PIANO PERFORMANCE at GENESEO
PROGRAM DESIGN, COURSE OF STUDY AND LEARNING OBJECTIVE

At the Musc 150 level, for piano majors, the focus is three-fold: 1) on refinement of basic technique in hand and finger positions, wrist flexibility, arm weight and weight transference, standard pedaling methods, and standard scale/arpeggio fingerings; 2) on the implementation of technical tools to differentiate varying musical styles in tone, touch, phrasing, pedaling, and balance (e.g. background vs. foreground); 3) and methods for fingering, memorization and practicing.
Examples of works studied at this level are:

- Two-Part Inventions or French Suites by J. S. Bach
- Movements of classical sonatas, such as: Concerto in D Hob. XVIII:11 by Haydn, Sonata KV 280 by Mozart, or Sonata Op. 49 No. 1 by Beethoven.
- Nocturnes by Chopin
- Etudes Op 72 No. 6 and No. 11 by Moszkowski
- Deux Arabesques, by Debussy
- Bagatelles Op. 5 by Tcherepnin

At the Musc 250 level, the focus continues with skills needed to differentiate contrasting musical styles, but on a more rigorous level. Piano majors are expected to apply their acquired knowledge of performance practice from Musc 150. They are also expected to demonstrate memorization of lengthier works. Technical/musical skills may include: playing 3-octave scales in, 3rds, 6ths, 10ths; contrapuntal and chordal voicing, balancing multiple textures, finger pedaling, playing cross rhythms, and developing speed/endurance.
Examples of works studied at this level are:

- Preludes and Fugues No. 15 and 21 from WTC I by Bach
- Movements from Classical Sonatas or Concertos, such as: Sonata Op. 22 by Beethoven or Concerto K. 288 by Mozart
- Selections from Fantasiestücke by Robert Schumann
- Etudes Op. 10 Nos. 5 or 9; by Chopin
- Rhapsodies Op. 90 by Brahms
- Czárdás macabre – Totentanz by Liszt
- Fantastic Dances by Shostakovich

At the Musc 350-level (junior and senior years) piano majors are expected to demonstrate the ability to learn larger contrasting works independently. Technical/musical skills may include: four-octave arpeggios, four-octave scales in thirds, sixths, octaves, and tenths, more advanced voicing for thicker textures, tone production, advanced pedaling techniques, and endurance exercises through “controlled tension.”
Examples of works during the Junior year may include:
• Any of the Toccatas by J.S. Bach
• Movements from Classical sonatas, such as: Hob XVI/34 in E Minor by Haydn, KV 331 in A Major by Mozart, or Op. 2 No.1 in F Minor by Beethoven
• Etudes Op. 25 No. 1 or No. 7, by Chopin
• Intermezzi Op. 117 and 118 by Brahms
• Desperate Measures, by Muczynski

Examples of works during the Senior year may include:
• Any of the Partitas by J.S. Bach
• A full classical sonata, such as: Hob. XVI/35 by Haydn; KV 332 in F Major by Mozart; Op. 10 Nos. 1 & 2, or Op. 78 by Beethoven.
• Rondo capriccioso by Mendelssohn
• Opus 14 Suite by Bartók