**Course Title:** Special Topics: Beginning Piano  

**Department:** Arts & Media  

**Curriculum:** Music

**Course Code:** MUS*298

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Type:** L

**Elective Type:** FA/G/HU

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Developmental:** N

**Contact Hours:**
- Lecture: 3
- Clinical: 0
- Lab: 0
- Studio: 0
- Other: 0
- **TOTAL:** 3

**Class Maximum:** 12

**Semesters Offered:** F/Sp/Su

**Ability Based Education (ABE) Statement:** At Tunxis Community College students are assessed on the knowledge and skills they have learned. The faculty identified the General Education Abilities critical to students’ success in their professional and personal lives. In every class, students are assessed on course abilities, sometimes program abilities, and, in most classes, at least one General Education Ability. Students will receive an evaluation of the degree to which they have demonstrated or not demonstrated that General Education Ability.

**Catalog Course Description:** An introduction to the piano where students will learn the piano keyboard and acquire the basic skills to read general musical notation as related to the piano. Additionally, an understanding and application of the basic chords and scales will be covered. Students will also receive a foundation in music theory and appreciation as it relates to the piano.

---

**Department:** Arts & Media

**Curriculum:** Music

**Course Code:** MUS*298

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Type:** L

**Elective Type:** FA/G/HU

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Developmental:** N

**Contact Hours:**
- Lecture: 3
- Clinical: 0
- Lab: 0
- Studio: 0
- Other: 0
- **TOTAL:** 3

**Class Maximum:** 12

**Semesters Offered:** F/Sp/Su

**Ability Based Education (ABE) Statement:** At Tunxis Community College students are assessed on the knowledge and skills they have learned. The faculty identified the General Education Abilities critical to students’ success in their professional and personal lives. In every class, students are assessed on course abilities, sometimes program abilities, and, in most classes, at least one General Education Ability. Students will receive an evaluation of the degree to which they have demonstrated or not demonstrated that General Education Ability.

**Catalog Course Description:** An introduction to the piano where students will learn the piano keyboard and acquire the basic skills to read general musical notation as related to the piano. Additionally, an understanding and application of the basic chords and scales will be covered. Students will also receive a foundation in music theory and appreciation as it relates to the piano.
I. Orientation to playing the piano
   A. Keyboard layout and note identification
   B. Piano pedals
   C. Playing posture and hand positioning
   D. Finger numbering

II. Fundamentals of music notation
   A. Basic note values, ties, and dotted notes
   B. Dynamic markings
   C. The grand staff and ledger lines
   D. Bar lines, measures, and repeat signs
   E. Meter and time signatures
   F. Basic rest values
   G. Accents, staccato, slurs and fermatas
   H. Codas, Da Capo and fine
   I. Accidentals

III. Fundamentals of music theory
   A. Musical form
   B. Half steps and whole steps
   C. Intervals (seconds, thirds, fourths, fifths and sixths)
   D. Major chords
   E. Major scales (C major and G major) and tonality
      1. Tonic, dominant, leading tone
      2. Primary diatonic chords (I, IV and V7)

IV. Playing technique
   A. Dynamics: ppp - fff, crescendos and diminuendos
   B. Pedaling
   C. Articulation: accents, slurs, legato and staccato
   D. Tempo consistency and modification (ritardando and fermatas)
   E. Agility: crossovers, finger substitution and extension
   F. Intervals: thirds, fourths, fifths, and sixths (blocked & broken)
   G. Chords
      1. Major chords (blocked and broken)
      2. Primary chords in C major and G major
   H. Major scales (C and G)
      1. Parallel motion
      2. Contrary motion

V. Introduction to improvisation (pentascales and major scales)

Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:
1. identify note names, note values, key signatures, basic intervals and triads
2. demonstrate developed keyboard playing technique
3. play selected chords and scales with accuracy at a moderate speed
4. perform a repertoire of beginning piano pieces with accuracy and musicality

PROGRAM: None
### GENERAL EDUCATION:

**Evaluation:**
List how the above outcomes will be assessed.

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:
1. Written theory assignments and quizzes;
2. Performance of selected exercises and pieces;
3. Final performance of selected works

### Instructional Resources:

List library (e.g. books, journals, online resources), technological (e.g. Smartboard, software), and other resources (e.g. equipment, supplies, facilities) required and desired to teach this course.

**Required:** Keyboard studio  
**Desired:**

**Textbook(s)**

*Adult Piano Adventures: A Comprehensive Piano Course, Book 1,* by Nancy & Randall Faber