

Pitt Band FAQ

What is the time commitment involved with joining?

The band rehearses fall semester Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. If there is a home game we rehearse Friday 6:00-8:00 p.m. as well. The band also has a run through either on campus or at Heinz Field on game day.

Is there a band camp?

Yes. The Band starts preseason camp on the Oakland campus about a week and a half before classes start and continues at the Bradford campus. Marching fundamentals as well as the traditional pregame show, the first halftime show and much of our stands music is learned at camp. There is no cost for camp. Band camp 2018 will start Tuesday, August 14 and run to Monday, August 20.

Are Scholarships available?

Each band member receives a modest scholarship and each year the student is in the band that amount goes up. Small scholarships are also available for VolleyBand and Basketball Pep Band.

Do I have to fundraise?

No. Any costs that are associated with travel with the band will be covered by the Athletic Department. However, personal items such as black marching shoes, reeds, etc. are not provided.

Will being in the band hurt my grades?

No. One third of our band is comprised of engineering majors, and another third is made up of health care majors. The remaining third comes from other areas of academia, such as business, the humanities, and the natural sciences. So, there will always be someone there who can help you with homework and give advice on how to balance the workload.

Will I have free time if I want to join organizations outside of band?

Yes. Many of our band members are involved with honor societies for their majors, fraternities and sororities, ROTC, and many other activities that are available on campus.

Are there auditions?

Yes. All candidates must complete an audition prior to the start of Band Camp. Auditions are scheduled in the spring and can be scheduled by appointment. Students may also submit a video in lieu of an "in person" audition. Email Dr. Brad Townsend at brt30@pitt.edu to set up an audition.

What Positions are available?

Woodwinds	Piccolo/Flute, Bb Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone
Brass	Bb Trumpet, Mellophone, Trombone, baritone, Bass (Tuba)
Percussion	Snare, Quads, Bass, and Cymbal
Band Front	Color Guard, Golden Girls (Majorettes)

What other Band Ensembles are offered?

Volleyball Pep Band	Volleyball Pep Band is active during the fall and performs at women's volleyball games and the NCAA Tournament.
Basketball Pep Band	Basketball Pep Band is active during the basketball season and performs at all men's and women's home games, the ACC Tournaments, and the NCAA or NIT Tournaments.
Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band rehearses and performs in the spring semester. Auditions are required for membership, part assignments and seating.