

**Eastern United States  
Pipe Band Association**

**PIPING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**



**Overview**

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

The program involves demonstrating six levels of proficiency by sitting examinations. Successful candidates are awarded certificates. Because of differences in what is being measured, the certificate levels do not match up with the EUSPBA piping grades.

The exams consist of a practical, playing portion to show mastery of rudiments and repertoire, and written or verbal questions on maintenance and music theory. Candidates at any level are assumed to have mastered the requirements of all previous levels by holding certificates, or by demonstrating their abilities.

You don't need to be a competitor to take advantage of the program. In fact, the program offers an alternative "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.

**The Certificate Levels**

**Preliminary Certificate**

This is primarily for the beginner and allows one to gain confidence that the chanter is being played correctly.

Maintenance:

- ◆ Practice chanter care, including hygiene
- Practice Chanter:
- ◆ Correct hand and finger position
  - ◆ Awareness of crossing noise and false fingering faults
  - ◆ Simple scale (no gracenotes)
  - ◆ Two note scales from low A and low G
  - ◆ G gracenote scale
  - ◆ D gracenote scale
  - ◆ E gracenote scale
  - ◆ G-D-E gracenotes (on low G through C)
  - ◆ Doubling scale
  - ◆ D throw
- Music Theory:
- ◆ Ability to name and play all notes and the doublings required for two tunes (you must present the tunes written out on staff paper).

**Elementary Certificate**

This level is for those who have worked hard on the intricate fingering movements on the chanter. Speed is not important at this stage, but the movements should be played cleanly.

Maintenance:

- ◆ Practice chanter reed care and maintenance
- Practice Chanter
- ◆ All preliminary requirements, plus:
  - ◆ Shakes (strikes) low A to high A
  - ◆ Birl
  - ◆ Grip scale (grips from low A to E, B to E, C to E, etc.)
  - ◆ Taorluath scales involving A, B, and C (A to A, B to A, C to A, etc.)
  - ◆ Tachums
  - ◆ Any two tunes from memory (your choice)
- Music Theory:
- ◆ Ability to name and play all movements used in four tunes (these must be presented written out on staff paper). You do not have to know note values or the importance of bars, nor will you have to write out doublings, etc.

**Junior Certificate**

This is for those who, after having reached the standard of the elementary level and developed beyond it, correctly apply embellishments to the tunes they are learning.

Maintenance:

- ◆ Care of the bagpipes (handling, hemping, hygiene).
- Practice Chanter:
- ◆ Six tunes, including one strathspey and reel played with clean execution and expression (These may be played from written music.)
- The Bagpipe:
- ◆ Two tunes from memory. Two parted tunes are acceptable. You are not expected to tune accurately, but must make a serious attempt.
- Music Theory:
- ◆ You must know note values and be able to explain how doublings are written, what bar lines and beats are, and the terms *Treble Clef* and *Ledger Lines*. You must be able to read music accurately.

**Intermediate Certificate**

This standard is for those who have been playing 3-4 years or more. It demonstrates that you are well-rounded in maintenance and repertoire and can play the bagpipes at a reasonable standard.

Options:

- 1) Light music only, or
- 2) dual certification (light music and piobaireachd)

Maintenance:

- ◆ General knowledge of bagpipe maintenance, including airtightness and the bridling and seating of drone reeds.
- Practice Chanter:
- ◆ Twelve tunes, including three strathspeys and three reels, played accurately with clean expression and execution (may be played from written music)
- The Bagpipe:
- ◆ Six light music tunes from memory, including one strathspey and one reel. You must be able to demonstrate reasonable mastery of tuning. Knowledge of piobaireachd is to be demonstrated

by playing the ground of one tune.

Music Theory:

- ◆ Understanding of the terms *Great Staff, Time Signature, Rhythm, Tempo, Phrasing*; the meaning of and differences between simple and compound time. Ability to recognize the different types of bagpipe tunes from examples played. Ability to sight read two simple tunes.

### Senior Certificate

This level is for those who have worked hard in developing the intricate fingering movements of Ceol Beag and Ceol Mor and who are able to play at a high standard. It also demonstrates a greater knowledge of music theory.

Options:

- 1) Light music only, or
- 2) dual certification (light music and piobaireachd)

Maintenance:

- ◆ Must be prepared to demonstrate mastery of the fundamentals of drone and chanter reeds.

Practice Chanter:

- ◆ For piobaireachd, ability to play the following:
  - ◆ Taorluath
  - ◆ Taorluath A Mach
  - ◆ Crunluath
  - ◆ Crunluath A Mach
  - ◆ Crunluath Fosgailte
  - ◆ Crunluath Breabach
  - ◆ Echoes and double echoes on B, D, F, and high G
  - ◆ Edre (sound E, low A, F gracenote on low A, sound E)
  - ◆ Dare (sound F, E, G gracenote on E, F)
  - ◆ Chedari (F gracenote on E, G gracenote on E, F gracenote on E, sound high G)
  - ◆ Embari (sound low G, E gracenote on low G, F gracenote on low G, F gracenote on low G, sound high G)
  - ◆ Darodo (sound low G, D gracenote on low G, C gracenote on low G, sound B)

The Bagpipe:

- ◆ For light music, two marches, strathspeys, and

reels, and in addition for dual certification, two piobaireachd, of competition caliber.

Music Theory:

- ◆ Complete knowledge of staff notation as used in bagpipe music. Ability to sight read well.

### Associate Certificate

This is for those who have reached a high level of proficiency in both their knowledge and playing.

Options

- 1) Light music only, or
- 2) dual certification (light music and piobaireachd)

Maintenance:

- ◆ Ability to put the bagpipe in good playing order.

Practice Chanter:

- ◆ Same as senior, but more developed

The Bagpipe:

- ◆ For light music, six marches, strathspeys, and reels, and in addition for dual certification, six piobaireachd, of competition caliber. Drones must be tuned accurately.

Music Theory:

- ◆ Must be able to write any type of tune from memory and to sight read any tune.

### How to Go About It

Under the certification program, examination sessions are organized by the EUSPBA's branches who will make arrangements with the EUSPBA Music Board for judges to administer the exams. Fees are payable to the Branch and certificates will be issued to successful candidates by the Music Board.

Certificate	Basic	EUSPBA Member
<u>Level</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Preliminary	\$25	\$20
Elementary	25	20
Junior	35	30
Intermediate	35	30
Senior	35	30
Associate	55	50

If you are interested in taking advantage of this program, contact the following branch officer:



### Graduate Certificate

The EUSPBA Graduate Certificate is offered by invitation to accomplished pipers who show potential as a possible future candidate for EUSPBA adjudicator testing. The graduate certificate is a prerequisite for any piper to sit the EUSPBA adjudicators' exam.

The exam consists of a practical, playing portion to show mastery of repertoire, and written questions on music theory. In addition, the examinee must write from memory the history of a prominent piping family.

Graduate exam candidates should have mastery of all requirements of all previous EUSPBA Certification Exam levels.

Options

- 1) Light music only, or
- 2) dual certification (light music and piobaireachd)

Practical:

- ◆ For light music, twelve marches, twelve strathspeys, and twelve reels, and in addition for dual certification, twelve piobaireachd, of competition caliber. Pipes must be tuned at an expert level.

Music Theory:

- ◆ A one hour written music theory exam.

History:

- ◆ A history of a prominent piping family, written from memory.

Graduate Certificate examination fee: \$50 payable to EUSPBA.