

Certificate of Merit Information

What is Certificate of Merit?

Certificate of Merit is a total musicianship program that provides guidance for teachers to help each student develop proficiency in the art of making music. The program was designed by the Music Teachers Association of California, and is administered in Idaho by the Treasure Valley Music Teachers Association.

In 1934, the first Certificates of Merit were granted to students as a means of promoting continuous study and regular attendance at lessons through a given period of time. Approximately 30,000 students now participate in Certificate of Merit each year.

Why Participate?

The goals of Certificate of Merit are to:

- Provide a systematic and comprehensive plan to develop performance skill, technique, ear training, and sight reading skills, and understanding of music theory;
- Provide practical goals to help students maintain a steady and focused appreciation of their musical studies;
- Encourage students to strive for musical excellence
- Create opportunities in which students may share their music with others.

The Evaluation

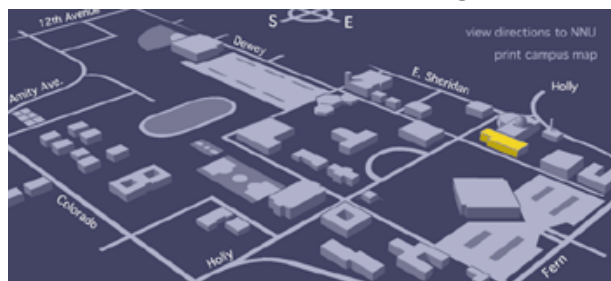
Certificate of Merit is divided into Levels Prep through 10. Students receive a personal evaluation from an experienced teacher. The evaluation is 10-30 minutes long depending on the student's level. Additional time is allotted for a theory/ear training exam. The evaluation consists of four parts:

1. Technique
2. Repertoire
3. Sight Reading
4. Theory & Ear Training

Each student will receive a written progress assessment. Students earn 1 point for each portion of the evaluation which they pass, up to four points per year.

A trophy is awarded once the student has achieved 12 points. Students in Level 3 and above who demonstrate exceptional skill are invited to perform at an Honors Recital.

Location: NNU Fine Arts Building (in yellow)



Keyboard Evaluation

- **Bring your printed music** for the adjudicator
- Dress professionally in slacks or skirt or dress. **No jeans or tennis shoes!**
- Check in at the front desk when you arrive before going to any of the other rooms. Please bring the appointment form that your teacher will have given you.
- Be outside the evaluation room 5 minutes before your scheduled time.
- The student will play in a private room for a judge ("adjudicator"). Parents may listen outside the door.

Theory and Ear Training Tests

- The theory room will be open approximately 9:00-4:30. You can take your theory test at any time, but please arrive by 3:30 to give yourself ample time to complete the test.
- Pick up your test in the theory room. You can either do your test or your ear training first.
- When you enter the room, please leave all books and papers at the front desk. **Check the test to make sure it is the right level.** Put your name and teacher number on the front.
- If you have not completed your test and it is time for your evaluation, leave your test at the front and come back to the theory room to finish it after your evaluation
- There will be a teacher in the room to answer any questions. If you don't understand a question, don't hesitate to ask for an explanation.
- When you have finished your theory test, go to the ear training room. Enter and wait quietly until the teacher is ready for you.
- After finishing your ear training, double check your test to make sure you have not missed any pages and leave your test in the ear training room.

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