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GATOR BAND HANDBOOK FALL 2006

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUN1110 and MUN 3110 is a performance course designed to improve individual marching and playing skills, to develop sight-reading skills, to improve the individual's grasp of the essential elements of music and to assist the student in the personal and professional growth and development necessary for successful post-baccalaureate life. Additionally, this course will provide weekly live performance opportunities for the entire ensemble. It is the focus of this course to make these performances represent the highest level of artistic and aesthetic experience. Further, it is the goal of the Gator Band to provide entertaining halftime shows, and to provide energy and spirit at all events at which the Gator Band performs. Due to the highly visible nature of these performances, participation in all rehearsals and performances is pivotal to the success of the ensemble.

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

Prompt and regular attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. Any **class conflicts** must be cleared with the director prior to the start of classes.

Absences/Late Arrival/Early Departure

- A tardy is defined as not being in your spot when rehearsal begins (4:05 p.m. for regular rehearsals). Members who are more than 15 minutes late to a regular rehearsal will be considered absent. Members who are more than 5 minutes late to a game day rehearsal will be considered absent and will lose their position in the performance block for the next performance and may be removed from that day's performance. Members who arrive late to two (2) consecutive game day rehearsals may lose the privilege of being in the Gator Band.
- Two instance of being late equal one absence.
- The attendance list for the previous week is posted every Tuesday before practice. It is your responsibility to check the list, even if you have not been absent. Any discrepancies should be discussed with the assigned Teaching Assistant within one week of the list being posted.
- An absence from a performance will result in the lowering of the member's grade and removal from the performance block for the next performance(s), depending on the schedule.
- If you are absent from 1 rehearsal during a one-week show, or 2 rehearsals during a two-week show, you may be removed from the performance block.
- Students may not be allowed to attend performances if they have unexcused absences from two rehearsals in one week and/or lose their position for two consecutive performance blocks.
- If extenuating circumstances affect your attendance you must meet with a director.

Examination Conflicts

- University examinations that conflict with rehearsals or performances must be reported at least two weeks prior to the examination using an Exam Conflict Form, which may be obtained in the Band Office. Complete the entire form, staple a copy of the class syllabus to the form, and place it in the "Exam Conflict Forms" box in the Band Office. Although it is not our policy to penalize a student's grade for attending an examination, it may be necessary to replace him/her in that week's performance block.

Post-season Rehearsals and Performances

- In the event of a Conference Championship Game or Bowl Game, participation in associated rehearsals and performances is a requirement in order to receive credit for this course, and to be allowed to return the following year.

Volunteer Events

- Each Gator Band Member must participate in two volunteer events during the fall semester in order to earn an "A". Volunteer events will be announced as the come available.

Grading Procedure

- 3 class absences = maximum semester grade of B
- 4 class absences = maximum semester grade of C

- 5 class absences = maximum semester grade of D

CHALLENGES

The University of Florida Gator Band will use the following guidelines as a basis for challenges throughout the 2006 marching season.

Challenge Criteria/Selection Process

- All alternates will participate in challenges. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the band.
- Selected members of the performance block will participate in each challenge. Staff members will make selections with input from section leaders.
- Section leader input in the selection process will be in the form of a written evaluation submitted to the staff at the conclusion of the Friday rehearsal prior to a new show.
- The Directors and Teaching Assistants will make final challenge participant selections based on the section leader evaluations, along with any additional staff input deemed necessary.
- Members will be selected for challenges based on four primary criteria:
    - Marching fundamentals
    - Playing fundamentals
    - Attendance
    - Attitude

Challenge List

- The Challenge List will be posted at rehearsal on the Tuesday prior to the challenges.

Challenge Material

- Challenges will consist of:
    - 32 counts of FM (8 to 5) glide step while playing a section of the music from the current show.

CHALLENGE DATES

Challenges will begin immediately following rehearsal on the dates listed below:

- Thursday, September 7
- Thursday, October 5

Challenge Results

- Results will be posted at the Friday rehearsal following the challenges.

The responsibility of an alternate is significant because he/she must be able to perform the show whenever and where ever a vacancy occurs. Alternates participate in all game related activities except for the actual field performance when they assist with ladders, water, and other logistics during the show.

When someone loses a marching spot:

- They move to the bottom of the alternate list of their instrument.
- Alternate order determined by audition score.
- The next person on that instrument will go in their spot.
- If there is no member on that instrument available, a person of like instrument will go in. (low brass, upper brass, sax, pic/cl)

If someone is marching in a spot in a different section and a spot opens up in their section, that person has the option of taking that spot. In that case, the vacated spot goes first to someone on the instrument of that section, and then opens to like instrument.

When a member is not present, for a reason other than an approved class conflict or pre-approved excused absence, an alternate should go in to start learning that spot.

When someone is not in a spot because of a pre-approved performance absence:

The alternate marches that spot, and regains their original spot on the alternate order when the original member returns. If another alternate was placed in after the member assumed the temporary spot, the member in the temporary spot retains priority and bumps out the person placed in after them.

Any scenario not covered in these rules will be decided upon by the Directors with input from the staff and section leaders.

CODE OF CONDUCT

THE GATOR BAND IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GOODWILL AMBASSADORS FOR THE UNIVERSITY, AND IS ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED AND VISIBLE PERFORMING GROUPS ON CAMPUS. MEMBERSHIP IN THE GATOR BAND IS A PRIVILEGE AND MUST NOT BE ABUSED. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE GATOR BAND. INDIVIDUALS WHO VIOLATE THE CODE OF CONDUCT MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE PERFORMANCE BLOCK OR DISMISSED FROM THE BAND. IT IS NEITHER THE INTENT NOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CODE TO LIST EVERY POSSIBLE RULE INFRINGEMENT. IT IS ASSUMED THAT MEMBERS OF THE GATOR BAND ARE RESPONSIBLE ADULTS, AND WILL BE TREATED AS SUCH.

1. University Rules of Conduct are in effect at all times during rehearsal, performance and travel by the Gator Band. For complete information, please see the General Information section of the University Catalog as well as the Dean of Student's handbook.

2. Possession and/or consumption of alcohol and/or drug use is expressly prohibited during all Gator Band rehearsal, travel and performance. For travel, this means from the time of assembly prior to departure through the time of dismissal at the conclusion of the trip. Evidence of drug or alcohol use may result in automatic suspension from band activities, dismissal from the band, and a failing grade. Any evidence of drug or alcohol use may result in automatic referral to the Dean of Students.

3. Band members should remain in full uniform at all times unless otherwise directed. Alternate uniforms may be designated on specific occasions. Smoking in uniform is prohibited.

4. Individual playing in the halls, on the way to rehearsal, and outside busses is not permitted. Instruments should only be played in the band hall, practice rooms, or the rehearsal site.

5. When in the stadium, please observe the following guidelines:
   - Remain in assigned stadium seating until instructed to move by a staff member.
   - Be alert for time outs and other performance opportunities. Our function in the stands is to support our team. ALL should play, and play well. Careless playing and/or ad-libbing in the stands is unacceptable, and may result in the loss of performance privileges.
   - Cheer with the cheerleaders and percussion section. Maintain a high level of support regardless of the score.
   - Breaks for rest rooms are permissible under the following conditions:
     - Members never leave the stands alone.
     - Leave your hat with a fellow section member.
   - Remember that we represent The University at all times. Negative comments are not representative of the behavior that is expected from Gator Band members.
   - If, by standing, we restrict the view of paying fans, you may be instructed to remain seated.

6. Represent your band with pride. It is your charge to maintain the tradition of excellence, and your responsibility to represent the Gator Band and The University of Florida with the highest possible individual standards. Individuals who violate the Code of Conduct may be removed from the performance block or dismissed from the band.

TRAVEL

In the spring of 1997, the College of Fine Arts put into effect a new travel policy. Any student traveling under the auspices of the College is required to have on file a signed Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement. Travel is an integral part of participation in the marching band. Without this signed form on file, students cannot travel, thereby making your participation in marching band impossible. This form MUST be turned in the week of band camp; otherwise you will automatically be dropped from marching band.

1. BUS AND ROOMING LISTS:
   - Each student will sign up online through **www.Gatorband.org** during specified registration periods. This applies to all band members on all travel.
   - Once the online bus and room sign-up registration has closed, additions, deletions and changes from the lists will not be allowed.
   - Per diem will not be issued to any student who fails to follow the proper travel registration procedure.

2. DRIVING YOUR OWN VEHICLE:
   - Prior to any student using transportation other than that provided by the University, there must be a completed form on file in the Band Office signed by the student and a Director.
   - Plan to arrive well in advance of the rehearsal or performance. Parking for personal vehicles is often difficult and expensive, so it is highly recommended that students travel via official university transportation.
   - When following the buses, remain behind the last bus at a safe distance.
   - Problems arising from the use of personal vehicles will not be considered extenuating circumstances for the purposes of attendance.
   - Moving violations, parking citations, or vehicle damage are not the responsibility of the Gator Band, or The University.

3. BUS TRAVEL:
   - Two student bus captains (assigned by directors) will be responsible for attendance, bus cleanliness, etc.
   - On travel days, be on the bus for roll check 15 minutes before scheduled departure time.
   - In the event that you miss the bus at the beginning of the trip, you will not be allowed to join the band by driving yourself to the trip destination. This is a policy handed down directly from the Dean's Office of the College of Fine Arts.
   - All uniforms must travel in a garment bag.
   - Follow packing instructions. Luggage is generally loaded on one side, instruments on the other side of under-bus storage.
   - Keep the bus clean.
   - Be considerate of the driver and fellow bus passengers.
   - Do not get off of the bus until one of the Directors instructs you to do so.
   - Do not open or close bay doors.

Travel, like participation in the marching band, is a privilege, not a right. ANYONE who abuses that privilege will be subject to disciplinary action.

UNIFORM POLICY

1. The University of Florida Gator Band maintains an exacting style of uniform wear. Members are required to wear the complete uniform while in public. Unless specifically instructed, the wearing of a partial uniform is not permitted.
2. Each member of the Gator Band will be provided a full uniform consisting of a coat, pants, hat, raincoat. Members of the tuba section will be issued a baseball cap in lieu of the shako. Members of the Florida Visual Ensemble and Gatorettes will be issued custom uniforms. Members must provide their own white socks, white band shoes. Each member will be supplied with two t-shirts for gameday rehearsals and to be worn under the uniform.
3. Each member of the Gator Band is required to have a clean, pressed uniform for every performance. There will be an inspection before each performance to ensure that each member maintains the high standards of the Gator Band. Uniform inspection will be administered prior to every public performance. Students whose uniforms are not in the appropriate condition will fail the inspection and automatically become an alternate the following week.
4. Members are not to wear sunglasses during any performance or while marching to and from the stadium. Sunglasses may be worn in the stands during football games.
5. Bracelets, wristbands, etc. may not be worn with the uniform.
6. All long hair must be pulled up and worn under the hat. No bandanas may be worn in a visible manner.
7. Only post earrings (one per ear) may be worn with the uniform. No dangle earrings may be worn with the uniform. No other visible piercing jewelry may be worn with the uniform.
8. The following are helpful hints for the care of the uniform:
   a. Do not iron the uniform, as it will burn the material.
   b. Hang up the uniform once it is taken off.
   c. Shoes should be polished prior to each public appearance.
9. Make sure any uniform problems are taken care of before Saturday morning. There is no time on Saturday to find uniform parts. Students in that situation will not perform with the band on that day.
10. Once members receive a uniform they are responsible for its complete return. They will be charged for any missing or damaged parts. The charges are as follows:

Coat	$250	Pants	$150
Hat	$100	Raincoat	$75

11. Any section t-shirts must be approved in writing by the Directors IN ADVANCE.
12. On gameday, uniforms will be issued two hours before kickoff, and **must be returned** following the post-game Turlington Plaza performance.

UNIFORM CARE

1. The uniform, unless on your person, must be hung on a hanger. There should be no instance in which your uniform is crumpled or folded.
2. **Do not store uniform wet**. Hang in a dry place to allow moisture to escape properly.
3. Do not tumble dry or heat wet uniform pieces in any manner, such as hand ironing, blow-drying, or over a hot stove. Hang properly and allow to air dry at room temperature. Follow-up promptly after air drying with requisite dry cleaning and/or pressing.
4. Examine the uniform after each use for soiling, stains, etc. and identify location and type of stain if possible to Uniform Staff on delivery of the garment for cleaning.
5. Abnormally stained uniforms should be cleaned as soon as possible after the staining occurs. Report stains to Uniform Staff immediately.
6. Do not store stained uniforms for long periods of time. **Time tends to set stains.**
7. Examine uniform after cleaning to determine whether or not the identified stains have been removed. Follow-up undesirable variances immediately.

8. Do not attempt to hand clean in any manner. Uniforms must be turned in after each performance to be dry cleaned.
9. Do not wash the uniform.
10. Do not allow the uniform to come in contact with:
    a) antistatic sprays
    b) water/oil proofer
    c) spot cleaning chemicals
    d) other topical chemicals such as: bleaches, spray deodorants, perfumes, brighteners, make-up, etc.
11. Do not hand press for touch up. Professional press only.
12. Do not wear the uniform over jeans, coats, or other outer garments. This causes undo stress and strain to the uniform seams, buttons and zippers.
13. Storing your uniform is an important part of providing proper shape retention and dryness. The following points should be considered in selecting a good storage area.
    A. Maintain Dryness: This prevents moisture retention and mildew that can rot and destroy the fabric.
    B. Ample Space: Plenty of space prevents wrinkling and allows moisture to escape from the uniform.
14. Failure to follow the uniform care policies may result in lowering of your grade, assigned service hours, and/or loss of marching spot.

HATS:

1. Keep in dry place to allow sweatband to dry. This prevents mildew and deterioration of the interior.
2. **DO NOT** dry clean, use any spot-cleaning chemicals or bleach on any part of your hat. This will cause a discoloration of your hat and result in an unprofessional appearance.

VIOLATIONS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICE HOURS:

- Not checking in uniform parts at required times - placed on bar list for amount of uniform parts not turned in **-4 service hours**
- Not turning in uniform at end of fall semester for cleaning **-4 service hours**
- Not returning borrowed item(s) within one week of the date it was borrowed - placed on bar list for amount of item(s) borrowed and 2 service hours

***Service hours must be completed in the amount of time specified by the Directors or staff.**

EQUIPMENT

Instrument Issue

The University of Florida provides instruments to members of the Gator Band in several sections. Instruments are issued by contract at the beginning of each semester and are checked in at the conclusion of each semester. Students must be officially enrolled in marching band for an instrument to be issued. Failure to check in an instrument by the designated date will result in a bar being placed on the student's academic record.

Instrument Repair

Instruments owned by The University of Florida are repaired on an annual schedule in an effort to keep up with normal wear and use. Problems with university owned instruments should be reported in writing to the Equipment Staff during posted hours so that repairs can be made in a timely fashion. Whenever possible a replacement instrument will be issued during the repair period.

Damage to instruments caused by misuse, abuse, or neglect will be the responsibility of the student to whom the instrument is issued.

** Each brass player must have valve oil at all rehearsals.

POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT
It is the policy of the University of Florida to provide an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. Sexual harassment and sexual misconduct in any form will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to promptly report sexual harassment or sexual misconduct. For more specific information, please see www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/affact/harass. and the General Information section of the University Catalog.

FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The University of Florida provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 392-1261 ext. 214.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8/18-22,25-26	BAND CAMP
8/25	Performance/Dinner-Touchdown Terrace
9/1	HOME GAME vs. W. Kentucky - 12:30PM Kickoff *Parents Weekend*
9/6	***GatorFest- TBA O'Connell Center
9/8	HOME GAME vs. Troy - 6:00PM
9/15	HOME GAME vs. Tennessee -3:30PM EST
9/22	*Pep Band @ Ole Miss - TBA
9/29	HOME GAME vs. Auburn - TBA
10/6	*Pep Band @ Louisiana State - TBA
10/13	BOA Performance- TBA
10/20	*Pep Band @ Kentucky -TBA
10/27	FULL BAND to Georgia (Jacksonville, FL) TBA
11/02	FULL BAND Homecoming Parade/Gator Growl-TBA
11/03	*Pep Band performance *Alumni BBQ* (2 hours before kickoff)
11/03	HOME GAME vs. Vanderbilt (HC)- TBA
11/10	FULL BAND TRIP @ South Carolina -TBA
11/17	HOME GAME vs. Florida Atlantic - TBA *Alumni Weekend*
11/24	HOME GAME vs. Florida State- TBA
12/1	SEC Championship (Atlanta, GA)

Notes
*37-member Pep Band
**50-member Pep Band
***Volunteer Event
(HOME GAMES APPEAR IN CAPITAL LETTERS)

Gator Band performance responsibilities involve active participation in both Fall and Spring bands. Students who enroll in ENS 207L in the fall are expected to honor their commitment to the Gator Band during the spring semester as well.
Gator Marching Band members who participate in Spring 2008 Concert Bands will not be required to audition for the 2008-2009 Gator Marching Band.

GATOR BAND MARCHING FUNDAMENTALS

THE POSITION OF ATTENTION

Definition

The position of attention is the fundamental position from which all marching maneuvers are performed. This position defines the "look" of the Gator Band, and must be absolutely uniform. Once called to attention, the marcher must remain absolutely motionless and silent.

While Attention is a specific position, it is also a specific state of mind: a call to attention means to prepare yourself for new information, and to be ready to respond in the correct manner.

Vocal responses should be crisply articulated with high energy, a low vocal pitch and with great intercostal support. This vocal response serves to alert both band and audience. Proper execution of the position of attention sets the standard for the level of excellence of all marching maneuvers.

The Position of Attention

- Weight is on the balls of the feet, with the heels lightly touching the ground.
- Heels are even and lightly touching.
- Toes are even.
- Calves are firm and straight.
- Knees are straight, *but not locked.*
- Sternum is projected up and forward.
- Stomach is flat and firm.
- Tops of shoulders are level with a horizontal plane.
- Chin is elevated 15 degrees (a dime's width) above parallel.
- Eyes focus straight ahead and 15 degrees above the horizon.
- Arms are held straight at sides.
    - Elbows remain straight and not angled away from body.
    - Wrists are straight.
    - Fingers are gently curved (as if holding a roll of dimes).
    - Flat area between second and third knuckle rests lightly against the leg.
    - Area between thumb and forefinger aligns with pants seam.

    *Will be altered to accommodate holding of instrument.

PARADE REST

Definition

The position of Parade Rest is utilized exclusively as a preparatory position for the position of attention. This position is assumed whenever the marcher hears the preparatory command...."Band."

The Position of Parade Rest

- Feet are spread 10" from heel to heel/toes to toes.
- The left hand is placed flat against the small of the back, directly above the belt line.
- Palm faces out; fingers are extended with the thumb straight and lightly touching the forefinger.
- Upper torso remains as per position of attention.
- Principal knuckles should align with the spine.
- A straight line should be formed by the wrist, hand and fingers.

AT EASE

Definition

The position 'At Ease' may be defined as the midway point between standing at attention and standing at rest. The marcher is allowed to relax, ***while keeping the right foot in place*** to aid in cleaning a form, or to keep the band in a ready position for the 'Call To' command. The Director may prescribe varying degrees of 'At Ease.' There should be **no talking** while 'At Ease' unless otherwise noted by the director.

MARK TIME

Definition

The Mark Time is utilized to maintain motion and tempo while the marcher is in a fixed position.

- The Hard Mark Time involves rapid movement of the legs from one position to the next. Proper execution will allow sufficient time for the knee to 'freeze' in position.
- For proper execution, the heel *must* lift 2" from the turf.
- Tightening the abdominal region will absorb most of the jolting from the knees so that the upper torso remains steady and erect.
- Muscular contraction should cushion heels; avoid slamming heels to the turf (think of snapping with the knees, not the heels).
- Soft Mark time involves the same motions as Hard Mark Time; however, a continuously smooth motion replaces the snappy motion of the knees. Heels must still be elevated 2" from the turf.

DRAG HALT

Definition

The drag halt is used to define the end of forward march.

- On the last count prior to the halt, the marcher freezes with the right foot forming a 22.5-degree angle from center. Pads of the left toes remain in place.
- Heel height will vary according to size of the stride.
- Marcher "freezes" in this position until the last 16th note of a count, and then quickly snaps left foot to the attention position, completing the 45-degree angle with right foot.
- For the Drag Halt into Mark Time, the left foot slides into position alongside right while lifting heel to MT position. The right and left feet move almost simultaneously to position (the right foot arrives on count 8, left foot on the first 16th note following 8: 8 – **E** - & - a).

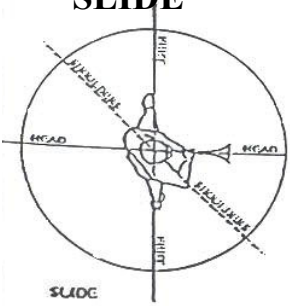
ADJUSTED STRIDE

This stride utilizes a variety of step lengths, depending upon prescribed distance, and prescribed number of steps. The adjusted step allows marchers to "hit" a form at a precise instant when traveling varying distances to reach a point.

The key to uniform adjusted stride is for the marcher to accurately select a mid-point, and to arrive at that point in exactly half the numbers of counts allocated for the maneuver.

Stride length should be adjusted in order to allow the marcher to march from point 'A' to point 'B' in a given number of *equally spaced* steps.

SLIDE



This maneuver allows the marcher's lower torso to march in one direction (usually downfield) while the upper torso is turned so that his/her instrument faces 90º to the left or right.

NOTE: While the instrument is held at a 90º angle from the lower torso, the shoulders are held at a 45º angle. Excessive shoulder angle twists the torso so that undue intercostals tension results.

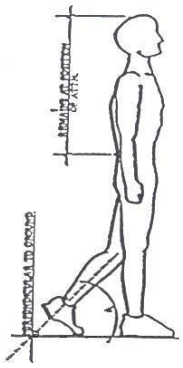
DRAG TURN

This maneuver is utilized to execute a smooth change of direction, usually 90º or 180º to the left or right. The drag turn combines the Mark Time with a circular rotation of the body.

- The feet should remain at a 45ºangle throughout the maneuver.
- Care should be taken to use all of the allotted counts to execute the Drag Turn.
- The halfway point of the Drag Turn should be exactly half the number of counts allocated for the turn.
- The Drag Turn is executed around an imaginary point located exactly between the balls of the feet.
- The prep for the Drag Turn is executed as per the Mark Time prep.
- Either Soft or Hard Mark Time mat be used as the basis for the Drag Turn. Musical style and tempo will dictate the style of the Drag Turn.

BACKWARDS MARCH

The backwards march is a smooth, flowing stride utilized to reverse the marcher's direction without changing instrument direction.



- Prep for the backward march is a smooth step, and occurs on the "and" of the beat.
- The foot strikes on the pads of the toes; motion then moves through the balls of the feet.
- The heel does not strike the ground in the backwards march.
- For the backwards march stride that exceeds 22.5", the calf and shin should prescribe a 45º angle on the "and" of the beat.
  When marching at extremely rapid tempi, the knees should remain slightly bent (avoid exaggeration).

FLANKS / TO THE REAR

The purpose of the flank is to turn a marcher 90º to the left or right. To the Rear (TTR) turns the marcher 180º.

Left Flank

- Marcher arrives at flanking point and shifts all weight to the ball of the right foot. The last step is placed.
- The marcher will pivot 90º to the left using the ball of the right foot.
- The left leg muscles contract and move the left foot in a very narrow arc until the foot is aimed 90º to the left of the previous direction of march.
- When executed with snap, the marcher should 'freeze' on the beat, and execute the turn on the last 16th note of the beat (freeze-e-**&-a-One**).

Right Flank

- Executed as per the Left Flank using the ball of the right foot.
- The left leg muscles contract to move the left leg in a narrow arc as the body pivots 90º to the right. The left leg crosses over right leg.

To The Rear

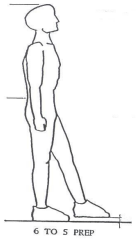
- On count 8, the marcher freezes, with the weight distributed 2/3 ball of right foot, 1/3 ball of left foot. The last step is placed, not rolled.
- The right foot should cross in front of the left as if walking on a tight rope. This prevents the feet from being criss-crossed after the TTR is executed.
- Marcher sharply executes a 180º spin to the left, keeping heels as close to the turf as possible.
- During this maneuver, the ball of the left foot should remain in contact with the turf while preserving the proper stride interval.

6 TO 5 STRIDE

This stride will be used on occasion.

6 to 5 Prep

The 6 to 5 prep step initiates the 6 to 5 stride, and is executed from the position of attention, or from a mark time position. Prep Position should find:



- The left leg extended so that the bottom of the left foot is level and 2" from the turf.
- The upper torso is erect and maximized.
- Leg, buttocks, and abdominal muscles are actively contracted.
- That the left leg 'explodes' to prep position. Motion is so swift that the foot remains motionless until the '&' of the beat when the right leg propels the left foot forward to execute the 30" stride.
- That the prep does not roll, but is placed on the turf.

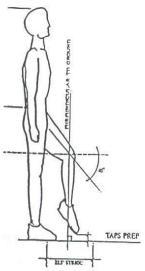
6 to 5 Stride

- Each step = 30" as measured from the middle of the yard line to the ball of the foot.
- Initial contact should involve the back 2/3 of the heel.
- Foot angle is 20º. (Same as 8 to 5)
- Forward motion should roll from heel to toe.
- Successive foot motion should place the ankle of one foot in a direct line with the big toe of the opposite foot. (As if the marcher were gently touching an imaginary line with the inside edge of the balls of the feet.)
- Posture involves a slight shift of the upper torso so that weight is evenly distributed between the heels and balls of the feet.

TAPS STRIDE

Taps stride is the traditional step of the Gator Band. It is used for all Pre-Game performances and for exiting the field.

Taps Prep



- The left leg is snapped out so that the thigh prescribes a 45º angle.
- The calf and shin are perpendicular to the ground.
- The toe is pointed straight toward the turf.
- Active contraction of the calf and arch is required.
- When executed correctly, the marcher will feel the pads of the toe pressing down toward the bottom of the shoe.
- Upper torso remains erect.
- This stride is executed at an extremely brisk tempo

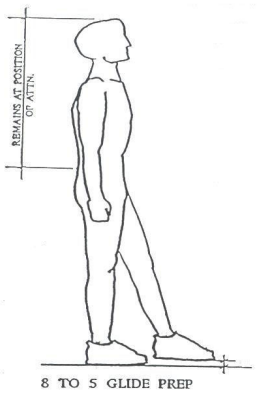
MARCHING STRIDES

8 TO 5 GLIDE STRIDE

8 to 5 Prep Step

The 8 to 5 prep step initiates the 8 to 5 glide stride, and is executed from the position of attention. Command for execution is 4 short whistles:

- On the 4th whistle, the marcher should take a quick "prep breath" while simultaneously snapping the left foot into 'prep position.'
- Prep Position should find:
  - The left leg extended so that the bottom of the left foot is level and 2" from the turf.
  - The upper torso is erect and maximized.
  - Leg, buttocks and abdominal muscles actively contracted.
  - That the left leg 'explodes' to prep position. Motion is so swift that the foot remains motionless until the '&' of the beat when the right leg propels the left foot forward to execute the 22.5" stride.
  - That the prep does not roll; it is placed on the turf.



8 TO 5 GLIDE PREP

8 to 5 Stride

The 8 to 5 glide stride utilizes a smooth heel-to-toe motion.

- Each step = 22.5" as measured from the middle of the yard line to the ball of the foot.
- Initial contact should involve 2/3 of the heel.
- Toes are as high as possible.
- Forward motion should roll from heel to toe along the center of foot.
- Successive foot motion should place the ankle of one foot in a direct line with the big toe of the opposite foot. (As if the marcher were gently touching an imaginary line with the inside edge of the balls of the feet.)
- The upper torso remains as per the position of attention.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GATOR BAND CONTRACT

I have read and understand all policies, expectations, and procedures as set forth in the 2007 University of Florida Gator Band Handbook. I am aware that the policies stated herein are simply guidelines aimed at setting a basic sense of commitment, attitude, and behavior. I agree to abide by these policies and understand that any actions on my part that conflict with the spirit of the policies will result in appropriate consequences designated by the Directors.

_____ _____

Band Member's Signature Date

_____ _____

Section Leader's Signature Date