



Ole Miss Band

THE PRIDE OF THE SOUTH

2025-26 DRUMLINE

AUDITION PACKET

Thank you for your interest in the 2025-26 Ole Miss Drumline! The Pride of the South has a proud tradition of great performances and unrelenting school spirit, and we are excited to have you become a part of that tradition.

The Pride of the South is looking for individuals who are responsible, diligent, and hard working. During the course of the audition process, you will be asked to do things that may be different from how you have previously learned them. Please keep an open mind and be flexible. There are many ways to approach technique and playing, and many of these can be considered “correct.” All we ask is that you give your best effort to learn our methods, as to create a unified approach in our ensemble. One frequently asked question is what is required to make the line, and the answer is to have a great attitude, strong work ethic, and always do your best.

Over the course of the audition process, we usually have more individuals auditioning than we have available instruments. Because of this, we ask that you have a primary choice and (at least) a secondary choice of instrument. We will do our best to honor first requests, but the main priority is to place individuals where they can utilize their strengths. In doing this, we are able to set the ensemble up for success as a whole.

Included in this packet are audition exercises. Please learn this music prior to arriving, as it will be used to teach technique, concepts, etc. No matter how simple or difficult the music may look, you must strive for accuracy and precision. This includes incorporating correct heights, accurate note interpretation and placement, consistent tempo (practice with a metronome), and quality of sound with each rep. Additionally, all auditionees must be prepared to mark time correctly to all exercises and music.

Again, we are so glad that you are interested in the Ole Miss Drumline, and we are looking forward to seeing you at auditions!

Best,

The 2025-26 Ole Miss Drumline Staff

Spring Clinics

These clinics are optional, free, and open to all students, regardless of grade or intent to audition for the 2025-26 season. Students should bring a copy of the audition packet, appropriate sticks/mallets, and a practice pad. If you have your own drum(s)/cymbals, please bring them. Dates are as follows:

- Thursday, March 6th | 6-8p CT | Ole Miss Band Hall
- Thursday, April 3rd | 6-8p CT | Ole Miss Band Hall

We encourage all who are interested in auditioning for the Ole Miss Drumline to attend, especially high school seniors and community college students. The goals of these include revisiting the basics, developing technique & overall approach, and preparing for auditions. Notes from each clinic will also be made available on the [marching percussion page of the band website](#) for those who are unable to attend.

Preliminary Audition Videos

Students must submit their registration information and audition video(s) via the following [Google form](#) no later than 11:59p CST on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Auditionees will only be considered for the instruments that are selected in the form AND for which an audition video is submitted. Full instructions for these audition videos can be found on pages 6-8. All auditionees will receive feedback & audition status via their @go.olemiss.edu email by the of the day on Sunday, May 25, 2024.

Callback Auditions

Callbacks will be available on an invitation-only basis following staff's review of audition videos. Attendance is mandatory to be offered a roster spot for the 2025-26 season.

- Saturday, June 7 | 8:00a-8:00p | Ole Miss Band Hall

8:00-8:30a	Check-in
8:30-9:00a	Intro Meeting
9:00a-12:00p	Block 1
12:00-1:30p	Lunch
1:30-4:30p	Block 2
4:30-5:30p	Dinner
5:30-7:30p	Block 3
7:45p	Roster announced
8:00p	Dismiss

Audition Fee

A one-time, non-refundable audition fee of \$35 is due at check-in for callbacks. We accept cash or checks made payable to The Pride of the South.

Food & Housing

Food and housing are not provided for clinics or callbacks. Please plan accordingly.

Preseason Camp

These early move-ins in August provide an opportunity to continue preparations as a section. These include equipment check-out, music rehearsals (in sub-sections and in battery ensemble), marching fundamentals, and conditioning ahead of joining the rest of the band for full band rehearsals. Dates for 2025 are August 12-23. Full preseason camp schedules will be posted on [The Pride of the South's website](#) once finalized.

Summer Video Assignments

We will have a handful of video assignments between callback results and preseason camp. Focuses will include (but are not limited to) Grove Stage materials, halftime show beats, and stand jams. These are required and will be incorporated into final decisions for section placements/orders, pep band assignments, and student leadership roles.

What to Bring

- Sticks/mallets (bass mallets are provided, but feel free to bring your own)
- Practice pad(s)
- Hearing protection – a nice set of ear plugs go a long way (avoid standard foam ones)
- Three-ring binder with audition materials & schedules in sheet protectors
- Audition fee
- Tennis shoes. No sandals – no exceptions (we will be marching & playing)
- Sunscreen
- Water jug/bottle
- Clothes for hot/humid weather – we will be outside as much as possible
- Money for meals
- Metronome for individual practice (physical met, phone app, etc.) – optional, but recommended

General Audition Video Instructions

- Please state the following information at the beginning of your video:
 - Your name
 - What school you are from
 - The instrument(s) you are auditioning for
 - Please specify drum number (1 – 6) for basses or split (A or B) for cymbals

- Audition videos on actual drums or keyboards are best, but as access to instruments may not be possible, the following options are acceptable and will not influence your chances of earning a spot:
 - Snares may play on a Real Feel, Offworld, or similar style pad.
 - Tenors may play on a commercial or homemade pad. If you make one, be sure it is spaced to mimic drum sizes of 6”, 8”, 10”, 12”, 13”, 14”.
 - Basses may play on a commercial or homemade pad.
 - Cymbals may clap. Be sure to maintain proper marching posture and clap with appropriate technique with your hands in front of you.

- Videos should be of the highest quality of both video and audio. The metronome must clearly audible. All audition videos must be recording while standing. Videos must include your face (for identification) & your feet (for timing).

- Exercises may be recorded individually, but each exercise, including those with multiple reps required, must be recorded in one, continuous take. Please do not edit in the middle of an exercise or between multiple reps of the same exercise.

- All students will upload videos to YouTube. Videos should be set to public or unlisted (NOT private). Please also disable the comments. Please preview the link to be sure that it works before submitting it via the Google form found on page 3.

Instrument-Specific Audition Video Requirements

Basses:

- **Thom Hannum's Check Patterns** – 1 rep at 120 bpm.
- **Woodshed Worksheet** – Marking time to quarter note for each.
 - o Triplet Grid – 2 reps at 140bpm
 - 1st rep – as written. 2nd rep – accents only
 - o 16th Note Grid – 2 reps at 105bpm
 - 1st rep – as written. 2nd rep – accents only
 - o 16 v 18 – 145bpm
 - o Flamcabulary – 135bpm
- **Bread n Butter** – 1 rep at 116bpm. No mark time.
- **43** – 2 reps at 108bpm. No mark time.
 - o 1st rep – all parts (similar to snare part). 2nd rep – respective split
- **2 Heights** – 1 rep at 160bpm. Marking time to quarter note.
- **Rebel Rolls** – 2 reps. Marking time to quarter note.
 - o 1st rep – 155bpm. 2nd rep – 180bpm.
- **Show Excerpt** – 1 rep at 160bpm. Marking time to quarter note.

Cymbals:

- **Flip Exercise A** – 1 rep at 125 bpm. Marking time to quarter note.
- **Crash Breakdown** – 1 rep at 125 bpm. Marking time to quarter note.
- **Tap Choke Breakdown** – 1 rep at 125 bpm. Marking time to quarter note.
- **Crash/Crash Choke/Tap Choke** – 1 rep at 125 bpm. Marking time to quarter note.
- **Triplet Grid (Accents Only)** – 2 reps at 140bpm.
- **16th Note Grid (Accents Only)** – 2 reps at 110bpm.
- **Bread n Butter** – 1 rep at 116bpm. No mark time.
- **2 Heights** – 1 rep at 160bpm. Marking time to quarter note.
- **Rebel Rolls** – 2 reps (1 rep at 150bpm, 1 rep at 175bpm). Marking time to quarter note.
- **Show Excerpt** – 1 rep at 160bpm. Marking time to quarter note.

Instrument-Specific Audition Video Requirements

Quads:

- **2025-26 Auditions Lick** – 1 rep at 164bpm. No mark time.
- **Woodshed Worksheet** – Marking time to quarter note for each.
 - Triplet Grid – 2 reps at 140bpm
 - 1st rep – as written. 2nd rep – flams on 1st partial
 - 16th Note Grid – 2 reps at 105bpm
 - 1st rep – as written. 2nd rep – diddle on 2nd partial
 - Phatty Mac 4-2-1 – 150bpm
 - Paradiddlediddle/Triplet Rolls – 160bpm
- **Bread n Butter** – 1 rep at 116bpm. No mark time.
- **43** – 2 reps at 108bpm. No mark time.
 - 1st rep – all parts (similar to snare sheets; 2nd rep – respective split
- **2 Heights** – 1 rep at 160bpm. Marking time to quarter note.
- **Rebel Rolls** – 2 reps. Marking time to quarter note.
 - 1st rep – 155bpm. 2nd rep – 180bpm.
- **Show Excerpt** – 1 rep at 160bpm. Marking time to quarter note.

Snares

- **2025-26 Auditions Lick** – 1 rep at 164bpm. No mark time.
- **Woodshed Worksheet** – Marking time to quarter note for each.
 - Triplet Grid – 2 reps at 140bpm
 - 1st rep – as written. 2nd rep – flams on 1st partial
 - 16th Note Grid – 2 reps at 105bpm
 - 1st rep – as written. 2nd rep – diddle on 2nd partial
 - Phatty Mac 4-2-1 – 150bpm
 - Paradiddlediddle/Triplet Rolls – 160bpm
- **Bread n Butter** – 1 rep at 116bpm. No mark time.
- **43** – 2 reps at 108bpm. No mark time.
 - 1st rep – all parts (similar to snare sheets; 2nd rep – respective split
- **2 Heights** – 1 rep at 160bpm. Marking time to quarter note.
- **Rebel Rolls** – 2 reps. Marking time to quarter note.
 - 1st rep – 155bpm. 2nd rep – 180bpm.
- **Show Excerpt** – 1 rep at 160bpm. Marking time to quarter note.

Audition Process

The audition process will be broken down into two areas:

1. Individual Evaluation
2. Ensemble Performance

- All auditionees must submit a preliminary audition video. These will consist of exercises from the packet as well as some music excerpts from a book recently performed. Staff will create detailed feedback and recommendations for subsequent steps of the audition process.

- When in a sectional or ensemble environment, we will be looking for your mastery of the exercise packet as well as your ability to adapt, blend, and balance. As we progress through aspects of our program, specific explanations will be provided. Your ability to keep an open mind and incorporate our approach into your playing will be play a crucial role.

Audition Tips

- Your level of success throughout the auditions process will be directly related to your level of preparation with the audition materials.

- Use a mirror when you practice and record yourself. Review these recordings critically and strive to perfect your performance of each exercise.

- ALWAYS use a metronome or music with a steady tempo when practicing. Be able to mark time to all materials.

- Keep in mind that you are auditioning at all times. Be professional!

- If you have any confusion with anything you are being asked to do, be sure to ask questions.

- Prepare to be involved in a tedious, competitive process. Your ability to stay mentally engaged throughout the process will play a crucial role.

- Be confident in yourself! Everything is a performance, from the first rep of 8s through the end of the season. Convince us that you are comfortable with whatever you're doing.



Approach

- Our main responsibility as percussionists is to keep perfect time. Find the pocket and stay in it. Strive to find the groove in each phrase and keep rhythms accurate.
- Be 100% comfortable and relaxed from your shoulders through your fingertips. Fewer muscles with unnecessary tension will lead to better sound quality.
- Always work for a soft touch in your hands. The mallet should feel heavy. Your grip should never be tight or “white-knuckling” the mallet, as this will create a harsh, choked off sound.
- Create a full, warm sound at every dynamic level. *Piano* will not sound like *forte*, but it should be the fullest, warmest *piano* possible.
- Play perfect rhythms. Analyze each rhythm you play. Identify rudiments. Understand the underlying check patterns within each phrase to keep in time.
- Be ready to work your hardest and give your best efforts. You will be expected to achieve a balanced, warm sound quality and perfect rhythms while using a similar touch, feel, and technique with 5 other individuals.

Grip

- Drum heads produce an incredible amount of rebound, so we work to allow that rebound to dictate our playing. Our grip is there to control the amount of rebound we experience, not to prohibit in any way. Any tension in any part of our grip can prevent the bouncing of the stick and create harsh sounds. Your fingers and hands should remain relaxed enough to achieve rebound and a warm sound while still being engaged enough to control it.

Each Hand:

- Create a “T” fulcrum with the index finger and thumb.
- Thumb should run parallel to the stick while fingers wrap naturally around the mallet.
- Do NOT choke up on the mallet, as this will limit abilities necessary to play.



Drum Level:

- This is a massively underrated variable in drumming. You will not play your best if this is not taken into consideration and accounted for. ALWAYS adjust drum levels on carriers and stands to match YOUR most natural and comfortable playing position, not vice versa.

Self-check: Close your eyes away from a drum and raise your arms to comfort. Set up drum height accordingly.

Playing Positions

- Each forearm should be parallel to the ground.
- Position the mallet at ~45° angle relative to the forearm.
- Bead of mallet should be in the center of the drumhead.
- Each forearm should be slightly angled toward the head.
- Apply appropriate pressure in the fingers to be consistently ready to play.



- Leave a few inches of space between the inside of the elbow and the side of the torso. By keeping the wrist in line relative to the forearm, a VERY slight angle will be created into the drumhead. This angle helps focus energy through the hand, into the mallet, and into the head.

Hands in Motion

Wrist Rotation vs Wrist Break:

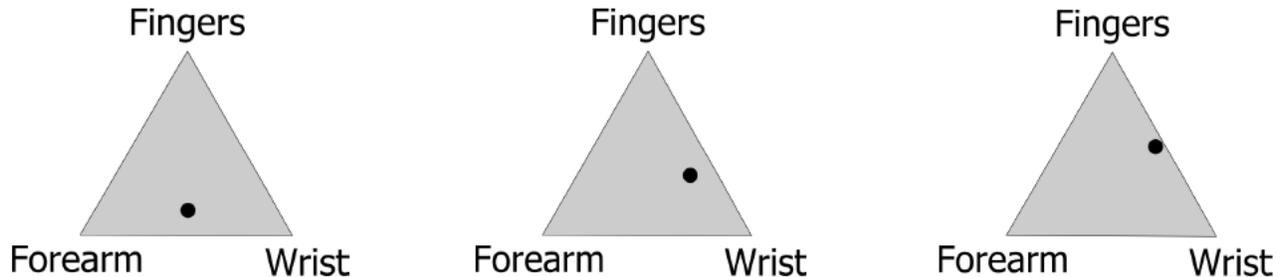
- When working with wrist rotation, the forearm should mimic the mechanics of turning a doorknob.
- When working with wrist break, the wrist should mimic the mechanics of knocking on a door.
- Keep your pathways narrow regardless of rhythms. Avoid the infamous “O” pathway by maintaining the wrist angle while playing.
- The bead of the mallet leads the motion. Avoid leading with the arm or wrist and creating a “whip” motion.
- Maximize your heights to assist in creating consistent, successful techniques for when having to play out.

Prep Stroke:

- To achieve a quality sound, a combination of relaxation and appropriate manipulation of the mallet. This preparation should begin ~half a beat prior to the moment of contact with the playing surface, and it should happen in a smooth motion. There may be circumstances due to extremes of tempo, dynamics, or visual effects that will require adjustments to the prep stroke, but these will be discussed when appropriate.

Engines:

- The forearm, wrist, and fingers work in tandem to move the mallet effectively, but the influence of each can shift depending on what notes/strokes are being played. Finding the proper ratios amongst these engines will make drumming feel MUCH more efficient. The specific amount of each engine in a given situation will vary from individual to individual across drums. The figures below exemplify how the ratios may shift as one progresses from playing ones and twos (left) to threes (middle) to fours (right).



Muting:

- To achieve a short or muted sound, basses will use a three-point system. Hold the mallet with only the fulcrum intact. Place the pads of the middle, ring, and pinky fingers directly in the center of the head, forming a flat plane. Apply an even amount of pressure. This approach prioritizes effective muffling without compromising grip or hand placement on the mallet, while also being detailed rhythmically and uniform between players.



Balance and Blend:

- Balance is playing the same volume as those with whom you are playing. Blend is fostered when everyone plays when with the same tone quality at the same dynamic level(s). The varying dimensions of drums and mallets across the bass sections can add a layer of difficulty in achieving these goals, so these concepts require a high level of detail to create and replicate consistently. Always keep ears open and listen to sound.

Stroke Types

Full Strokes:

- Mallets start and stop at the same point
- The goal is to allow the rebound to do the work. Throw the mallet into the head.
- Rebound should be the same speed as the initial movement toward the playing surface (don't interfere).
- Grip will "open" a bit to allow for rebound within your hand at higher heights.
 - Imagine a pocket stretching rather than fingers bailing off the mallet.

Down Strokes:

- Should sound the same as full strokes and feel the same prior to contact with the playing surface.
- Once contact is made with the playing surface, the wrist motion ceases, preventing the mallet from rebounding to the initial height.
 - Your hand should feel like dead weight after the bead strikes the playing surface. This heaviness in the hands will help stop the mallet in a warm manner, rather than squeezing the mallet to a stop.
- Avoid squeezing the fingers to stop the motion.

Taps:

- Played primarily with a wrist turn.
- These will rebound, and, like a full stroke, they will be played by only initiating downward and not lifting up.
- While these will not have the same velocity as a full stroke, we will remain fluid in motion by playing *slightly* more into the drum to avoid any awkward pauses in motion at the top of each stroke.
- The grip is slightly more "closed" than felt at higher heights for full strokes. The hand must stay relaxed and heavy without tension to maintain a controlled rebound and quality sound.
 - Imagine a pocket recoiling to its original shape rather than shrinking down.

Up Strokes:

- Should feel the same as taps prior to contact with the playing surface.
- Once contact is made with the playing surface, the wrist motion will continue beyond rebound to assist in progressing to above the initial height.
- Avoid tension in the arm, allow the arm to move naturally as the wrist turn is completed.
- Avoid squeezing the fingers in anticipation of the upward motion.

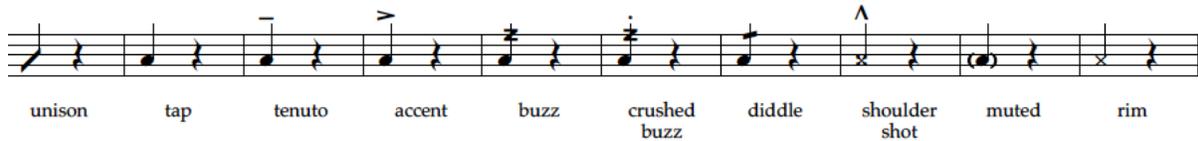
Dynamics

- We will strive to have a consistent approach to the drum regardless of heights/dynamics.
- Typically, consistency of heights dictates volume. However, our music is the ultimate factor in defining volume. There WILL be instances in which players are asked to play stronger or lighter than normal for the sake of a phrase's musical expression.
- We will incorporate additional arm at heights above 15"
- The mallet will NEVER travel beyond vertical, but it will be higher in the air due to the additional arm incorporated above 15"
- The height system for the Ole Miss Drumline is listed below. Please note that each dynamic correlates with the accent & the tap. Notes marked with a tenuto will be 50-60% of a given dynamic's accent height.



A musical staff showing eight groups of notes, each with a dynamic marking and a height specification. The notes are quarter notes with accents. The markings are: *pp* = 1.5", *p* = 3"/1.5", *mp* = 4"/1.5", *mf* = 6"/3", *f* = 9"/3", *ff* = 12"/3", *fff* = 15"/3", and *ffff* = 20"/4".

Basses Notation Key



A musical staff showing ten different bass drum notations. Each notation is a quarter note with a specific symbol above it. The notations are: unison (no symbol), tap (no symbol), tenuto (horizontal line), accent (>>), buzz (♯), crushed buzz (♯ with a vertical line through it), diddle (no symbol), shoulder shot (^), muted (x), and rim (x).



4 **H** Paradiddle/Triplet Rolls (play three variations - once with check on triplet rolls, once with buzzes, once with diddles)

83 ♩ = 150-190+

r l r r l l r l r r l l r l r r l l r l r l r l r l r l r r l l r l r r l l r l r r l l r l r l r l

r l r r l l r l r r l l r l r l r r l l r l r l r l r l r r l l r l r r l l r l r l r l

r l r r l l r l r l r l l r r l r l r l r l l r r l r l r

Check Patterns - Duple

Thom Hannum

check

1

r l r l r l etc.

2

l r l r l etc.

3

r l r l r l etc.

4

l r l r l etc.

5

r l r l r l etc.

6

r l r l r l etc.

7

r l r l r l etc.

8

r l r l r l etc.

9

l r r l r l etc.

10

l r l r l etc.

11

r r r r l etc.

12

l r r l etc.

13

r r r r l etc.

14

r l r l etc.

15

r r r r l etc.

Bread n Butter

Basses

Someone

♩ = 116

19
16

r r r r r r r r r l r l l l l l l l l r l r r r r r l r

4

l l l l l r l r r r r r l r l l l l l r l r r r l r l l r l r r r l r

10

l l l r l r l r l l l r l r r r l r l l l r l r r r l r l r l r

Basses

43

Dr. Doug Rosener
rev. Mason G. Atkins 2022

♩ = 100-126

r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r l

4

r l r r l r l l l r l r l

7

r l r r l l l r l r l r

10

l r l r l r l l r l r l

13

r l r l r

Insert rudiments where bracketed as follows (list is not exhaustive):
Groupings of 3 notes - flam accents, cheeses, flam drags, flam fives, chuta chuts, fubars, double paradiddles, paradiddlediddles
Groupings of 4 notes - flam taps, inverts, 32nd note paradiddles, singles (32nd or sextuplet), triple strokes (sextuplet)
All notes - accented diddles, tap drags, all diddles, all buzzes

Marching Bass Drum

2 Heights

UMDL 2025-26

Cisco Hance
rev. MGA 2025

♩ = 170+

5 *ff*

9

12

16

19

22

26

29

V.S.

Marching Bass Drum

33

r r

r ...

36

l r r r r

r

r l r l r l

39

mp

r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r

ff

UMDL 2025-26 Auditions Show Excerpt

from the Opener of The Pride of the South's 2024 Space Show

perc. arr. MGA

♩ = 160

Snare Drum
Marching Tenor Drums
Marching Bass Drum
Marching Cymbals

A B A

8

S.D.
T.D.
B.D.
Cym.

16

S.D.
T.D.
B.D.
Cym.

mf ff

RUDIMENT SHEET

Boston Staff

Snares

Flam Accents

Flam Taps

Flam Paradiddle

Single Flammed Mill

Flam Paradiddleiddle

Pata-FlaFla

Swiss Army

Inverted Flam Taps

Flam Drags

Swiss-A-Diddle

Choo-Choo

Cheeses

Flam Fives

Book Reports

Flam Five Pata-FlaFla

Double Flam Drags

Cheese FlaFla

Inverted Cheese

Egg Beater

Egg Beater Combo

Cheese Cha

Cheese Combo

Hertas

Herta-Combo

mf

mf

