

The Crane School of Music • SUNY Potsdam

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Piano Pedagogy at Crane

Piano pedagogy, or the study of teaching piano, relates principles of music learning to the piano. Students taking piano pedagogy courses learn how to teach in individual and group settings to various ages and levels of students. They also explore standard business practices for independent pre-college studios.

Teaching Opportunities

Practicum in Elementary-Level Teaching—two semesters

Crane piano pedagogy students work individually with area children in group and private piano lessons. Crane students learn how to design and implement lesson plans, how to encourage and oversee consistent home practice, and how to implement a curriculum over the course of a year with an elementary-aged beginning pianist. Students also learn strategies for group instruction.

Practicum in Adult Teaching—one semester

Crane piano pedagogy students teach weekly individual lessons to adult piano students of various levels. Crane students learn age-appropriate instructional techniques and how to prepare their students for a final performance.



Recent Guest Pedagogues

- Randall Faber
- Scott Price
- Fred Karpoff
- Mario Ajero
- Sara Ernst
- Elaina Burns
- Rebekah Jordan-Miller
- Pat DeAngelis
- Helen Smith-Tarchalski
- Marvin Blickenstaff

Piano Pedagogy Coursework

Piano Pedagogy and Practicum I—Build skills in elementary-level teaching while studying average-age piano methods and business practices for independent teachers.

Piano Pedagogy and Practicum II—Explore intermediate repertoire and materials.

Piano Pedagogy and Practicum III—Teach adult piano students. Explore special topics in piano pedagogy, like developing healthy technique or managing performance anxiety.

Project in Piano Pedagogy—Graduate students can develop an in-depth project on a specialized topic.

Concentration in Piano Pedagogy

The Concentration in Piano Pedagogy can be added to any degree program at Crane. Undergraduates must complete Piano Pedagogy and Practicum I (elementary teaching), II (intermediate teaching), and III (adult teaching), as well as MUCC 303 (Functional Keyboard Skills for Pianists). Graduate students must complete Piano Pedagogy and Practicum I and II and the Project in Piano Pedagogy to earn the concentration.

Crane Piano Pedagogy Conference

Held every other year, the Crane Piano Pedagogy Conference brings nationally known piano pedagogues to campus for workshops and master classes. Crane students interact with professional piano teachers, assist with the operation of the conference, and present research posters.

Piano Pedagogy Alumni

Our graduates pursue various paths after their time at Crane, including:

- Independent studio owner
- Collegiate faculty member
- Instructor in pre-college or preparatory music schools
- Public school teacher
- Graduate student in piano performance, piano pedagogy, music education, and more
- Music director for religious institutions

For direct inquiries about the Crane Piano Pedagogy Program, contact Dr. Kathryn Sherman, Associate Professor of Piano Pedagogy, by calling (315) 267-3230 or via email: shermakd@potsgdam.edu

Website: <https://bit.ly/3BEDipd>

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