

Eastern United States
Pipe Band Association
Progressive Certification Program

Many of you might be asking yourself, what is the PCP (Progressive Certification Program) and how can it benefit me as a competitor? The PCP is a revision of the EUSPBA Certification Program. The difference being that for the first time in the history of the EUSPBA all disciplines are available that includes, Piping, Drumming, Bass and Tenor and Drum Major. One of the ways that this program can benefit the competitor is that the system is now based according to the level that you are competing. It is not mandatory for upgrade but over time will become a tool to assist the music board in making determinations regarding upgrading a competitor.

The Progressive Certification Program falls under the education board of the EUSPBA and is as follows:

Roddy MacDonald, Piping Coordinator/Chair
Donald Bell, Snare Drum Coordinator
Bob Meade, Bass and Tenor Coordinator
Dave Ricklis, Drum Major Coordinator
Teri Wiegand, PCP Director

The EUSPBA is pleased to offer this program with the hope that many members will use it as a means of improving themselves in their musical discipline. Through the certification program the EUSPBA encourages competitors and players not only to achieve higher playing standards, but also to be well rounded musicians.

The program involves demonstrating six levels of proficiency in piping, four in snare drumming, four in bass and tenor and three in drum majors, by sitting examinations. Successful candidates are awarded certificates.

The exams consist of a practical and playing portion to show mastery of rudiments, repertoire and written or verbal questions on maintenance and musical theory. Candidates at any level are assumed to have mastered the requirements of all previous levels by holding certificates, or by demonstrating their abilities. The Progressive Certification Program Director (**PCPD**) is the contact person helping the education board set up the certification program, as well as keeps the records of the program for the EUSPBA. The PCPD has also set up a numbering system applied to each certificate according to branch, i.e., SB0001 Southern Branch, SWB0001 Southwest Branch, MAB0001 Mid-Atlantic Branch, OB0001 Ohio Branch, MB0001 Metro Branch, NEB0001, Northeast Branch. As far as the numerical system is concerned it is a way to not only track who has achieved what level, it will even assist the Music Board grading committee in making determination for upgrading. This will be placed in the

archives for easy access to the committee.

You don't need to be a competitor to take advantage of the program. In fact, the program offers an "achievement ladder" for non-competitors. You also don't need to be a member of EUSPBA, but the cost of each exam is \$5. less for members.

Piping	Drumming	Bass and Tenor	Drum Major
Graduate			
Level 1 – Grade 1	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1 Graduate
Level 2 – Grade 2	Level 2	Level 2	Level 2 Professional
Level 3 – Grade 3	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3 Amateur
Level 4 – Grade 4	Level 4	Level 4	
Level 5 – Chanter			

How to Go About It

Under the Progressive Certification Program, examination sessions are organized by the EUSPBA Education Board and those who wish to participate, will contact the PCP Director who will assist you in making arrangements with the EUSPBA Education Board for examiners to administer the exams. Fees are payable to the EUSPBA and certificates will be issued to successful candidates by the EUSPBA Education Board. Once a PCP date is set, an announcement and registration form will be listed on the event section of the EUSPBA web site.

Fee Schedule

Piping	Snare	Bass & Tenor	Drum Majors	Member	Non-Member
Graduate				\$75.00	\$80.00
Level 1	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1	\$50.00	\$55.00
Level 2	Level 2	Level 2	Level 2	\$40.00	\$45.00
Level 3	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3	\$30.00	\$35.00
Level 4	Level 4	Level 4		\$20.00	\$25.00
Level 5				\$10.00	\$15.00

You must pre-register and pre-pay for this event. Please read the curriculum/syllabus, and come prepared to take the required written test if applicable, as well as the required playing test. Bring copies of any written music that you will be playing. All registrations should be postmarked and received two weeks prior to the event. **NO LATE REGISTRATIONS** due to the scheduling of the examiners.

The written report portion required for the various levels (*with the exception of the Graduate Exam for piping*) may be written in advance and brought to the examiner on the day of the certification examination. For graduate exam participants we were granted permission from The Army School of Bagpipe

Music and Highland Drumming to post the History of Famous Piping Families to assist you with your research. You will be required to answer questions from the report asked by the examiner as he reviews your paper. Any levels requiring written **music** will be done at the examination. If any candidate is looking for an upgrade to a higher grade level, keep in mind that the question is asked on the upgrade form; "Have you passed the PCP in the grade that you are currently in?"

Anyone interested in hosting the progressive certification program in their area is encouraged to contact Teri Wiegand, PCP Director at TRW819@aol.com and she will be happy to work with you on the details.

Looking forward to all of you participating in the PCP.

Roddy MacDonald, Education Board Chair