

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY - COMMERCE

*Pride Marching Band*

**2012 Handbook**



Pride Marching Band  
Texas A & M Commerce  
PO Box 3011  
Commerce, Texas 75429-3011  
(903) 886-5248

# ***2012-2013***

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# Pride Marching Band Faculty and Staff

Director of Bands  
Pride Marching Band Director  
Graduate Assistants

Phillip Clements  
Allan Goodwin  
Kyle Harvison  
Patrick Curry  
Bob Lienemann  
TJ Emsley  
Stuart Shulman

Color Guard Instructors

Scooter Spicer

## Student Staff

Bret Ryan, Drum Major  
Chris Ramos, Drum Major  
Stephanie White, Drum Major  
Franco Carbajal, Drum Major  
Derrell Wallace, Student Intern  
Jessa Martinez, Flute Section Leader  
Demi Shipley, Flute Section Leader  
Jade Reynolds, Clarinet Section leader  
Alex Juarez, Clarinet Section leader  
Carlos Maldonado, Saxophone Section Leader  
Chris Partridge, Saxophone Section Leader  
Clay Bates, Trumpet Section Leader  
Katie Reeves, Trumpet Section Leader  
Brianna Ballotti, Mellophone Section Leader  
Miriah McNabb, Mellophone Section Leader  
Alex Castro, Trombone Section Leader  
Jacob Muzquiz, Trombone Section Leader  
Dorian Scott, Baritone Section Leader  
Anthony Abruscato, Baritone Section Leader  
Bryan Patterson, Tuba Section Leader  
Nick Perez, Tuba Section Leader  
Taylor McManaway, Snare Section Leader  
TBA, Quad Section Leader  
Chase Kallemeyn, Bass Drum Section Leader  
TBA, Front Ensemble Section Leader  
Tabbatha Brooks, Colorguard Section Leader  
Michelle Elliott, Colorguard Section Leader  
Elyse Wooster, Uniform Coordinator  
Alex Castro, Equipment Coordinator

# Pride Marching Band Policies and Procedures

## **Grading/Attendance Policy**

Every student in the Pride Marching Band MUST BE ENROLLED. Every person enrolled in Mus 100M/D/G receives a letter grade that becomes a part of his/her permanent university record.

## Attendance Policy

### Rehearsal:

- A. Students are required to attend all rehearsals!!
- B. Students are required to be punctual for rehearsals and performances. Students are considered late if they are not in the attendance block when the whistle sounds at the beginning of rehearsal every three unexcused tardies will equal one unexcused absence.
- C. Unexcused absences in excess of one can result in the final grade being lowered one letter for each additional absence.
- D. Students are expected to notify the Director or Staff Assistant (Stuart Shulman) of their absence before rehearsal (this includes illness).

### Performance:

**An unexcused absence from a performance can result in an automatic failing grade and/or dismissal from the group!!!!**

### Reporting Absences

**The only acceptable means of reporting an absence is by visiting or calling the band office personally (903) 886-5248 at least 30 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal.** All attendance records and phone logs will be kept by the Director and the Senior Staff Assistant. There is no alternative to this procedure.

An absence shall be excused only if it has been logged and approved by the Director or Senior Staff Assistant well in advance (i.e., a class conflict,) or immediately following (i.e., a personal emergency, illness with a physician's note.)

Any absence or tardy, regardless of reason, is detrimental to the progress of the group. All attendance matters will be carefully scrutinized by the Director, and excessive absence may result in dismissal from the band. We realize that conflicts will arise, and we will do our best to resolve them in an efficient and amiable manner. However, it is understood that each band member has a responsibility to represent his or herself, the Pride Marching Band, and Texas A & M – Commerce in the best way possible, and that includes punctuality!

## **Grading**

The final grade will be determined by:

- A. Attendance, as stated above.
- B. Preparedness at rehearsal-ready to rehearse with all necessary materials (instrument/equipment, music, and coordinate sheets)
- C. Individual preparation of music, drill.
- D. A cooperative professional attitude in rehearsal and performances.

## **ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Dr. David Scott, Music Department Head (903) 886-5327 or Office of Student Disability Resources and Services-Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library Room 132 - Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 [www.StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:www.StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu) <http://www.StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu>

## **Behavioral Expectations**

All Students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Students not following those tenets are subject to dismissal from the organization.

## **Mission Statement**

The Music Department of Texas A & M University – Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

## Summary of Expenses

A great many of the expenses associated with band are covered by funds from the University such as costs of transportation, housing (hotels), meals, and equipment. There are certain items for which student is responsible. The following information is provided as a summary of those expenses. **Fees are payable the first day of the Full Band Camp (August 19<sup>th</sup>). All Fees must be paid by check or cash!**

### Brass, Woodwind and Percussion Members

#### Required:

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1) <b>Band Fee</b>      | <b>\$75.00</b> |
| (See above for details) |                |

#### If Needed:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 2) <b>Shoes</b>  | <b>\$30.00</b> |
| 3) <b>Instrument Rental and Checkout</b>   | <b>\$25.00</b> |
| The <u>instrument use fee must be paid</u> prior to any instrument being issued to you and is per instrument per semester. |                |
| 4) <b>Official “Pride” Hat or Visor</b>  | <b>\$15.00</b> |

### Colorguard Members

#### Required:

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) <b>Colorguard Fee</b> | <b>\$125.00</b> |
| (See above for details)  |                 |

#### If Needed:

- |                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 2) <b>Pride Hat or Visor</b> | <b>\$15.00</b> |
|------------------------------|----------------|

*Replacement costs for instruments, music, flip folders, lyres, and uniform parts are not covered by the Pride Marching Band, and are the sole responsibility of the individual band member.*

## School Instrument Procedures

- **Check Out/In**

Some instruments are owned by the University of Commerce and can be rented to band members who need them. Band members must fill out the appropriate paperwork through the band office and pay the \$25.00 rental fee in order to receive an instrument. The instrument will be issued for the season and will be the personal responsibility of the band member at all times. Following the final band performance, all instruments must be returned on time and in the same condition in which they were issued.

- **Care and Maintenance**

Every effort has been made to provide band members with quality instruments in the best possible condition. These instruments must be cared for, cleaned, and kept in proper playing condition by the player. Take extra precautions throughout the semester to ensure that the instrument is returned in the same condition as when it was issued. Always transport the instrument in its case!! Any problems with school-owned instruments must be reported to an equipment staff member as soon as they arise. The student responsible for the instrument will be liable for repair expenses beyond normal wear and tear and those due to negligence or loss.

## Music, Flip Folders, and Coordinate Sheets

Each band member will be issued music at the beginning of the season. Its contents are the responsibility of the individual band member for the entire marching season. Any and all lost music will be replaced at the personal expense of the band member. Students will be issued flip folders at the beginning of band camp and be required to return them at the conclusion of the season.

Students will be issued laminated Drill Coordinate Sheets for some of the shows. It is the student's responsibility to have these at all rehearsals.

**Each band member must bring ALL of his/her music, coordinates, and a pencil to every rehearsal.**

## Uniform Procedures and Policies

- **Check Out/In**

Each member is issued the following during band camp: jacket, trousers, hat, gauntlets, white gloves, t-shirt, and bag. All instrumentalists MUST have BLACK shoes and long BLACK socks. The jacket and trousers will be collected and dry cleaned as needed between performances. It is each member's responsibility to bring in his/her uniform for cleaning at the appropriate time.

- **Proper Uniform Etiquette**

Proper care of the Pride Marching Band uniform is the responsibility of the band member. We follow a few basic rules regarding how to wear our uniforms:

1. A band member is either in uniform, or not. This means that either ALL of the uniform is worn, or NONE of it is. If the jacket is on, it must be fastened and closed. The uniform will be worn in its entirety throughout the performances unless otherwise specified by the Director.
2. Stud earrings are permitted, but hoops and dangles are not. No other jewelry is to be worn on the student's body, uniform, or instrument. Instructors may request the covering of some piercings.
3. Hair must be worn inside of the hat and off the collar for both men and women.
4. Make-up must be worn in moderation unless specified by instructors for auxiliary members. Band members must not wear make-up on the jaw or neck area.
5. Face Painting is not allowed while in Uniform.
6. No additional materials will be added to the uniform in the stands or during pre-game or halftime.
7. Only official TAMU - Commerce Baseball Caps or Visors are to be worn in the stands.
8. BLACK marching shoes and socks must be worn to every performance - absolutely no other type of shoe is acceptable. Shoes must be free of scuffmarks and impeccably clean.
9. Only official Pride Marching Band shirts are to be worn under the uniform. Jackets will not be removed unless ALL members are wearing these shirts. One shirt will be issued to each band member. Additional shirts are available for purchase in the Band Office.
10. Smoking or drinking alcohol while in uniform, or at any rehearsal, is strictly prohibited.

- **Fines**

Uniforms will be checked in at prescribed times at the end of the semester. Each uniform must be complete and in good condition at the time of check-in. Incomplete or missing uniforms will result in fines assessed. Failure to pay fines will result in a grade of "incomplete" for the course and may result in further action through the university.

Replacement costs are as follows:

Jacket:	\$250.00	Garment Bag:	\$10.00
Pants:	\$100.00	Plume:	\$20.00
Hat:	\$65.00	Gauntlets:	\$30.00

## Expectations



Members of the “Pride Marching Band” are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which represents the University the Band Program in the most positive light. This is true of all rehearsals, performances and trips. Common sense should be your guide in all your personal actions, however please take note of the following policies. When in doubt, don’t do it!

## **Rehearsals**

**The Band practices - rain or shine. DO NOT CALL THE BAND OFFICE TO ASK IF WE HAVE REHEARSAL.**

Rehearsal times are as follows:

Marching Band:	Mus 100M-004	(M 7-9 p.m., T TH 12:30-2:45.)
Drumline:	Mus 100D-013	(M 6-9 p.m., T TH 12:30-2:45)
Color Guard:	Mus 100G-003	(M 7-9 p.m., W 6-9 p.m. ,TH 12:30-2:45)
Symphonic Band	Mus 100B-011	(M,W,F 2:00-3:20 p.m.)
Wind Ensemble	Mus 300W-005	(M,W,F 12:00-1:50 p.m..)

## **Rehearsal Atmosphere**

Always be early. Never miss a rehearsal or a performance.

Follow the instructions of your staff, drum majors, and section leaders. Remain quiet and in position when they are giving instructions.

Always bring music, coordinates, and a pencil to every rehearsal.

Memorize music and drill as soon as possible.

Sandals are not permitted during any outdoor rehearsal. Dress for Texas weather, and wear tennis shoes and socks.

Smoking and/or drinking alcohol at any rehearsal or band event is strictly prohibited.

It is expected that you will speak in a respectful manner to staff and fellow band members. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

If you need to leave rehearsal in an emergency, be sure to notify the executive secretary before you leave.

The Pride Marching Band uses music by some of the finest arrangers in the country. Due to this fact, there is no need for ad-libbing or altering any music during rehearsals and performances.

In order to maintain a focused learning environment it is required that all pagers and cellular phones be turned off or made inaudible during class.

## **Game Day**

Be early to all appointed times. The Pride Marching Band uses a zero tolerance policy regarding tardiness and absence on game day - for both the performance and the morning rehearsal. **If you are late, your grade will be affected.**

Sections must sit together in their assigned seating areas. Band members will be in uniform while playing.

Following pre-game, all band members must sit or stand (preferably stand) in their assigned area and support the team. EVERYONE participates in playing/cheering in the stands. Supporting the Lions is our primary responsibility.

Individual playing of instruments in the stands is prohibited.

Inappropriate language or taunts will not be tolerated!

Cell Phone Use during the game is prohibited except in the event of an emergency. Please see a staff member or the Director for clearance before making a call.

Visits from friends, relatives, etc. while in the stands are prohibited. Band members and invited guests, **pre-approved by the Director**, are the only people allowed in the band seating area during games.

Auxiliary members should stand when the band plays, and follow their captains for routines and cheers.

Band members may use the restroom during the game as needed; however, frequent trips and/or extended time away from the band will NOT be permitted. (Please notify a Graduate Teaching Assistant before leaving the stands for the restroom)

Water will be provided following pre-game and halftime. Food MAY also be provided after pre-game or halftime depending on the time of day. If the band provides food, purchase of outside food items during the game is prohibited.

Following the game, the band will play several fight songs and sing the Alma Mater. No band member is excused from the performance until the Alma Mater has been sung and any announcements from the Director have been made.

## **Away Games/Trips**

Away games, exhibitions, parades, television opportunities, and select away games are part of the TAMU-Commerce marching band experience. Participation in **every** performance, home or away, is mandatory. When classes must be missed for an out-of-town performance, excuse forms will be made available for professors. It is each band member's responsibility to make up any missed schoolwork.

## **University Band**

University Band is a non-audition concert band, which meets spring semester every year. It is open to all interested students, regardless of major with appropriate music training.

# *Traditions*

## *East Texas State Fight song*

Fight! Fight! Fight! for Alma Mater dear; We're gonna win that game today. Let our voices ring loud and clear in the old East Texas way. Yell! Yell! Yell! East Texas you're all right; You are the best of all.

We're gonna down those Bobcats And then come home tonight, With a Lion victory call. Fight, Team! Fight! Fight! Fight! East Texas Lions are marching on today, Onward to victory

## *The Alma Mater*

Let our voices loudly ringing  
Echo far and near  
Songs of praise thy children singing,  
To thy memory dear.

(Chorus)

Alma mater, Alma mater,  
Loud her praises be,  
Hail to thee, our Alma mater,  
Hail, all hail to thee.

II

All the days we've been together  
Fondly we recall,  
Days of fair or stormy weather  
Thou has gladdened all.

III

Years may dim our recollection,  
Time its changes bring,  
Still thy name in fond affection  
Evermore we sing.

# MARCHING FUNDAMENTALS And PROCEDURES

## A. SET 1: Stationary Fundamentals

### Attention (SET)

Stand tall and still, ready for next instructions. Keep heels together with toes apart (“turn-out” or “first position”), knees straight but not locked, stomach in, chest out, shoulders back, head up, eyes ahead. Most important is to extend entire body into a taller position. The ankles, hips, and shoulders should be in vertical alignment. Horns (or arms) are held up in carriage position.

### To the Ready: Parade Rest

Used mainly when waiting to enter in performance. This command is given directly before the band is called to attention. There should be no talking once this command is given. Similar to attention, except feet are shoulder width apart and horns (or arms) rest at about waist level. (Individual instructions for each instrument will be given). All other parts remain the same. The left foot moves when going to the ready (parade rest). The right foot stays planted.

### Horns Up (While Stationary)

Horns will come from carriage position to playing position in 3 even counts with the horn locking into place on count 3. Brass players should hold horns parallel to the ground. Drill Instructors and Section Leaders are responsible for attaining good horn position in each section.

### Mark Time (MT)

Used to keep tempo at a stationary position. Keep the toes on the ground. Using a left foot lead, pick up each heel about one inch and hit the ground on the beat in an alternating pattern. The body should remain steady with no side-to-side motion (weight forward).

## **B. SET 2 Movement (Forward and Backward)**

### Forward March (FM)

The left knee bends naturally into the step off on the "and" count prior to the first step. With each step, the heel hits first with the toe turned up at a high angle. The foot is then rolled to the ground, heel-to-toe. Each step is slightly crossed over, lining up the inside of the heel to the big toe. The upper body remains at attention and should be lifted up from the rib cage so that no movement occurs from the waist up.

### Backward March (BM)

The left foot extends back into the step-off on the "and" count prior to the first step. The right foot pushes the body up and back into the step-off. The feet touch only with the ball of the foot on the downbeat and the legs are extended and straight, but not locked. As with the forward march, the insteps are aligned and the upper body remains at attention. REMINDER: The heels never touch the ground until a halt!

### Halt

Upon command, the right foot continues a complete motion of the previous maneuver (i.e. forward, backward, mark time), and the left foot naturally closes to attention. (This is not a sharp or drag halt!)

## **C. SET 3: Movement (Lateral)**

### Floating to the Rear

This 3-count maneuver is used to provide a more fluid way to reverse direction than the traditional "To The Rear". It begins exactly like a forward to backward transition, using a tap step. As the right foot begins its first step in the backward direction, the entire body spins 180 degrees to the right. By the time the left foot arrives at the next step, the spin is complete and you are once again in a forward movement in the opposite direction.

### Slides

The upper body and the instrument continue to face the original direction. From the hips through the feet, face the new direction of movement.

### Exiting a Slide

As with entering a slide, the upper body maintains it's facing, and the lower body recovers to the normal forward or backward movement.

This maneuver is a change from a forward slide to a backward slide or vice versa while the body continues in the same direction. The change occurs on the ball of the foot with a quick, smooth turn of the hips. The upper body does not move at all. The shoulders must adjust with the hips in order to maintain the carriage triangle in the arms.

### Preps

In order to accommodate ease of motion into slides from forward or backward movement, a prep step will be utilized. When entering a slide from a forward or backward move, the right foot will prep on the platform 45 degrees in the direction of the slide.

## **D. SPECIALITY REHEARSAL ITEMS**

### Set Command

During drill rehearsal, the command "set" will often be used to save time. To set, simply come to attention with the horn in playing position or in carriage depending on the context.

### Horn Placement Position

There are three main horn positions:

1. Parallel: Brass lead pipes parallel to the ground; woodwinds standard.
2. To the Box: Brass bells pointed to bottom of press box; woodwinds comparable.
3. Box Level: Brass bells are straight ahead but at the same height as the bottom of press box; woodwinds comparable.

### Adjusted Step Drills

These drills involve taking different step sizes, such as 6 to 5, 10 to 5, 16 to 5, etc., in addition to the standard 8 to 5 step. The intention is to prepare for adjustment of steps within the show.

### Marching Warm-Up

The marching warm-up can be done in small groups or full band block and utilizes all fundamentals which will be needed in the show. The standard sequence is as follows:

#### **A Block** (Forward, Forward, Back, Back)

Forward March 8, Forward Left Slide 8, Backwards 8, Backward Right Slide 8, Forward March 8, Forward Right Slide, Backwards, Backwards Left.

#### **B Block** (Forward, Back, Back, Forward)

Forward March 8, Backwards Left Slide 8, Backwards 8, Forward Right Slide 8, Forward March 8, Backwards Right Slide, Backwards, Forward Left Slide.

## USING DRILL CHARTS AND COORDINATES

Each person will be assigned a section symbol and a number.

Each teaching assistant, officer and member of the leadership team will be given a complete set of drill charts. Each set will have section symbols and numbers on it. The press box sideline will be the numbered one at the bottom of the page. Instructions for each set will be written in the corner of the page. The chart will have a one-step grid on it. Each small line represents one 22.5 inch step. Every four steps are marked by darker lines.

**All students are responsible for having their coordinate sheets at every rehearsal. This is crucial to not only the learning process, but also the "cleaning" of the drill later. If everyone does his/her job in this respect, rehearsal efficiency will be drastically improved and we can be that much more incredible!**