

The Ohio State University Marching and Athletic Bands

Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN DOES THE MARCHING BAND PRACTICE AND 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. Students may opt to receive between .5 and 2 credits for Music 2205.01.

WHAT IS THE TRYOUT PROCESS FOR THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND?

Tryouts for The Ohio State University Marching Band take place over two days and consist of music and marching auditions. All students who have not previously been members of the marching band are also required to attend “Candidate Days” – the two days immediately before tryouts that are designed solely to prepare new candidates for their auditions. Tryouts are usually held between the first and second weeks of August. For information about the tryouts process and schedule, visit go.osu.edu/band-tryouts.

WHO CAN AUDITION FOR THE OHIO STATE MARCHING BAND?

Any student enrolled at any Ohio State campus, including regional campuses, who plays a brass or percussion instrument is welcome to audition. Enrollment in the marching band is also possible through Columbus-area schools that participate in the Higher Education Council of Columbus (HECC) Program; visit go.osu.edu/hecc for more information.

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

Many students opt to learn a brass or percussion instrument as a secondary instrument. Any student attending Summer Sessions may sign out an instrument to practice on their own. Others interview to join the student staff, which includes office assistants, uniform and instrument managers, AV specialists, and sales managers. The student staff are full members of the band who are also paid for their work outside of normal band rehearsal and performance times.

ARE AUDITION MATERIALS AVAILABLE ONLINE?

Audition music is made available two weeks prior to tryouts to those who have registered. Instructional videos for marching auditions are available online at go.osu.edu/marching-fundamentals.

HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR TRYOUTS?

1. **Summer Sessions** are free, optional practices that take place two to three times per week from June through early August. They help both prospective and returning candidates prepare for tryouts by providing instruction in marching and music fundamentals in a fun, informal setting. Learn more at go.osu.edu/summersessions.
2. **The Ohio State University Marching Band Summer Clinic** is a multiday, immersive experience for high school students and new high school graduates that will teach some of the musical and marching skills needed for membership in the OSUMB. Visit go.osu.edu/summerclinic 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.

WHAT IS THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC BAND?

The Athletic Band, open to any student who plays a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument, performs at a wide variety of Ohio State athletic events during the autumn and spring semesters, including men's and women's basketball, men's ice hockey and women's volleyball games. In addition, the Athletic Bands annually perform a pregame and halftime field show at the Ohio State spring football game and a parade and concert at Cedar Point. Every semester, all students will also have the opportunity to perform "Script on Ice" or "Script on Court."

WHEN DOES THE ATHLETIC BAND PRACTICE?

Athletic Band is a course that meets during both the autumn and spring semesters. Students are welcome to join during either or both semesters. In the fall, the Athletic Band rehearses on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. During the spring semester, the Athletic Band rehearses on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:20-7:25 p.m. Students must register for Music 2205.02 and may sign up for between .5 and 2 academic credits.

DO STUDENTS NEED TO AUDITION FOR ATHLETIC BAND?

No audition is required, except for the subset of the spring band that performs for men's basketball games.

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. Unfortunately, woodwind instruments are not available to rent/borrow.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR MARCHING AND ATHLETIC BAND MEMBERS?

Thanks to the commitment of the university and our generous supporters, participation costs for Marching and Athletic Bands are kept to a minimum. Marching Band members are required to supply 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. Dry cleaning is also provided throughout the season.

Athletic Band members are provided with a uniform polo shirt and, for those in the spring men's basketball band, a pullover. Students must provide black pants, black socks, and black shoes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Dr. Christopher Hoch** – director of Marching and Athletic Bands / associate director of university bands – hoch.4@osu.edu
- **Mr. Phil Day** – associate director of Marching and Athletic Bands / assistant director of university bands – day.404@osu.edu
- **Mr. Michael Smith** – assistant director of Marching and Athletic Bands – smith.8675@osu.edu
- **Mr. Mark Reynolds** – percussion instructor – reynolds.26@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
- **Steinbrenner Band Center** – 614-292-2598 (phone), osumb@osu.edu (email)

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