

2021 – 2022 UNC BANDS FAQs

WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE UNC BANDS?

Since 1903, the UNC Bands have been active on campus supporting Carolina athletic teams and performing concerts on campus and around the state, region, and country. The program currently includes 3 concert bands (Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, University Band), the Marching Tar Heels, 2 men's basketball bands, 4 Olympic Sport pep bands, 2 soccer support ensembles, and a field hockey band. There are 3 full-time faculty directors, an instructional staff of 10 highly qualified professionals, and a student leadership team that work with the program.

IS THERE TIME TO BE INVOLVED AND MAINTAIN HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS?

Absolutely! The UNC BANDS attract the some of the best and brightest students at the University of North Carolina. All of the ensembles are offered for academic credit and are designed with the student's other academic responsibilities in mind. The Marching Tar Heels rehearse between 4 and 6 hours per week and the concert bands each rehearse about 5 hours per week.

WHO CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE

MARCHING TAR HEELS?

Membership in the Marching Tar Heels is open to all Carolina students. There are no auditions woodwind and brass players but there are competency auditions for prospective members of the drumline, guard, and majorette sections. You do not have to be a music major or have marching band experience to participate. All we ask is that you can contribute musically and/or visually and are willing to work hard to meet the expectations of membership.

OTHER ATHLETIC BANDS?

All members of the Marching Tar Heels are assigned to an Olympic Sport Pep Band, a soccer support ensemble, or the Fockey Band. Members can elect to be members of one or both Men's Basketball Bands.

CONCERT BANDS?

All UNC students are welcome to play in one or more of the concert bands. Audition material for the Wind Ensemble will be available at uncbands.org on August 1 and auditions will be held during the first week of classes. Auditions are not required for the Symphony Band or the University Band. Students simply enroll in the ensemble of their choice and attend the first meeting of the class.

WHAT IF I NEED TO BORROW AN INSTRUMENT?

The UNC Bands provide all of the brass and percussion instruments used in the Marching Tar Heels along with tenor saxophones for those who need them. Some instruments are available to borrow for the concert ensembles as well. As a rule, we do not loan out flutes, piccolos, Bb clarinets, or alto saxes for use in the marching band and those instruments plus trumpets and trombones for use in the concert bands. Each instrument is professionally cleaned and sanitized before being checked-out to a student and students are never asked to share instruments.

IS THERE A FEE TO BE INVOLVED?

New members of the Marching Tar Heels are assessed a \$250 participation fee and returning members are assessed \$200. These fees cover all of the clothing members receive for uniform purposes, meals during preseason camp, and uniform use fees. All other expenses, including travel, lodging, and sustenance expenses are covered by the UNC Bands. There are no fees assessed to members of the concert bands.

DO MEMBERS OF THE UNC BANDS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS?

Unfortunately, we do not offer any scholarships at this time for participating in our bands. We do have limited funds available to help members of the Marching Tar Heels who could not participate due to the participation fee. There are a few scholarships offered by the Department of Music that are awarded to music majors.

WHERE DO THE BANDS REHEARSE?

Rehearsals for the concert bands are held in Kenan Music Building, which is located on North campus near Franklin Street. The Marching Tar Heels rehearse in Kenan Stadium and in the indoor facility located at the Bill Komen Football Practice Complex. The athletic bands also rehearse in Kenan Music Building occasionally.

WHEN DO THE BANDS REHEARSE DURING THE FALL SEMESTER?

ATHLETIC BANDS: 6p-8p Tuesday/Thursday, 5p-6:30p Friday as needed

WIND ENSEMBLE: 3:30p-5:45p Tuesday/Thursday

SYMPHONY BAND: 3:35p-5:45p Monday/Wednesday

UNIVERSITY BAND: not offered during Fall semester

WHEN IS BAND CAMP FOR THE MARCHING TAR HEELS?

The Marching Tar Heels Band Camp takes place on the UNC campus in August – one week before classes begin. All members report at different times depending on their role and year in the band. Visit the Band Camp page on uncbands.org for complete camp information.

DO THE MARCHING TAR HEELS TRAVEL TO AWAY GAMES?

In addition to performing at all home football games, the Marching Tar Heels have traditionally performed at neutral site and post-season bowl games. Smaller groups from within the Marching Tar Heels have traveled to away football games to support the team and engage the fans. All expenses associated with travel were paid for by the UNC Bands.

HOW MANY SHOWS DO THE MARCHING TAR HEELS PERFORM EACH SEASON?

The Marching Tar Heels typically perform a different show for each home game. This number typically totals 4-5 different shows each season.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MARCHING TAR HEELS?

Beginning May 1, you must: 1) complete a [Membership Intent Form](#); 2) enroll in MUSC 213 (section 1 for woodwinds, brass and percussion/section 2 for guard), and 3) register for band camp by following the links for the 2021 Marching Tar Heels Membership Information located on uncbands.org.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNC BANDS?

Interested students should complete and submit the [Information Request Form](#) that can be found on the front page of uncbands.org. This will get you on our mailing list for the appropriate ensemble(s). If you have specific questions, you may email Jeffrey Fuchs, Director of University Bands, at jeff@unc.edu.