



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE BANDS

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SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

Dear Incoming Band Student:

If you are receiving this, you are an incoming freshman or transfer student majoring or minoring in music or participating in the band program this coming year. First of all, we want to congratulate you on your acceptance into the Department of Music and to the band program. We are excited that you will be with us in the Fall to be part of all the exciting activities in the Department of Music. Please make sure to check your **MyLeo** email often and have also finalized all your orientation checklist items for the university.

We want to highlight some of the specific information contained in the **FULL BAND INFORMATION PACKET** and also give you some additional important information that is applicable to you as a new student in the Department of Music. Please read all of the information in the attached packet. The items below are simply highlights to help you.

1) Ensemble Enrollment Requirements

All students on scholarship, regardless of major, are required to participate in ensembles as determined by the level of their scholarship. All Music Education Majors, as well as Performance Majors on scholarship, are required to be in Marching Band **AND** one of the concert ensembles each fall until the student teaching semester and should enroll for both Marching Band and Symphonic Band (see registration below).

2) Course Registration and Ensembles

If you are a new student who is a music major or music minor you will work directly with Madison Wells (Madison.Wells@tamuc.edu), the advisor for incoming students in the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences who will assist you with registration. Returning students will continue to work with Amanda Scott (Amanda.Scott@tamuc.edu). This registration will become final after you attend your orientation session. It is advisable to attend the earliest orientation session that you are able in order to ensure maximum flexibility for changes in your schedule! Should you be unable to attend an orientation session due to participation in Drum Corps, please contact Ms. Wells.

Concert Ensembles:

All new undergraduate students auditioning for placement in a concert ensemble should register for Symphonic Band (**Symphonic Band MUS 100B-011**). Once concert ensemble placements have been determined at the audition on August 27th, the Department of Music will make any needed schedule changes for ensembles.

Jazz Ensembles:

While not a required course, the jazz ensembles are highly encouraged for those who have jazz ensemble experience or play a traditional jazz instrument (trumpet, trombone, saxophone, rhythm section). Those interested in auditioning for a jazz ensemble should register for Jazz Ensemble I (Jazz Ensemble I MUS 300-002) as a holding section until after the auditions on August 28th but try to leave the Jazz Ensemble II time slot available if possible. Should you have questions please contact Mr. John Wasson at John.Wasson@tamuc.edu.

3) Performance Attire for Concert and Jazz Ensembles: All students will need the following attire for concert performances during their time at the University (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensembles)

Gentlemen: Black tuxedo, solid BLACK long-sleeved dress shirt, black long tie (to be purchased from the band office at the beginning of the semester—estimated cost is \$10.00), solid black dress shoes and socks. In addition, please have black dress pants for use in combination with black dress shirt (above) for less formal performance situations (artist black).

Ladies: Black pants of appropriate length and style, a solid black blouse or top with sleeves and shoulders covered (no spaghetti straps). Black closed-toed shoes are required - sandals are not considered appropriate. (Note: Yoga pants and leggings are not acceptable concert attire)

4) Instrument Check-out: Please see the information in the attached packet regarding checkout of university-owned instruments and the dates for checking out those instruments.

5) Auditions: Any student, regardless of major, can audition for any of our ensembles.

Marching Band: If you are entering the department as a music major or music minor or have completed a successful audition with us this spring you are already accepted as a member of the marching band.

Brass and Woodwind players who have not yet auditioned will need to complete a video audition (see the full information packet for details.)

Percussion: Please note that all percussion students (new and returning) will audition for specific placement in the battery and front ensemble. Please see details in the full information packet and contact Ms. Lauren Teel, Marching Percussion Instructor (Lauren.Teel@tamuc.edu) with specific questions.

Colorguard: New Color Guard students will need to submit a video audition this summer. Contact Mrs. Lauren Potter-Color Guard Instructor: (laurengpotter@gmail.com) with specific questions. Please also see the section in the full packet for details on video audition requirements.

Concert Ensembles: If you are entering the department as a music major or music minor you are already accepted as a member of the concert ensembles based on your departmental audition this Spring. Any student regardless of major has the opportunity to audition for any of our ensembles. The concert ensemble placement auditions for the fall semester will be on Saturday, August 27th. Please see the detailed information in the full packet.

Jazz Ensembles: The jazz ensemble auditions will be on Sunday, August 28th and all students are eligible and encouraged to audition.

(Audition excerpts for Concert Ensembles (Brass & Woodwind) and Jazz Ensembles will be posted on the music department website under current student resources on Monday **July 1**. Percussion Audition Information will be posted in late July.

6) Pre-Season Marching Band Camp Housing: If you are living in the residence halls for the fall, YOU MUST make sure that you confirm early move-in for band camp with our office prior to **Friday, July 15th**. You must do this in order to be able to move in during band camp.

Go to the following link: <https://forms.gle/xxvTAWYfW1jZD6ZS6>

Have the following information ready:

- * CWID (Campus Wide ID Number)
- * Best Contact Phone and Email
- * Residence Hall Assignment
- * Major
- * Marching Band Instrument

You must do this in order to be able to move in during band camp (“Pride” Week”)

7) Calendar: We have planned a complete calendar for 2022-2023 and are excited about the numerous performances, exhibitions and events that are planned for this year. Please see the preliminary FALL/SPRING CALENDAR as well as the IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES PAGE in the full information packet for dates for instrument check-out, release of audition material and move-in and rehearsal starts for marching band students.

AFTER reading the band information packet, please let us know if you have any additional questions. The band information packet is also available for download on the Department of Music website www.tamuc.edu/music (click on *Current Student Resources* and then look under *Documents and Forms then Band Information*).

We are excited to have you as a member of the Department of Music and the band program. We look forward to working with you this year and welcome to the A&M Commerce Bands!

GO LIONS!!!

Sincerely,



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