



## **BU MARCHING BAND**

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Will I have time for Marching Band in my academic schedule?**

Yes. The Marching Band schedule is designed to be achievable for BU students. We know your studies come first. The schedule is lighter than most U.S. high school marching band schedules for this purpose. The season ends on the first weekend of November, five to six weeks before final exams begin, so you'll have plenty of time to study.

### **What are the top reasons I should join Marching Band?**

Start college with a huge group of friends! Move into your dorm early. Learn the campus before classes begin. Have a weekly musical outlet that is designed to fit into your academic schedule. Blow-off steam after a day of class, lab and study. Perform exciting shows for appreciative band crowds. Belong to a community at BU.

### **When does Marching Band rehearse?**

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:30-9:00 PM, and one event per weekend (either a performance or rehearsal). The season is only eight weeks long and ends on the first weekend of November, five to six weeks before final exams begin, so you'll have plenty of time to study.

### **Where / when / what do we perform?**

The BU Marching Band performs as a featured collegiate exhibition group at regional high school band competitions, on campus, in our community, and at the Collegiate Marching Band Festival in Allentown, PA.....a fun trip.

There is typically only one Marching Band performance per weekend, leaving you time to study, work, or sleep.

The field show differs each year, and is designed to be entertaining for both the performers as well as the audience. Past shows have included:

- “Superhero Showdown” (The music of Marvel Studios vs DC Comics)
- “Take Me Out to Fenway” (The music of Fenway Park)
- “Press Start” (Music from video games)
- “Agents of Espionage” (Music from spy movies)
- “Sound of Our City” (The music of Boston from Revolutionary War to present)

The BU Marching Band has also performed:

- In the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
- In the movie “Mystic River” (2003)
- On stage with the band “Foster The People” (2012)
- In the movie “Black Mass” (2015)

### **When is Band Camp?**

Band Camp typically occurs in the last week of August (visit the [Band Camp page](#) for details). Students get to move into their dorm early (get the “good side” of the room!). All meals are provided during Band Camp. There are three rehearsal blocks per day, with plenty of free time to relax or socialize.

### **Are there auditions to be in Marching Band?**

No. But some sections will hear you play just to determine what part you will be on.

### **Can I join if I don’t go to BU?**

Yes. The BU Marching Band is open to college-aged students in the area who do not have a marching band at their institution.

### **Do I need to have experience or know how to march?**

No experience necessary! We’ll teach you how to march or play an instrument.

### **Can I borrow an instrument?**

Yes. Loaner instruments and lockers in the BU Band Room are available to all Marching Band students.

**(more...)**

## **Do I need to be a music major?**

No. While there are music majors in Marching Band, the majority of the band is comprised of students representing every different college at BU. Come make friends with people in your major and in others!

## **Can I also be in other music ensembles?**

Yes. Many students in Marching Band also participate in Pep Band, Concert Band, Winter Drumline, Winter Guard, or Jazz Ensembles, all of which occur on days separate from Marching Band.

## **Can I earn credit for Marching Band?**

Yes. Marching Band can be taken for either 0 credit or 1 credit.

## **Can I earn a Hub unit for Marching Band?**

Yes - soon. Marching Band is expected to be approved to offer a Hub unit in the area of "Teamwork and Collaboration" when taken in conjunction with a spring "athletic band" ensemble as well (Pep Band, Winter Drumline, or Winter Guard) beginning in Fall 2020. Stay tuned for more info.

## **Is there a registration fee?**

Marching Band students only pay for what they need. Total fees vary by section and new/veteran status, and typically range from \$35-\$120 (Color Guard fee may be slightly more due to costumes that change with the show). Some materials are "one-time purchases" that can be used for future seasons. See the [Join Page](#) for more info.

## **Who do I contact with questions?**

Email [bands@bu.edu](mailto:bands@bu.edu) with any questions you may have.

## **How do I join?**

It's simple! Complete the [Join Form](#), and we'll send you information and materials. Then, we'll see you at Band Camp!!

