

SECONDARY PIANO PLACEMENT TEST

Who takes the Secondary Piano Placement Test?

The Secondary Piano Placement Test is required for all music majors who are non-keyboard principals. Keyboard principals can choose another secondary area such as voice or an instrument; however, all other music majors must take piano as their secondary applied area. (Music minors are not required to have a secondary area). Taking piano lessons will prepare you to take the Piano Proficiency Test which is required of all music majors at the end of the fourth semester of piano study.

When is the Secondary Piano Placement Test given?

All placement tests (piano and theory) are given during Summer Orientation and may also be given during Welcome Week just before classes begin. Music placement tests will be listed on your schedule of events. Transfer students please note that theory and piano placement tests are given on Sunday afternoon prior to the Transfer Summer Orientation schedule.

How can I prepare for the Secondary Piano Placement Test?

If you have never studied piano, you will want to start taking private piano lessons as soon as possible. In particular, you should concentrate on basic music reading at the keyboard as well as scale fingerings and basic chord study.

If you have already had piano lessons, prepare a classical piece at your current level of ability to play from memory.

What happens if I arrive at Belmont and have not taken any piano lessons?

You must still come to the Secondary Piano Placement Test to fill out the information form, and most likely you will be placed in a beginning piano class.

What will happen during the Secondary Piano Placement Test?

Your piano skills will be evaluated so that you can be placed in a proper level of piano study suitable for your current level of playing ability. The Piano Placement Test evaluates your ability to READ music at the keyboard as well as your general ability to play.

Can I play an original composition or other arrangement for the Secondary Piano Placement Test?

No. The purpose of this test is to determine your ability to play classical music and to assess your ability to read music at the keyboard.

What if I have already passed a Piano Proficiency Exam at another college?

Even if you have passed a Piano Proficiency Test at another college you will still have to be evaluated regarding your CURRENT piano skills. You may have to study at least one semester of piano and then take Belmont's Piano Proficiency Test.