

Keyboard/Lute Proficiency Exam

All IU Jacobs School of Music students must pass a keyboard proficiency exam to receive their degree: HPI students are required to take the Keyboard Proficiency Exam on harpsichord or lute in place of the piano proficiency exam, which does not satisfy the early music requirement. The proficiency requirement ensures that every student acquire basic skills in addition to a fundamental understanding of continuo styles.

All undergraduates (except harpsichord and lute majors) have the option of taking Y110 (2 credits) in harpsichord or lute until the Proficiency Examination is passed (see below.)

Master's students (except harpsichord and lute majors) can take Y810 as part of their Other Required Credits (degree credits) or Y710 (non-degree credits) to get instructions to pass the Proficiency Exam.

In either case, students will work on continuo playing and solo repertoire. The required components of the proficiency exam can be taken any time, by appointment, but students are encouraged to begin the process during their first semester of study. At the beginning of fall semester each year, we will offer placement evaluations so that each student can receive counsel about how best to prepare for successful completion of the proficiency exam requirements.

Keyboard and plucked instrument Proficiency Exam

The exam consists of the following:

1. One prepared solo from late sixteenth to mid-eighteenth century
2. One solo piece to be prepared in 48 hours
3. Accompaniment of a piece with an unrealized figured bass, prepared in advance
4. Accompaniment of a piece with an unrealized figured bass, prepared in 48 hours

Lute students: Please confer with Professor Nigel North for guidance about appropriate repertoire.

Harpsichord students: Please confer with Professor Elisabeth Wright for guidance about appropriate repertoire.

COMING SOON: Links to suitable repertoire for all components of the exam.