics in Musics of South Asia	
MUSC 470H	Topics in Gender and Sexuality in Music	
MUSC 470I	Topics in Race and Ethnicity in Music	
MUSC 470J	Topics in Musics of the Arab World	
MUSC 477	Music of Africa	
MUSC 593	Special Topics	
MUSC 670	Perspectives of Musicology and Ethnomusicology	
MUSC 731	Keyboard Literature	
MUSC 793	Special Topics	
MUSC 795	Independent Study	
MUSC 796	Graduate Seminar	
Music Electives		4-5
Ensembles (2 semesters)		2
Comprehensive Oral Examination		
Total Hours		31-33

Major Learning Outcomes

PIANO PEDAGOGY

Students who earn the Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy will develop:

- Advanced competencies in pedagogy specific to the study of piano and its repertory.
- Knowledge and skills in one or more fields of music outside the major such as history and literature, theory and analysis, musicology and ethnomusicology, and recording and studio techniques.