

## Comprehensives and Graduation

FINAL WRITTEN EXAM [All candidates each year]

The written exam is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on July 5 and is offered at no other time. All candidates take the written portion each summer. All non-graduating candidates are required to remain until the 4:30 p.m. completion of Exit Exam Band performances and are required to play in one of those bands.

The computer-based exam in Ultimate Pursuit will include questions in all areas designated as weaknesses on the candidate's first-year entrance exam and were not removed. These include areas in which the candidate scored below 70% on the entrance exam or, in the case of extremely high entrance exam numbers, represent the 7 areas comparatively lower than the others. See page 14 for details on Ultimate Pursuit.

### COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM [Final year only]

1. A 15- to 25-minute preparation rehearsal with one of the ABC Directors' Bands. Composition selected by the Graduate Faculty. (A conductor's score will be mailed in late May to aid in preparation) These rehearsals will be videotaped and the candidate will meet with Graduate Faculty immediately after the session to review the video.

Scheduled from 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. on July 5, the demonstration portion of the exit exam will include:

2. A start-up lesson with a beginner on CLARINET. (10 min.)
3. A start-up lesson with a beginner on HORN. (10 minutes)
4. A start-up lesson with a beginner on SNARE. (10 minutes)
5. A diagnostics rehearsal with an ABC master's candidate exit exam band in which players have been instructed to play specific, typical errors. (12 minutes) Music for this will be provided June 29; length of music 32 to 64 measures.

There will be several groups of 4 rooms set up for exit exam testing purposes. Each room will include you (the teacher), the student or a master's candidate band plus a graduate faculty member. Plan to have two instruments in the testing room, one for yourself and one for the student. It is your responsibility to discuss this with other candidates in your startup room group so that you can use most of the same equipment for each startup less.. (An email in May will indicate which candidates will be using the same room groups and who has been designated as group chairman.)

Clarinet Lesson: Have reeds soaking in water and the instruments pre-assembled (between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. on July 5). Teach basic tone quality, hand position, breath support, but not instrument assembly. Student should play at least first line E or open G as well as low C during the lesson.

(French) Horn Lesson: Be concerned with matters related to hand position, embouchure, tone production, and breath support. Have students play at least 2 different notes during the lesson.

Snare Drum Lesson: Teach set up, hand position, posture, and then address the bounce leading up to the process for playing a 5-stroke roll.

ABC Exit Exam Band (Diagnostic Rehearsal): It is expected that you will have done extensive score study with the excerpt score (chosen by the faculty from standard band literature) and will be prepared to diagnose and correct the 20 or more intentional errors performed by the exit exam bands comprised of first and second year master's degree candidates.

### EXIT EXAM FAILURE

In the event that the candidate does not demonstrate mastery of the four demonstration areas, retake procedures are in place. (See ABC / Download / ABC Exit Exam Retake Procedures at <http://www.bandworld.org>.) This provides an opportunity for the candidate to retake a given area in early December using an local administrator as an exam proctor and graduate in Fall term.

### GRADUATION AND DEGREE CONFERRAL

Application for graduation is handled through the Sam Houston State University web site: SHSU.edu Search Destination Graduation. ABC's deadline of intent to graduate is May 1. SHSU online application and payment of the fee is shown as early June. (Candidate should complete the process by May 1 or as soon as SHSU activates it.)

Candidates completing all required work and who pass the comprehensive final exam will graduate at the end of the Summer term. Those who fail a portion of the comprehensive or who have not successfully completed all course work will not be eligible for and must resubmit a new application for graduation at the end of Fall term.

Consult the Sam Houston State University web site for exact details regarding all facets of graduation (SHSU.edu) Also see pages 15 and 21 for related information.



The first graduating class of the American Band College of Sam Houston State University (July 2010). The 66-member class celebrate by posing with their certification plaques. More than 40 states, and 5 foreign countries are represented at ABC each year.