



Frequently Asked Questions

1) Are non-music majors allowed to participate in marching band?

YES! Many many band members are not music majors, and, last season, we had students from every department of ISU. In fact, many band members who share the same major end up creating study groups together!

2) Can I be involved in bands and still excel in my coursework?

YES!! In fact, the average GPA of the members of the ISU Bands is significantly higher than the GPA of the general student. If your grades are a priority (and we hope they are), you WILL be successful as a member of the ISU Bands.

Keep in mind that All ensembles at Illinois State are CREDIT GENERATING CLASSES

With responsible preparation of your music and commitment to the ensemble, they should provide solid A's to *boost* your GPA every semester!

3) When are auditions?

Winds – We hold placement hearings during the first few days of camp to determine what part you'll play – No one is cut.

Percussion – The drumline will meet for 'mini-camps' in the summer to learn the exercises and set a line – No one is cut. Contact percussion instructor Matt Brusca (mrb_a_musician@hotmail.com) or Section Leader Sean Higgins (sehiggi@ilstu.edu) for details.

Colorguard – Spend the first few days of band camp learning work and warm-up exercises – No one is cut. Contact colorguard instructor, Dee Ely for details – delydance@comcast.net

Redline Express Dancers audition in the spring. Contact the Redline express coach, Katie Chengary - klcheng@ilstu.edu

4) How much rehearsal time is scheduled on an average week?

We rehearse Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 4:10 - 6:00. Your section will have a one hour sectional each week, and we rehearse Saturday mornings of game days.

5) When is band camp?

Pre-Season training camp is a few days before the start of the fall semester and an additional weekend after the first week of classes. This year's camp begins Wednesday, August 15. Contact us at the band office to be put on the mailing list for a complete camp schedule. Email cbryant@ilstu.edu and be sure to include mailing address, email address, and instrument or dance/colorguard.

6) Would it be best for me to wait to do band until my second year of school?

Absolutely not! The national research is astonishing. 90% of students that set their instrument down for their freshman year of college *never* pick it back up again! Besides, through band camp, you will make nearly 300 friends before school even begins. You get to move into your dorm early, and have had a little extra time to orient yourself to campus.

7) How do I sign up?

EASY 4 step process:

- 1) **Contact the band office** cbryant@ilstu.edu to make sure that you're on our mailing list to receive the summer mailer and information form.
- 2) **Fill out** the information form that will be mailed to you or handed to you at the PREVIEW music breakout session, and **return it to us!**
- 3) **REGISTER** for the Marching Band Class. This class is course number MUS 181.01, and all members of the BRMM must be registered.
- 4) **Show up** for band camp tanned, rested, and ready!