



SPIRIT MARCHING BAND

Q: What is college marching band? How is it different from high school?

A: College marching band serves the University community by promoting school spirit, providing the most visible student organization and facilitating positive peer relationships among students in the group. The Spirit Marching Band's focus is on entertainment, not competition. There are only 3 afternoon rehearsals per week with few time commitments other than performances. The band performs several different shows throughout the season with enough diversity to challenge all levels of musicianship. Our main goals are to support our football team and to have fun!

Q: Does it cost a lot of money?

A: Not only does it cost you nothing, you get paid for being in it! Everyone who completes the marching band season receives at least \$400. You will be required (in most cases) to buy black cotton gloves (for \$2) and if you don't own black marching shoes, you will need to buy those as well. This is far less than the cost of one textbook.

Q: Is there an audition to get into marching band?

A: No! There are only informal part placement evaluations at band camp--i.e., Trumpet I, II, III.

Q: Do you have to be a music major to be in the Spirit Marching Band?

A: No, everyone is welcome to join, even if you don't have any marching experience.

Q: When and where does the marching band meet?

A: The Spirit Marching Band meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Our rehearsals take place on Johnson Field, just to the east of the Center for the Arts.

Q: What are the requirements to be in the band?

A: To participate in our ensemble you must be a student at UNM or CNM and have reached a high school level of competency on your instrument or as a member of the colorguard. You will have a short audition for your section leader once band camp starts to determine part assignments.

Q: Do you have to know how to march?

A: No, marching is very easy to learn and nothing to be afraid of. We will teach you.

Q: Do you just do the same show all season?

A: No, we do three or four shows every season.

Q: When is band camp?

A: Band camp usually takes place the week before classes start in the fall semester.

Q: Can I still be in the band if I cannot make it to band camp?

A: Band camp is a requirement, but under certain circumstances exceptions can be made.

Q: How much does it cost to participate in the marching band?

A: The only cost to a student in the marching band is the cost of gloves, black socks and marching shoes. Everything else is provided by the band, and you don't have to do any fundraising activities!

Q: I won't be here in the spring. Can I still participate?

A: You bet! Love to have you!

Q: What are the perks of being in the marching band?

A: First, you receive a stipend, have opportunities to travel with the sports teams and free t-shirts. You get to play for Freshman Family Day, meet the President of the university and other dignitaries and perform in front of large crowds at home football games. Most importantly, you will get to make great friendships that will last a lifetime.

Q: How do I join the marching band?

A: You can complete the participation form that is part of this website. We would like to know that you are going to be part of the band so that we can make sure that you have the best experience possible. You should also enroll in the class (Music 241 Section 043) and make plans to attend band camp.

Q: I have a heavy academic schedule. How can I work marching band into my schedule?

A: There have been incidents of some college and high school advisors informing students that they will not have time for their studies if they are in band. This is just not true. Our overall cumulative GPA is above 3.0, and there are students from most degree programs at UNM in the band. From a list of band alumni, you'll see too many doctors, lawyers, CPAs, engineers, nurses, teachers, pharmacists and architects to believe that band prevents you from being a successful scholar. Marching Band meets at a time when the least number of classes are scheduled at the University. Success in college (and in life) is a matter of using your time efficiently.

Q: Do I get academic credit? How do I register?

A: Yes, if you register for marching band as a class. Marching Band is listed as Music 241-043 (call number 16007) or Music Education 241-053 (call number 12170) in the schedule of classes. Grades are based on attendance, so this could be the easiest A on campus!

Q: I don't own my own instrument? How do I get one?

A: We provide most marching instruments--sousaphones, mellophones, trumpets, trombones, baritones and percussion equipment. All other instruments will be provided as needed, but we do encourage you to bring your own as we cannot yet provide an instrument for every member of the marching band. Instruments will be checked out the first day of Band Camp or through prior arrangement with the Band Staff.

Q: Who do I contact if I have other questions?

A: Chad Simons is the director of the Spirit Marching Band and can be reached at (505)277-4036 or via email at simochad@unm.edu. The Band Office phone number is (505)277-8998 or bands@unm.edu. Our website is www.unm.edu/~bands