The UW–Madison Band Program offers a comprehensive selection of ensembles for students of all abilities and interest levels. The Marching Band, Varsity Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and University Band give numerous performances at every level, from UW–Madison athletic events to music conferences.

The Marching Band maintains a high profile among musicians and Badger enthusiasts throughout the state and region. The Varsity Band is part of this program, providing opportunities for students to perform during the winter and spring, culminating in its annual extravaganza at the Kohl Center.

The Wind Ensemble is mainly comprised of music majors and minors, graduate and undergraduate students alike. It performs traditional and contemporary repertoire of the highest caliber, from sixteenth-century works to world premieres. The Wind Ensemble's instrumentation varies in order to accommodate the requirements of the repertoire being performed. The Wind Ensemble regularly commissions new works from world-renowned composers and performs with internationally acclaimed soloists and guest conductors.

The Concert Band is comprised of both music majors and non-music majors who perform standard symphonic band and chamber repertoire, as well as orchestral transcriptions. Both the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band perform numerous concerts each semester.

Three University Bands are offered to non-music majors with a continued interest in playing music. The University Bands rehearse one night per week and share two concerts each semester, performing standard and exciting popular repertoire.
## Course Listings and Audition Requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MARCHING/VARSITY BAND</th>
<th>WIND ENSEMBLE</th>
<th>CONCERT BAND</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY BAND</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MUSIC 660-042</strong></td>
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<td>1 credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Marching Band</td>
<td><strong>MUSIC 660-040</strong></td>
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<td>T/W/R/F 3:45–5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Spring Varsity Band</td>
<td><strong>MUSIC 660-041</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Admission</strong> is by audition only. Open to all students regardless of major. Auditions include selected excerpts (available at music.wisc.edu/current-students/auditions), a prepared solo piece, and scales.**</td>
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<td><strong>Graduate students register for MUSIC 660-574 Lab 1 #17342</strong></td>
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<td><strong>T, W, or R 7:00–9:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>T/R 3:30–5:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>T/R 3:30–5:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>T, W, or R 7:00–9:30 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>Auditions are not required. Simply register and attend the first rehearsal. Instruments and lockers are available for rental on a first-come, first-served basis (apps.music.wisc.edu/facilities).**</td>
<td><strong>Graduate students register for MUSIC 660-574 Lab 1 #34669 (T)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Graduate students register for MUSIC 660-574 Lab 1 #34669 (T)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Graduate students register for MUSIC 660-574 Lab 1 #34669 (T)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lab 2 #34668</strong></td>
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About the UW–Madison Band Program

Marching and Varsity Bands

Anyone who has ever been a member of the Marching and Varsity Bands won't hesitate to tell you that the four years they participated were some of the most exciting times in their life. There have been trips, concerts, exciting games, and innumerable special events. High points over the years include nine appearances at the Rose Bowl and performances at the Coca Cola Bowl (Tokyo), Capital One Bowl (Dallas), Holiday Bowl (San Diego), Alamo Bowl (San Antonio), Music City Bowl (Nashville), Copper Bowl (Tucson), Sun Bowl (El Paso), Kickoff Classic (New York), Hall of Fame Bowl (Birmingham), Independence Bowl (Shreveport), and the Pinstripe Bowl (New York City). Travel includes visits to Big Ten stadiums throughout the Midwest and Lambeau Field to perform during Green Bay Packers games. In Madison, the Marching Band performs weekly in Camp Randall Stadium for more than 80,000 fans during Badger football games. Keeping with tradition, up to 50,000 fans regularly stay after the games end to enjoy the famous Fifth Quarter.

During each season, the Varsity Band performs concerts throughout the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois. Its season finale, the annual Varsity Band Spring Concert for nearly 30,000 fans over three nights in April at the Kohl Center, is most rewarding. The concert has featured renowned guest artists, including jazz legend Richard Davis, percussionist Steve Houghton, violin virtuoso Vartan Manoogian, trumpeter Stan Mark (lead trumpet, Maynard Ferguson Orchestra), opera star Kitt Reuter-Foss, world-champion steel pan soloist Liam Teague, drummer Ed Shaughnessy (The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson), and trumpeter Mark Pender (Late Night with Conan O’Brien). Television rebroadcasts of the concert have made the Varsity Band a favorite group throughout the Midwest.

Various athletic pep bands also play an important role in the Band Program and on campus. The Badger basketball and hockey teams attract thousands of excited fans to the Kohl Center, and in recent years Wisconsin has enjoyed a long history of post-season tournament action. The Badger men's hockey team is a perennial contender for the NCAA Championship, which it has won on six separate occasions. In 2006, Wisconsin became the "capital of college hockey" when both men's and women's teams won their respective Naitonal Championships. The women's hockey team achieved this feat again in 2019. The men's basketball team has enjoyed fourteen consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament, including dramatic runs to the Final Four in 2000, 2014, and 2015.

Without question, the UW–Madison Bands are headed into another terrific year. Don't miss your chance to be part of the action!
Concert Ensembles

At the UW–Madison, the concert ensembles are dedicated to providing students with the finest musical experiences possible. Whether you are interested in Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, or one of the three University Bands, you will find each of these ensembles has earned high respect through performances on and off campus.

The concert ensembles regularly perform repertoire ranging from classical, standard band repertoire to giving the premieres of contemporary works. Their rich, musical heritage includes faculty conductors Ray Dvorak, H. Robert Reynolds, Eugene Corporon, James Smith, and Michael Leckrone. Numerous guest conductors include John DeMain, Craig Kirchhoff, Fredrick Fennell, Vincent Persichetti, William Revelli, H. Owen Reed, Donald Hunsberger, and Larry Livingston. Guest soloists have included Fred Hemke, Harvey Pittel, and Timofei Dokshitzer, as well as Mead Witter School of Music performance faculty.

The Band Program actively commissions new works for the wind band medium through various consortia, the Big Ten Band Directors Foundation, and in conjunction with the New York Philharmonic. Composers William Bolcom, David Del Tredici, David Maslanka, Carter Pann, Anthony Plog, D. J. Sparr, and James Stephenson are among the many composers the Band Program has commissioned.

Outside of Madison, the ensembles have performed at prestigious conferences, including those of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA). Each year, the Band Program gives numerous performances on and off campus.

Tours and concerts across Wisconsin and the Midwest serve to enlarge the Band Program’s musical community while also establishing strong relationships with our middle and high school colleagues. In addition, the annual Collage Concert has become a campus favorite, performed annually on Homecoming weekend. It is an exciting, non-stop, musical showcase of Mead Witter School of Music ensembles from in collaboration with other UW–Madison arts disciplines, including creative writing, dance, and musical theatre.

The conducting faculty of the UW–Madison Band Program is one of the most respected and talented in the nation. Each conductor brings a unique and distinct approach to the process of music-making.

Auditions for Wind Ensemble and Concert Band take place annually the week before fall semester begins. Audition excerpts can be found on the School of Music website in early summer. University Bands do not require an audition: simply register and attend rehearsal at the scheduled time. For more information about auditioning, please visit www.music.wisc.edu/currentstudents/auditions. If you have further questions, please email performingorgs@music.wisc.edu. For more information on other auditioned and non-auditioned ensembles, visit our website at www.music.wisc.edu.
AM I GOOD ENOUGH TO PARTICIPATE

Whatever your performance level, you can find an ensemble in which to participate. The UW–Madison Band Program offers groups designed for every ability and musical interest. If you have participated in a band in high school, you can be assured of an opportunity in one of the UW–Madison bands. Ensembles are a mixture of majors and non-music majors, and almost every academic department and class level on campus is represented in the Marching Band. An unusually high number of students in the Marching Band are from the College of Engineering (approximately 20 percent).

HOW DO I ENROLL IN A BAND AND KNOW WHICH BAND TO CHOOSE?

Make sure that your academic advisor includes the band’s course number in your class schedule (see page 3). Bands may be included in your class schedule during SOAR or fall registration.

HOW WILL TIME SPENT IN BAND REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES AFFECT MY ACADEMIC WORK?

Your academic standing may improve. Marching Band rehearsals are planned at a time of day that do not usually conflict with heavy class schedules and prime study time. Moreover, band members typically receive a high grade, which helps improve grade point averages. Scheduling conflicts occasionally occur, but most can be resolved by conferring with the director or conductor.

WHAT IS THE WEEKLY TIME COMMITMENT?

Rehearsal times for the bands are listed on page 3. During the regular school year, there are no extra rehearsals for the Marching Band. During the spring semester, the Varsity Band performs at athletic and other events, however, most of the performances are on a volunteer basis.

ARE INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR BAND MEMBERS?

Marching Band members perform on University-owned instruments. University instruments are also available to those participating in one of the concert organizations.

CAN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MARCHING BAND AS WELL AS ONE OF THE CONCERT GROUPS DURING THE SAME SEMESTER?

Many students participate in both. Scheduling issues are resolved on an individual basis at the Marching Band audition or during Welcome Week (the week before fall semester begins).

DOES IT COST MONEY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MARCHING BAND?

A modest uniform maintenance fee is charged to cover cleaning and costs of accessories (white gloves, spats, etc.). You should also purchase a Varsity Band uniform sweater if you choose to participate in those activities. There is no expense for travel.

WHO MAY JOIN THE MARCHING BAND?

All enrolled UW–Madison students regardless of major are encouraged to audition for participation. The Marching Band’s instrumentation consists of clarinets, alto and tenor saxophones, mellophones, flugelhorns, trumpets, trombones, euphoniums, sousaphones, and marching percussion.

ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES TO PERFORM IN A JAZZ ENSEMBLE?

Yes, the School of Music has five jazz ensembles for which you can audition. More information about the Jazz, Choral, and Orchestra Programs can be found by visiting www.music.wisc.edu/student-ensembles and all opportunities for non-music majors at www.music.wisc.edu/non-majors.