Transfer Student Keyboard Placement

Overview
All transfer students should attempt to place out of Keyboard Skills I (MUCC 111). Placement exams occur the Sunday before classes begin each semester. Students with significant piano experience or those wanting to move further into the keyboard sequence may also attempt to place out of Keyboard Skills II (MUCC 112). Placements beyond MUCC 111 and MUCC 112 will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Preparing for your placement exam (Keyboard Skills I, MUCC 111)
To place out of Keyboard Skills I, prepare the following three items.

1. Five-Finger Patterns—Major five-finger patterns (scale, broken chord, and blocked chord), hands together, ascending through all 12 keys without pausing. Proper fingering is required—use the same fingering as C major for all keys. Quarter note=76

   Piano
   \begin{music}
   \begin{musicnote}
   5 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 5 3 1 3 5 1 3 5
   \end{musicnote}
   etc.
   \end{music}

2. Chord Progression—I IV I V I V7 I chord progression in all major keys using left hand root tones and right hand closest position chords from root position tonic. Proper fingering is required—use the same fingering as C major for all keys. Quarter note=66

3. Solo—Students prepare a solo of their choice. Perform 30-60 seconds of an excerpt from a solo that showcases your technical and artistic skills.

Students will also sight-read a piano solo and a harmonization as part of the placement exam.
Preparing for your placement exam (Keyboard Skills II, MUCC 112)

Students with significant piano experience or those wanting to move further into the keyboard sequence may also attempt to place out of Keyboard Skills II (MUCC 112) during their placement exam on the Sunday before the semester begins. If you wish to place out of both MUCC 111 AND MUCC 112 at the same time, prepare the following in addition to all of the MUCC 111 items.

1. **Left Hand Chord Progression**—Left hand chord progression in all major keys using primary chords. Proper fingering is required—use the same fingering as C major for all 12 keys. Quarter note=100

![Left Hand Chord Progression Example](image)

2. **Solo**—Students prepare a solo of their choice. Perform 30-60 seconds of an excerpt from a solo that showcases your technical and artistic skills. (The same solo may be used for MUCC 111 and MUCC 112 as long as the difficulty level matches the minimum for MUCC 112 (late elementary level).

Students will also sight-read piano solos with and without pedal, sight-read a harmonization, and sight-read an open score as part of the placement exam.

**Understanding grading and assessment for MUCC 111 and MUCC 112**

**Assessment Checklist for Five-Finger Patterns and Chord Progressions**

- **Accuracy**—Are you playing the correct notes in each key?
- **Tempo**—Can you play continuously at the tempo marked above?
- **Fingering**—Are you using the correct fingering in each of the 12 keys?
- **Continuity**—Can you play through all 12 keys without stopping?

Performances that do not meet all four assessment checklist items will not pass.

**Assessment Checklist for Solo**

- **Continuity and Accuracy**—Can you play the correct notes and rhythms and play without stopping?
- **Musicality**—Can you hear phrasing? Are you using dynamics, articulations, and (if appropriate) pedal?