FALL 2018 INSTRUMENTAL AUDITIONS
(CONCERT BANDS)

All Music Majors must audition on August 15, 16 and/or 17 for placement in one of the concert bands.

Non-music Majors wishing to participate in band without audition will be placed in Campus Symphonic Band. However, it is highly encouraged that you audition for the Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

Placement in the IPFW Symphonic Wind Ensemble is very competitive – please prepare appropriately.

All music majors will be placed into either:

MUSC-04000-01 Campus Symphonic Band (University Instrumental Ensemble)
MWF 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Or

MUSC-04100-01 Symphonic Wind Ensemble
MWF 1:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

KEEP YOUR SCHEDULE OPEN FOR BOTH TIME SLOTS TO AVOID CONFLICTS.

There are three parts to the audition: scales, sight-reading, and prepared excerpts.

SCALES – prepare all major scales (full range of your instrument)

SIGHT-READING – one or two short excerpts

PREPARED EXCERPTS – chosen by the wind and percussion faculty and can be found here: www.pfw.edu/music (click on right column under “Fall 2018 Wind Ensemble Auditions.”

Please sign up for a time on the door outside of RC 120 later this summer.
PFW Band Audition FAQs

1. What are the bands for music majors?

There are two concert bands for music majors at PFW. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is the premiere band and the Symphonic Band is the second group. Both are comprised of woodwinds, brass, and percussion, with the occasional piano and string bass (both are also open to non-music majors). Jazz band and Pep band are also available, but they do not fulfill the credit for your primary ensemble. Jazz band is a course and is available for class credit. Pep band and community band are not classes and do not apply toward graduation requirements.

2. Am I required to be in a concert band?

According to the School of Music Policy, every woodwind/brass/percussion music major (any major in the department of music) who is taking lessons must perform in a primary ensemble (Symphonic Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band per director assignment).

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

Every wind and percussion major is required to audition for his or her band assignment. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is highly selective and has limited spots available. The Symphonic Band is not limited and can be augmented by students from majors other than music. The audition determines an appropriate assignment and maximizes the student’s educational experience.

4. What if I have a class I really want to take at 11:00 MWF, but I am assigned to Symphonic Band?

As with EVERY major university, music majors must adjust their schedules to accommodate their ensemble assignments after auditions occur. If you are assigned to Symphonic Band, you must attend at 11:00 a.m. on MWF; the same applies to those assigned to Symphonic Wind Ensemble, MWF from 1:30 – 2:50 p.m.

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

No. Again, this is a standard policy across the country at the university 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: pfw.edu/music (click on the right tab that says “Fall 2018 Wind Ensemble Auditions” All materials are fair game for the audition (along with possible scales and sight-reading). Practice them SLOWLY with a metronome the best you possibly can. 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 Symphonic Wind Ensemble, which may seem difficult for some. Do the best you can – it is important that the judges are able to determine your placement appropriately.
7. I am a senior. Does that mean that I will automatically be placed in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble (Or, I am a freshman. Does that mean that I will automatically be placed in the Symphonic Band)?

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

8. When are the auditions?

Wednesday, August 15

10:40 a.m. - 12 p.m. Flute/Oboe/Bassoon
12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Euphonium/Tuba
1:20 – 2:50 p.m. Clarinet
3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Trombone
4:10 – 5:30 p.m. Horn

Thursday, August 16

1:00 - 3:20 p.m. Trumpet
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Saxophones
4:40 - 6:20 p.m. Percussion/Piano/Harp/String Bass

Friday, August 17

8:00 a.m. - 1:40 p.m. New Students

Please sign up for the appropriate time on the door outside of RC 120.

9. Do the bands have responsibilities outside of class?

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

10. Who works the PFW Three Rivers Honor Bands?

All members of the PFW Symphonic Ensemble and all music majors in the Symphonic Band must sign up and work shifts at the PFW Three Rivers Honor Band event (Jan. 24-26, 2019). MANY duties occur this fall (auditions, mailings), and these students also contribute to the success of the Honor Band.