

# American Band College Music Grading Chart

Grade	1	2	3	4	5
Meter	Simple: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, c, e	2/4, 3/4, 4/4, c, e, 6/8 (easy compound)	2/4, 3/4, 4/4, c, e, 6/8, 9/8, easy changing/asymmetrical meter	Add: 3/8, 6/8, 9/8, asymmetrical (5/8, 7/8), changing meter	Any meter or combination of meter.
Key Signature	One to three flats (Key of C-end of year)	None to four flats	None to five flats	One sharp to six flats	Any key
Tempo	Andante–Moderato (72-120)	Andante–Allegro (72-132) ritard, accel.	Largo–Allegro (56-144) ritard, accel., rall.	Largo–Presto (44-168) ritard, accel., rall.	Largo–Prestissimo (44-208) ritard, accel., rall.
Note/Rest Value		As in Grade 1 plus simple 16th note patterns and triplets	All values in duple excluding complex syncopation plus easy compound rhythms.	All values in duple All values in compound	Complex duple and compound rhythms
Rhythm	Simple; mostly unison rhythm (dotted rhythm end of year)	Add simple syncopation & well-prepared dotted rhythms. More use of non-unison rhythms.	Basic duple and triple syncopation, dotted rhythms.	All rhythms except complex compound or complex 16th note syncopation.	All rhythms
Dynamics	p to f	p, mp, mf, f short cresc, decresc.	pp to ff cresc, decresc., sfz, fp	ppp to fff broad cresc, decresc.	ppp to fff cross dynamics, broad cresc., decresc.
Articulation	Attack, release, slurs, staccato, accent	Attack, release, slurs, staccato, accent, legato	Attack, release, slurs, staccato, accent, legato, tenuto.	Two or more articulations simultaneous in the ensemble.	All forms of articulation.
Ornaments	None	Simple trills and single grace notes.	Trills with entry or exit grace notes, double or triple grace note figures.	Trills, turns, mordents	Trills, turns, mordents
Scoring	Limited color combinations (clar-ptp, sax-ptp) Very limited part division within sections	Independent contrapuntal lines, limited exposed parts, 1 (possibly 2) horn parts.	Solos (fl, cl, sax, tpt, bar) Exposed woodwind or brass. 2-part horns.	Full range of instrumentation, exposed parts for any instrument.	Full range of instrumentation, exposed parts for any instrument, multiple solo/contrapuntal lines.
Length	1 to 3 minutes	2 to 5 minutes	3 to 7 minutes	6 minutes +	Any length
Things to Avoid	Exposed solos, divisi tbn or horn parts, clarinet crossing the break, frequent meter changes, key changes, changing syncopated rhythms.	Frequent key changes, frequent meter changes, wide range for 3rd parts.	Extreme low and high registers, technical playing for 3rd players. Difficult oboe or bassoon solos.	Extremes of range	Limited only by player ability.
Percussion Usage	Pitched: bells. Non-pitched: triangle, tambourine, cymbals, woodblock, snare, bass drum. Limited use of special effects.	Add: Pitched: chimes, xylophone. Non-pitched: timpani. Special effects on cymbals.	All common non-pitched Latin and traditional percussion. Limit range of special effects.	All instruments. Wide range of special effects.	All instruments. Wide range of special effects with diverse requirements for each member of section.
Flute <small>Whole notes indicate end-of-year, advanced range.</small>					
Oboe					
Bassoon <small>Whole notes indicate end-of-year, advanced range.</small>					
Clarinet <small>Whole notes indicate end-of-year, advanced range.</small>					
Alto/Bass Clarinet <small>Whole notes indicate end-of-year, advanced range.</small>					
Saxophones <small>Whole notes indicate end-of-year, advanced range.</small>					
Trumpet <small>Whole notes indicate end-of-year, advanced range.</small>					
Horn <small>Whole notes indicate end-of-year, advanced range.</small>					
Trombone/Baritone					
Tuba					