

Keyboard Area

Studio Environment

A studio is an environment, a collective of colleagues and friends, and a place to nurture each other's musical talents. For this to be possible, there are several things we all must do:

- Recognize that we all share the same goal - to become the best musicians and educators we can be. Keep this long-term goal always in sight.
- We must place less emphasis on the talents, successes, and failures of others and concentrate more on ourselves. Competition in small doses can be motivational, but it can also serve to alienate individuals and cloud our ultimate objective.
- Share in each other's knowledge and work together. Each individual in our studio has very different strengths and weaknesses. Invite others to hear a run through of an etude and accept their criticism. They will in turn offer you the same courtesies.
- Use good judgment in your words and actions. Our school of music is a small place and we want to maintain an encouraging environment for growth. We will not tolerate malicious remarks, actions or activities that is unlawful or against school policies. These types of behavior weaken the working environment, School of Music and reflect negatively upon the studio.
- Practice, practice, practice. Then encourage someone else to practice. Visit the library, go to concerts – learn as much as you can in and outside of the classroom. There are no short cuts to improvement.

POLICIES/COURSE REQUIREMENTS (Each individual keyboard faculty member may make changes as necessary for their courses)

Attendance

Lesson times will be assigned during the first week of the semester. Conflicts due to another RESSOM course or ensemble activities, sickness, or emergencies will be excused and made up when possible. MUAP 1311, 4311, 7311 and 8311 can not missed more than 2 studio classes per semester. You should contact professors at least 24 hours in advance of known absences. Absences for any other reason (including part-time jobs) will be unexcused and will result in a lowered letter grade.

Medical Challenges

You are not legally obligated to disclose any medical conditions. If you are comfortable discussing, please inform us if you have any medical conditions that may alter your ability to perform on your instrument. Example – if you have elbow tendonitis that may be aggravated by a specific technique that I suggest, eating or mental health issue.

Written Assignments

For students preparing recitals, any program notes must be submitted at least 3 weeks prior to your recital date. Students will also be asked to compile a CV/resume and repertoire list in the fall and spring semesters.

Jury Examination

At the end of the semester, all students enrolled in applied lessons will be required to perform a live jury, video jury or end of semester recital for the piano faculty. This will include solo repertoire and etudes assigned to you by your teacher during the semester.

Recital Attendance

Recitals by RESSOM faculty members, visiting artists, and other piano students are **REQUIRED**. Please review the concert calendar distributed during the early part of the semester and posted on the bulletin board. Adjust any conflicts accordingly. Missed recitals without proper documentation for an excused absence will result in a lowered letter grade (A to A- etc.).

Recording of Lessons/Media

We strongly encourage students to record their weekly lessons. These recordings should be evaluated by the student weekly and discussed with the professor. All students should have a professional headshot taken at least once during their tenure at University of Memphis.

Concert Attire and Performance Opportunities

There will be multiple opportunities for students to perform on and off campus. Some of these include local competitions, recitals, chamber performances and master classes. Students must adhere to appropriate concert dress. All students should own formal dress and business attire recitals and master classes.

Studio Resources

We have a great deal of equipment, scores, recordings and resources that we are willing to lend to current students for a period of time. Please ask if you would like to borrow any materials. Please check the Piano Bulletin board for other announcements located in the piano "corner" on the first floor.

Expectations

My role at RESSOM is to teach, guide, help, encourage, challenge and serve all students with whom I come in contact. You are at RESSOM to learn and gather as much information from your teachers, your peers and me so you can use that information to help actualize your full potential as a pianist, musician and person.

GRADING POLICY

At the end of each lesson, students will assign a grade for demonstrated preparedness and improvement. These will be averaged at the end of the semester. Unexcused absences from lessons will constitute an "F" for that week's grade.

In General Grades will be determined by the following. Each teacher may have variations to their grading policy.

50 % – Lesson (Attendance, Preparation and Progress) Attendance and participation at the weekly studio classes (Tuesday/Fridays) and Piano Area Workshops (select Fridays)

10%-Recital Program Ad/Notes (in designated degree recital semesters this is 10% of the Lesson grade)

20% - Individual Studio Assignments (CV, Biography, etc.)

20 % - Attendance at Faculty/Guest Artist Concerts/Masterclasses and Memphis International Piano Festival and Competition (fall only)

10 % - Final Recital/Jury Exam preparations - 30 mins for DMA, 20 mins for MM, 10-15 mins for BM/non majors