

University of North Texas
College of Music
Keyboard Skills Preparation for MUAG 1011 enrollment

As a new music major, it is always advantageous to begin developing some piano skills prior to starting your music degree. Many students arrive with minimal piano skills and are appropriately placed in the first semester skills class, MUAG 1011 Keyboard Skills.

This class however, does assume some basic knowledge in order to be successful. I will outline what skills one would need to have in advance of taking this class.

1. The numbering of fingers 1-5, each hand
2. Keyboard direction – up (to the right), down (to the left)
3. Names of all white keys
4. Sharp/Flat/Natural signs
5. Whole steps/half steps on the keyboard
6. Time signatures
7. Basic rhythms – quarter notes, half notes, whole notes and corresponding rests
8. Basic staff notation – bass clef and treble clef
9. Dynamic signs – mf, mp, p, f, crescendo, decrescendo
10. Building five-note patterns using whole and half steps

MUAG 1011 Keyboard Skills assumes this basic knowledge at the start of the class. This material can be reviewed in chapter one of *KEYBOARD STRATEGIES MASTER TEXT I: Stecher, et al, (G. Schirmer, 1980)*.

Also, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about preparing for your first semester in MUAG 1011 Keyboard Skills.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brad Beckman
Coordinator of Group Piano
Bradley.Beckman@unt.edu