

PIANO ACCOMPANIST/COACH

DEFINITION

Provides piano accompaniment for music, and dance classes, choral groups, recitals, concerts, and other special events and provides individual coaching outside of class to improve musical skills.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Plays accompaniment at sight for designated classes and choral groups.
Coaches students individually outside of class to improve vocal and/or instrumental skills.
Coaches students in proper diction for songs in foreign languages.
Illustrates different musical forms in modern dance and theory courses.
Adapts themes to the piano from recorded music.
Composes short music phrases to accompany choreographed dance pieces.
May perform clerical duties such as cataloging music.
May accompany students for performances.
Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

A **Piano Accompanist** provides piano accompaniment for music, dance and choreography classes, choral groups, soloists, and coaches students outside of class to improve vocal and/or instrumental skills.

An **Instructional Assistant, Music**, applies a general knowledge of music in supervising the use of a music department listening laboratory and practice rooms, assisting students to develop perceptive listening skills, and managing the routine day-to-day business transactions of the music department office.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from a department chair or instructional staff. No supervision is exercised.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Advanced piano playing
Music theory, harmony, rhythm, composition, transition, and tempo
Meaning of musical terms, signs, and abbreviations
Popular, semi-classical, and classical music
Vocal techniques
Proper diction and understanding of foreign languages as it relates to musical pieces

Ability to:

Play at sight, with accuracy and feeling, popular, semi-classical and classical music and art songs
Memorize, improvise, adapt and transpose music
Coach students individually to improve vocal and/or instrumental skills
Compose short music phrases
Select music suitable to various occasions
Follow a soloist or a conductor in performing a musical score
Work effectively and cooperatively with instructors, students, and other personnel

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

Two years of paid or unpaid experience accompanying vocal soloists, choral groups, or dancers using a piano. Formal study of the piano may be substituted for the required experience on a year-for-year basis.