

McLENNAN COLLEGE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS FALL 2023

All **Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion** musicians must take part in an audition.
Please check mclennan.edu/bands for audition schedules.

Placement in the McLennan Wind Ensemble is competitive – prepare accordingly.

Everyone who auditions will be placed into either:

MUEN 1121 Section 01 Wind Ensemble M/W/Th 1:00 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

or

MUEN 1122 Section 05 Concert Band Friday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

KEEP YOUR SCHEDULE OPEN FOR BOTH TIMES TO AVOID CONFLICTS.

TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL AUDITION:

- 1) **DOWNLOAD AND PREPARE EXCERPTS** on the Ensemble Auditions webpage.
- 2) **SIGN UP TO AUDITION** on the Ensemble Auditions webpage.
- 3) **FILL OUT THE ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL FORM** on the Ensemble Auditions webpage.

McLennan College Band Audition FAQs

1. What bands are available for McLennan students?

The McLennan Bands comprise of three concert bands, marching band, pep band, and jazz band. The **Wind Ensemble** is the premiere wind band and is complimented by the **Waco Community Band** and **Concert Band**. All wind bands comprise of woodwind, brass, percussion, keyboard, and string instruments. **Jazz Band, Pep Band (Blue Crew), Waco Community Band** and **Concert Band** do not fulfill the requirement for a major ensemble for music majors. McLennan students enrolled in either Wind Ensemble or Concert Band may audition for the Baylor Marching Band.

2. Are music majors required to be in a concert ensemble?

According to Department of Music policy, **every woodwind/brass/percussion music major** who is taking applied lessons must perform in a primary ensemble (Wind Ensemble or Concert Band).

3. Why do we audition at the beginning of each semester?

All students are required to **audition for his/her/their band assignment**. The Wind Ensemble is highly selective and has a set instrumentation. The Concert Band is not limited and can be augmented by students from any major. The audition determines an appropriate assignment and maximizes the student's educational experience.

4. What if I have class at 9:30 Fridays, but I am assigned to Concert Band?

As with EVERY major college and/or university, music majors must adjust their schedules to accommodate their ensemble assignments after auditions occur. If you are assigned to Concert Band, you must attend at 9:30 a.m. on Fridays; the same applies to those assigned to Wind Ensemble, M/W/Th from 1:00 – 2:55 p.m.

5. May I choose to sign up for the concert band of my preference?

No. Again, this is standard practice at the collegiate level.

6. Are the audition parts available? What should I do if the audition materials seem difficult?

Yes. The excerpts can be found online at: mclennan.edu/bands (click on the "Ensemble Auditions" link). Find and listen to recordings (Google, YouTube). Practice them SLOWLY with a metronome. Only speed up the metronome when you are almost perfect with the musical line. Maximize all shaping and dynamic possibilities. The excerpts represent the level of music in the Wind Ensemble, which may seem difficult for some. Do the best you can – it is important that the faculty are able to determine your placement appropriately. Choose a tempo as close to the written tempo as possible where you can keep a steady pulse without slowing down.

7. I am a sophomore. Does that mean that I will automatically be placed in the Wind Ensemble (Or, I am a freshman. Does that mean that I will automatically be placed in the Concert Band)?

No limitations or guarantees are made based upon your classification in school. Assignments are made based upon your **playing skills** as demonstrated in the audition.

8. When are the auditions?

August 14, BPAC 145
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Brass
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Woodwind

August 15, BPAC 145
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Percussion

9. Do the concert ensembles have responsibilities outside of class?

Yes. The Wind Ensemble represents McLennan College both on and off campus. As a result, there are occasional off-campus performances and sectionals outside of class. This is common for all university and college wind ensembles, and all students are expected to fully engage in all rehearsals and performances.

10. Finally, some tips before your audition:

- Arrive extra early to ensure you are warmed-up
- Dress in professional attire
- Have your instrument ready and make sure it is working properly
- Bring your own copies of the required audition music
- Auditions will be blind, do not speak during your audition
- Perform expressively – do not be satisfied with only correct notes and rhythms
- Stay focused and calm. If you make mistakes, stay positive and avoid frustration - Do not make excuses

GOOD LUCK!