

2026 Bulldog Beat Scholarship Auditions

Video Audition Process - Due March 1, 2026

Thank you for your interest in the Bulldog Beat Scholarship Auditions for the 2026-2027 school year. The Bulldog Beat is the top scholarship ensemble at Fresno State, paying \$6300 per student and is only open to full-time students at Fresno State, regardless of your major. This ensemble includes: 8 Saxophones (4 Alto, Tenor and Bari), 8 Trumpets, 4 Mellophones, 8 Trombones, 2 Bass Guitars, 2 Lead Guitars, 2 Pianists and 4 Drum Set players. The musicians assigned to this ensemble perform at a wide variety of events including volleyball, basketball and football games, as well as other special events and are on-call for the President of Fresno State. The Beat also travels around the state of California on an annual recruiting tour. As a member of the Bulldog Beat, participation in the Bulldog Marching Band is mandatory and attendance at all scheduled Bulldog Beat events is required.

The first step to the audition process is to go online to download the Audition Packet, found on the [Fresno State Bands](#) website. When it is time to submit your video, please complete this form - [Bulldog Beat and submit your audition video](#). A link to the audition registration is also found on the QR code below.

Students who also intend to major in music at Fresno State should register at the [Fresno State School of Music Website](#) to secure an audition time for admittance into the Department of Music. Auditions will be held on March 14th, in person, and each studio professor will determine admittance to the music program at Fresno State. This audition is required for all incoming Music Majors and is separate from this process.

Bulldog Beat Audition Process

Students must prepare the following for a successful audition:

1. Be prepared to play the specific audition packet of etudes for your instrument, both etudes.
2. Be prepared to improvise to a recording. (See more below)
3. Be prepared to perform the following major scales (starting on the specific notes below) and chromatic scale:

Saxophones – G Major (1 octave), D Major (2 octaves), A Major (1 octaves), Bb Major (2 octaves), Eb Major (1 octave).
Chromatic Scale: practical range of the instrument, both Etudes, Improvisation (see below).

Trumpet – Bb Major (2 octaves), Eb Major (1 octave), Ab Major (2 octaves), C Major (2 octaves), G Major (2 octaves).
Chromatic Scale: practical range of the instrument. both Etudes, Improvisation (see below) **Potential lead Trumpets should demonstrate range during the scales**

Mellophone – F Major (1 octave), Bb Major (2 octaves), Eb Major (1 octave), C Major (2 octaves), G Major (2 octaves).
Chromatic Scale: practical range of the instrument, both Etudes, Improvisation (see below) **Potential lead Mellophones should demonstrate range during the scales**

Trombones – F Major (2 octaves), Bb Major (2 octaves), Eb Major (1 octave), C Major (2 octaves), G Major (2 octaves).
Chromatic Scale: practical range of the instrument, both Etudes, Improvisation (see below) **Potential lead Trombones should demonstrate range during the scales**

Guitars – Major Scales (up to 3 flats and sharps). Both Etudes, Improvisation (see below), and a brief recording of your choosing to accompany that shows off your maximum ability.

Drum Set - Prepare the Drum Set packet and include a brief recording of your choosing to accompany that shows off your maximum ability.

Keyboard - Perform the improvisation and a brief recording of your choosing to accompany that shows off your maximum ability.

Improvisation - All auditionees are required to demonstrate their ability to improvise as well. [Use this link for your improvisation segment, performing for a minimum of 60 seconds.](#)

I look forward to hearing your audition and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, or concerns.

Good luck with your preparations!

Steve McKeithen
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ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

5

9

14

18

STRAIGHT

SWING

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

1

5

9

11

Em7

Cmaj7

Am7

Bm7

Gmaj7

D7

Am7

Bm7

Gmaj7

A7

E7

B7

f

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

Etude 1 is a 4/4 piece in B-flat major, 144 bpm, with a swing feel. The score consists of five staves of music. It features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and several triplet markings. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

Etude 2 is a 4/4 piece in B-flat major, 116 bpm, with a funk feel. The score consists of four staves of music. It features a driving eighth-note pattern throughout. Chord changes are indicated above the staff: Am7, Fmaj7, Dm7, Em7, Cmaj7, G7, Dm7, Em7, Cmaj7, D7, A7, and E7. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

5

9

14

18

STRAIGHT

SWING

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

1

5

9

11

Em7

Gmaj7

Am7

Bm7

Gmaj7

D7

Am7

Bm7

Gmaj7

A7

E7

B7

FRESNO STATE BULLDOG BEAT

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

Etude 1 is a 4/4 piece in B-flat major, 144 bpm, with a swing feel. The score consists of five staves of music. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The first staff contains measures 1-4, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes with triplets. The second staff contains measures 5-8, continuing the melodic line with triplets. The third staff contains measures 9-13, marked with a box '9' and including 'STRAIGHT' and 'SWING' markings. The fourth staff contains measures 14-17, and the fifth staff contains measures 18-21, ending with a double bar line. The piece includes various articulations like accents and slurs, and dynamic markings like 'f'.

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

Etude 2 is a 4/4 piece in C major, 116 bpm, with a funk feel. The score consists of four staves of music. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of no sharps or flats. The first staff contains measures 1-4, with a forte 'f' dynamic and a box '1' above measure 1. The second staff contains measures 5-8, with a box '5' above measure 5. The third staff contains measures 9-10, with a box '9' above measure 9 and a box '10' above measure 10, and includes 'OPT. 8VA' and 'LOCO' markings. The fourth staff contains measures 11-14, with a box '11' above measure 11. The piece includes various articulations like accents and slurs, and dynamic markings like 'f'.

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

5

9

14

18

STRAIGHT

SWING

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

1

5

9

11

10

STRAIGHT

SWING

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

Etude 1 is a 16-measure piece in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major (two flats), with a tempo of 144 beats per minute and a swing feel. The notation is written for Trombone 1. It features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several triplet markings (3) and dynamic markings (accents ^). The piece is divided into four measures per line. Measure 9 contains a boxed number 9, and measure 18 contains a boxed number 18. The piece ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to B-flat major.

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

Etude 2 is a 16-measure piece in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major (two flats), with a tempo of 116 beats per minute and a funk feel. The notation is written for Trombone 1. It features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several triplet markings (3) and dynamic markings (accents ^, and a forte 'f' marking). The piece is divided into four measures per line. Measure 9 contains a boxed number 9, and measure 10 contains a boxed number 10. The piece ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to B-flat major. Chord symbols are provided above the staff: Gm7, Ebmaj7, Cm7, Dm7, Bbmaj7, F7, Cm7, Dm7, G7, and D7. An 'OPT. 8VA' marking is present above measure 10, and a 'Loco' marking is present below measure 10.

FRESNO STATE BULLDOG BEAT

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

5

9

14

18

STRAIGHT

SWING

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

1

5

9

11

Gm^7

$Ebmaj^7$

Cm^7

Dm^7

$Bbmaj^7$

F^7

Cm^7

Dm^7

G^7

D^7

FRESNO STATE BULLDOG BEAT
2026 AUDITION MATERIAL

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

5

9

14

18

STRAIGHT

SWING

STRAIGHT

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

1

5

9

10

11

Gm7

Ebmaj7

Cm7

Dm7

Bbmaj7

F7

Cm7

Dm7

Bbmaj7

C7

G7

D7

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

Measures 1-4 of Etude 1. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody in the treble clef features eighth and sixteenth notes, with triplets in measures 2 and 3. The bass clef contains whole rests.

Measures 5-8 of Etude 1. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes and triplets. The bass clef contains whole rests.

Measures 9-13 of Etude 1. Measure 9 is marked with a box containing the number 9 and an accent (^). Measure 10 is marked "STRAIGHT". Measure 11 is marked "SWING" with an accent (^). The melody includes eighth and sixteenth notes with triplets. The bass clef contains whole rests.

Measures 14-17 of Etude 1. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes and triplets. The bass clef contains whole rests.

Measures 18-21 of Etude 1. Measures 18 and 19 feature triplets. Measure 20 is marked "STRAIGHT". The piece concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to two flats (B-flat, E-flat) in measure 21. The bass clef contains whole rests.

ETUDE 2

♩=116 FUNK

1 *Gm⁷* *Ebmaj7* *Cm⁷* *Dm⁷*

f 3

5 *Bbmaj7* *F⁷* *Cm⁷* *Dm⁷*

3 3 3

9 *Bbmaj7* 10 *C⁷*

11 *G⁷* *D⁷*

FRESNO STATE BULLDOG BEAT

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

1 5 9 14 18

STRAIGHT SWING

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

1 5 9 11

Gm^7 $Ebmaj^7$ Cm^7 Dm^7 $Bbmaj^7$ F^7 Cm^7 Dm^7 $Bbmaj^7$ C^7 G^7 D^7

f

ETUDE 1

♩ = 144 SWING

5

9

14

18

STRAIGHT

SWING

ETUDE 2

♩ = 116 FUNK

1

5

9

10

11

Gm7

Ebmaj7

Cm7

Dm7

Bbmaj7

F7

Cm7

Dm7

Bbmaj7

C7

G7

D7

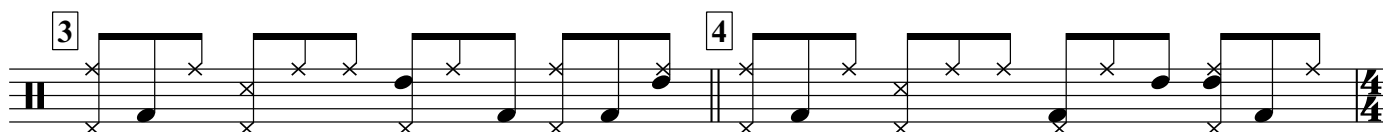
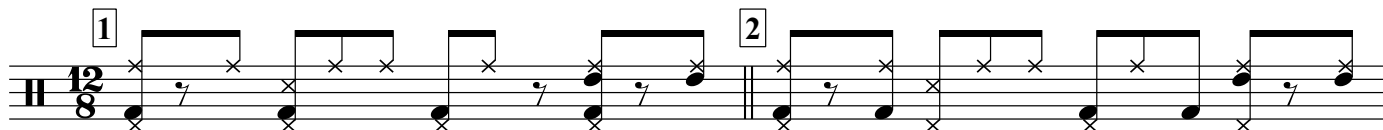
Audition Music
FSU Bulldog Beat
 Drum Set Audition Packet

SHAWN GLYDE

12/8 LATIN

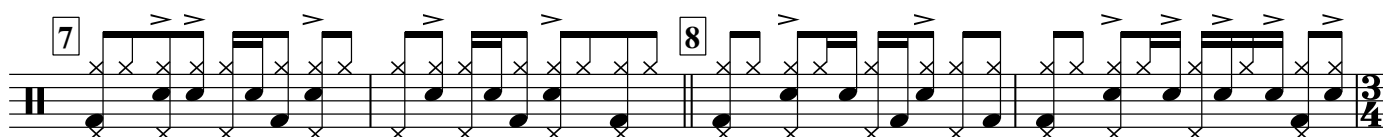
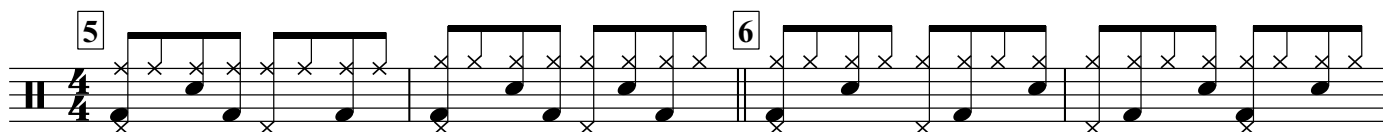
Play each pattern 4 times.

♩ = 120-124

**Up Tempo Rock**

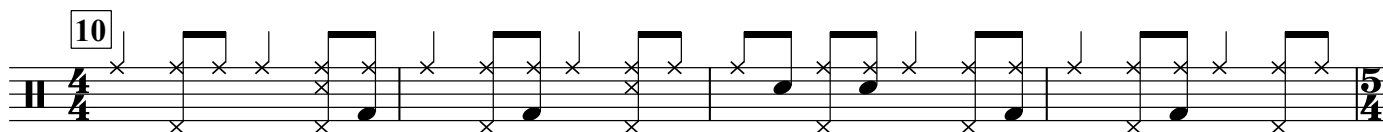
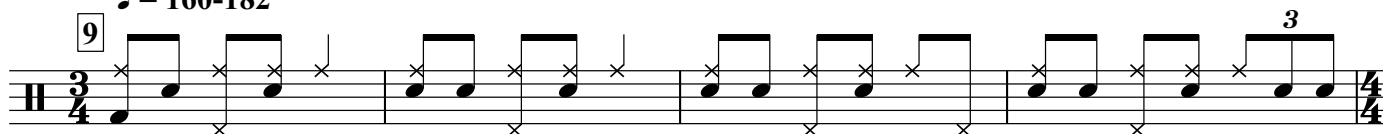
Play each pattern 4 times.

♩ = 152-176

**Jazz**

Play the 4 bar written pattern twice then improvise for 8 bars in the context of that style (repeat).

♩ = 160-182



V.S.

Jazz (continued)

11

5/4

3 3 3

7/8

7/8 Linear Rock/Funk

Play the 2 bar pattern twice then solo for 4 bars in 7/8 (repeat).

12

♩ = 96-108

7/8

4/4

Bell Pattern Variations

Play the 4 bar pattern then improvise for 4 bars (repeat).

13

♩ = 102-124

2-3 Rhumba Clave

4/4

14

♩ = 126-144

Merengue

Play each 2 bar pattern 4 times.

4/4

15

Palito (Cuba)

Guaguanco

4/4

Rhythmic Soloing

Orchestrate this 8 bar rhythm pattern around the drums while utilizing your double bass drum pedal (repeat).

17 $\text{♩} = 110-120$

Orchestrate this 8 bar rhythmic pattern around the drums while utilizing your double bass drum pedal (repeat).

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a box containing the number '17' and a tempo marking '♩ = 110-120'. The first staff contains a sequence of eighth notes with accents, followed by groups of eighth notes beamed together, labeled with '3' and '5'. The second staff continues with groups of eighth notes beamed together. The third staff contains groups of eighth notes beamed together, labeled with '6'. The fourth staff continues with groups of eighth notes beamed together, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Open Soloing

Prepare an open drum solo (60-90 seconds).

18 Prepare an open drum solo (60-90 seconds).

Song or Loop

Drum to a song or loop (player choice). * 2-3 minutes.

Bring the track with you to the audition on your phone, laptop, ipod, ipad, etc.).

19 Drum to a song or loop (player choice). * 2-3 minutes.
Bring the track with you to the audition on your phone, laptop, ipod, ipad, etc.).



*Do not record yourself playing to the track. You'll be performing it live during the audition process. Your selection should show off your strengths as a player, musician and performer.