

The Ohio State University Marching and Athletic Bands

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE AUDITION PROCESS FOR THE OSU MARCHING BAND?

Auditions for The OSU Marching Band take place over 2 days. All students who have not previously been members of the band are also required to attend “candidate days” – 2 days immediately before tryouts that are designed to prepare new candidates for their auditions. Tryouts consist of both music and marching auditions. Music auditions include scales (2-octave chromatic scale/major scales up to 4 sharps and 4 flats), prepared exercises, school songs, and sight-reading. Students are judged on tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, technical facility, articulation, stylistic interpretation, and overall musicianship and preparedness. Marching auditions consist of the OSUMB marching fundamentals, 8-to-5 marching, and marching while playing. Students are judged on snap, posture, and coordination. While all movements are graded, the most heavily weighted scores are 8-to-5 and marching while playing.

WHEN ARE AUDITIONS FOR THE 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR?

Auditions will be held during the second week of August. Squad leaders will audition on August 8, candidate days will be held August 9 and 10, and tryouts for all students will be held on August 11 and 12. See tbdbitl.osu.edu for updates.

WHO CAN AUDITION FOR THE OSU MARCHING BAND?

Any student enrolled at The Ohio State University main campus, or at any of the regional campuses, who plays a brass or percussion instrument. Unfortunately, the band does not include woodwind instrumentation. (The athletic bands, however, have a full complement of woodwind players.) Enrollment in The OSU Marching Band through selected Columbus-area schools (Higher Education Council of Columbus Program) is also possible. Participating Columbus-area schools include Capital University, Central Ohio Technical College, The Columbus College of Art and Design, DeVry University, Franklin University, Mt. Carmel College of Nursing, Ohio Dominican University, Otterbein University, The Pontifical College Josephinum, and Columbus State. Students attending these institutions must speak to someone in their admissions office for more information regarding the H.E.C.C. Program.

IF I AM A WOODWIND PLAYER, HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MARCHING BAND?

There are two options:

1. Learn a brass or percussion instrument. Any student attending summer sessions may sign out an instrument.
2. Become a member of the student staff. The Ohio State University Marching Band employs 12-14 student staff members who work as office assistants, uniform and instrument managers, instrument repair people, audio/visual specialists, and sales managers. The student staff are full members of the band and must be registered for Music 2205.01; they are also paid for their work outside of normal band rehearsal and performance times.

ARE AUDITION MATERIALS AVAILABLE ONLINE?

Yes! The required music is posted two weeks prior to tryouts. Students must be registered online in order to access the music. Registered students may also request school songs by emailing osumb@osu.edu. Instructional videos for marching auditions are available online at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/PrideoftheBuckeyes>.

In addition, a free Ohio State University Marching Band app (for iPhone and iPad) is available from the App Store. The app offers marching fundamentals videos and music for the school songs, as well as information about tryouts.

ARE THERE ANY CAMPS/WORKSHOPS TO HELP A STUDENT PREPARE FOR AN AUDITION?

Yes! There are many opportunities for students to prepare.

1. **Summer Sessions** are traditionally held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning in June. Sessions are free and open to high school and college students and are not required for tryouts. Students wanting to participate in these sessions should report to the band center at the above times. No registration is required.
2. **The Ohio State University Marching Band Summer Clinic** is designed as a fun-yet-intensive experience that will teach the musical and marching skills needed for membership in the OSUMB. Enrollment in the camp is open to high school students who have completed at least 1 year of high school marching band and have not yet begun college. The 2015 clinic is scheduled for July 12-13, 2015. See tbdbitl.osu.edu for registration deadlines and details.
3. **Video Feedback.** Students wishing to receive feedback on their progress in learning the marching fundamentals may email video of themselves performing the fundamentals to the band office. Our squad leaders will critique the videos and provide feedback. Contact the band office for more information.

WHEN DOES THE OSUMB PRACTICE/PERFORM?

During the fall semester, the OSUMB is a scheduled course (Music 2205.01) that rehearses from 4:10 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. Game day schedules, concert schedules, and other performance schedules vary. The band does not meet during the spring semester.

DO STUDENTS RECEIVE CREDIT FOR PARTICIPATING?

Yes! The OSUMB is a class, and students may opt to receive between .5 and 2 academic credits for Music 2205.01.

WHAT ARE THE OSU ATHLETIC BANDS?

The Athletic Bands perform at a variety of Ohio State athletic events. While they play primarily at men's and women's basketball, men's ice hockey, and women's volleyball games, they have also performed for soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse, women's ice hockey, field hockey, gymnastics, and swimming and diving. In addition, the athletic bands annually perform a pregame and halftime field show at the Ohio State spring football game, "Script Ohio on Ice" at two men's hockey games per year, and a parade and concert at Cedar Point.

DO STUDENTS NEED TO AUDITION FOR THE OSU ATHLETIC BANDS?

No audition is required. Athletic Band is a class that is offered during both the fall and spring semesters. Students must register for Music 2205.02 and may sign up for between .5 and 2 academic credits. The exception is the Men's Basketball Band, a subset of the Spring Athletic Band. The Men's Basketball Band is an auditioned group that performs for OSU men's basketball games as well as a variety of other university events. The schedule of the Men's Basketball Band is more intensive than that of the other athletic bands.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE OSU ATHLETIC BANDS?

Any student who plays a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument may participate.

HOW DO I AUDITION FOR THE MEN'S BASKETBALL BAND?

Sign up for Music 2205.02 in the spring semester. Auditions take place on the first day of rehearsal in January and consist of chromatic scales, major scales from 4 flats to 4 sharps, school songs, and a short sight-reading exercise.

WHEN DOES THE ATHLETIC BAND PRACTICE?

During the fall semester, the athletic band practices on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. During the spring semester, the Athletic Band practices on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:20 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The rehearsal time is extended to 7:25 p.m. during rehearsals for the spring football game.

ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS IN THE MARCHING AND ATHLETIC BANDS?

Scholarships are available to Marching Band members who have participated in the band for at least two years. Factors such as grade point average and audition scores are taken into consideration. Unfortunately, no scholarships are available for students in the athletic bands.

ARE INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE TO RENT OR BORROW?

Brass and percussion instruments are available for students enrolled in the marching and/or athletic bands, and for students auditioning for the marching band. Marching band students are typically assigned a practice instrument and a game instrument; athletic band students may sign out an instrument if they choose, but they may also use their own. Instruments are available at no cost to the students, but any repairs required beyond normal “wear and tear” must be covered by the borrower. No woodwind instruments are available for athletic band students to borrow.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE OSU MARCHING AND ATHLETIC BANDS?

Marching band members are required to supply several uniform parts: a white dress shirt, black socks, a black belt (if not using the provided suspenders), and black marching shoes. In addition, a travel uniform consisting of gray dress slacks, a white dress shirt, a black blazer, a black belt, black socks, and black shoes must be provided by the student. All other uniform parts are provided to the students at no cost.

Athletic band members are provided with a uniform polo shirt, hat, and pullover. Students must provide black pants, black socks, and black shoes.

WHERE DO THE MARCHING AND ATHLETIC BANDS REHEARSE?

The bands rehearse at the Steinbrenner Band Center, located in Ohio Stadium between gates 10 and 12. The main rehearsal hall and the main office are both located on the first floor of the band center.

WHAT ARE THE OPERATING HOURS OF THE STEINBRENNER BAND CENTER?

The band center is typically open from 10:00 a.m. until shortly after the conclusion of marching band rehearsal (around 6:30 p.m.) on weekdays during the fall. During the spring semester, the band center is open from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and until the conclusion of athletic band rehearsal on Mondays and Wednesdays. The band center is open from approximately 10:00 a.m - 6:00 p.m. during the summer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Dr. Christopher Hoch** – interim director of Marching and Athletic Bands – hoch.4@osu.edu
- **Mr. Michael Smith** – assistant director of Marching and Athletic Bands – smith.8675@osu.edu
- **Dr. Russel Mikkelson** – director of university bands – mikkelson.1@osu.edu
- **Dr. Scott Jones** – associate director of university bands – jones.4371@osu.edu
- **Miss Tess Green** – administrative associate – osumb@osu.edu
- **Mr. Rick Shaffer** – business and operations manager – shaffer.25@osu.edu
- **Steinbrenner Band Center**
614-292-2598 – phone
614-292-9712 – fax
osumb@osu.edu – email