

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

MUSC 121 - KEYBOARD SKILLS I

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: MUSC121: Keyboard Skills I
- B. New or Modified Course: modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2019
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2020
- E. Sponsoring Department: Arts & Design (A&D)
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 2
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 1
 Laboratory: 2
 Out of class student work per week: 3
- H. Prerequisites: none.
- I. Laboratory Fees: Yes
- J. Arts & Design Co-chairs: John Sichel, john.sichel@raritanval.edu
 Vandana Nadkarni: vandana.nadkarni@raritanval.edu
 Dean: Division of Liberal Arts and Fine Arts, Business and Public Service:
 Patrice Gouveia Marks: patrice.marks@raitanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites: none. This course will develop the basic skills of keyboard playing, music reading, and keyboard techniques such as scales, chords, hand position and fingering. Beginning exercises and introductory piano literature will be assigned. The course is designed for the student with little or no prior keyboard experience.

III. Statement of Course Need:

A. Keyboard Skills courses are an essential part of the music curriculum, for students pursuing either the musical arts or music education. This course permits students to gain the basic keyboard skills required for further serious music study. The course is designed for the music student with a limited background in keyboard playing or those whose musical performance area is not the keyboard. It is the first course in a four semester sequence of keyboard skills, required for music majors as an adjunct to their studies in

music theory, musicianship, MIDI and/or composition. The course is also appropriate for those interested in Early Childhood Education and in Music Therapy.

Keyboard Skills courses are standard offerings in community colleges and four-year institutions as they are also often desired by many community individuals for personal development and musical enrichment.

B. This class is taught in A-23, our electronic keyboard lab, and is essentially the application of musical skills, knowledge, creativity and performance at the keyboard.

C. Course transferability: Based on evaluations by the njtransfer.org website, this course transfers to most colleges as an Arts elective or a Free elective or as a keyboard proficiency course for music majors.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective

B. This course serves as a studio arts elective for AA Liberal Arts Majors

C. The course meets a program requirement for AFA Music

D. To see course transferability for New Jersey colleges and universities, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; for other colleges and universities, go to the college website.

V. Outline of Course Content:

A. Music fundamentals:

- terms and elements of music
- symbols for pitch, rhythm, meter, dynamics
- ear training concepts and drills

B. Hand position, posture, practice habits

C. Beginning technical and coordinative exercises

D. 5-finger position in major and minor keys

E. Transposition in 5-finger position

F. Ensemble playing

G. Solo and ensemble repertory as assigned

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Outcomes

The student will:

develop the skills of keyboard playing, enabling further pursuit and engagement in creative expression, personal development, and the aesthetic and technical elements of music. (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)

B. Course Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. identify and apply musical terms and notational symbols.
2. develop reading and coordinative skills with beginning repertory and exercises.
3. transpose musical material in 5-finger position.
4. use the keyboard as a basic tool for the study of music theory, composition, arranging, and digital applications.
5. play and perform solo and ensemble pieces.

(* embedded critical thinking)

C. Assessment Instruments:

1. Written examinations – midterm and final – theory and notation
2. Chapter reviews of written theory, musical terms and concepts
3. Weekly progress on assigned materials
4. Performance examinations – assigned materials

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Examinations: written and performance
- B. Weekly progress and individual effort
- C. Attendance/classroom participation

Formats, modes and methods that may be used for teaching and learning:

- A. Lecture/demonstrations
- B. Group instruction and discussions.
- C. Ensemble playing
- D. Individual instruction

VIII. Texts and Materials

Text: (such as) Caroline A. Lindemann: Piano Lab: An Introduction to Class Piano, latest edition (Wadsworth Pub. Co.; Belmont, CA)

(Please note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

Materials:

Supplementary materials and/or repertory may be supplied by the instructor.

IX. Resources

- A. Soundproof music studio/classroom with acoustic piano.
- B. Electronic keyboards: Individual student keyboard stations (12) plus the instructor's demonstration keyboard.
- C. Stereo and media systems

