

Have a question? Check out these frequently asked questions first to see if it helps! If you don't see your answer here, please contact Dr. Polly Middleton (polly@vt.edu), or Mr. Chad Reep (reepcr@vt.edu). We're looking forward to meeting you!

Frequently Asked Questions—AUDITIONS AND BAND CAMP

What does the video audition include?

The video audition includes a playing segment and a marching segment. We understand that your high school band may march slightly differently. THAT IS OKAY! March with the best technique you can in the style you are most comfortable with.

Will I find out if I make the band based on my video audition?

For wind players (this includes woodwind and brass):

YES! The video auditions will determine the 2024 Edition of The Marching Virginians. They will be evaluated by expert players of each instrument, the directors of the band, and leadership in each section. Once video auditions have been evaluated, the list of MVs will be emailed to everyone who auditioned.

The most important part of your preparation is practicing the music—make sure you submit a video audition that is representative of your playing. Spend time practicing the music. Your video should include your entire body and make sure that your face isn't blocked by the stand. The video audition does NOT need to be memorized.

For drumline and flags:

Your video audition will be weighted heavily in our decision, but we will have an in-person component to the audition process. The in-person audition will take place on June 8 and 9. These sections rely more on trying different instruments and making sure everyone looks uniform together, so we need the in-person evaluation and instruction opportunity. If you aren't available for the in-person audition, please contact us so we can give you a video option. You can still participate and audition for the band!

The most important part of your preparation is practicing the music and choreography—make sure you submit a video audition that is representative of your playing/spinning. Spend time practicing the music and choreography. Your video should include your entire body. The video audition does NOT need to be memorized.

How many people make the band?

To present a well-balanced musical and visual ensemble, we have a set instrumentation. Our goal is: 36 piccolos, 36 clarinets, 36 saxes, 63 trumpets, 27 horns, 36 trombones, 14 baritones, 22-24 tubas, 32 percussion, 24 flags, 1-3 feature twirlers, and 8-14 managers.

Everyone is auditioning for a spot in the band. Whether you are an incoming first-year student at Virginia Tech, or preparing for your senior year in the band, you will go through the same audition process. Everyone has a great chance of being part of The Marching Virginians INCLUDING prospective first-year members. You can do this—practice, practice, practice!

Who determines who makes the band?

Directors and applied music faculty will watch all the video auditions. Student leaders in each section will also have a chance to watch the videos—it's a great way to put faces with names and start preparing for band camp!

What if I don't make it?

- Talk to Dr. Polly about being a manager after the auditions are completed.
- Come play in Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, Campus Band, or Pep Band.
- Register to re-audition next year!

There are a lot of Welcome Week activities. Can I still participate in Band Camp?

Yes! You are exempt from most of the Welcome Week activities if you are attending Band Camp. We have the meetings you are required to attend built into our schedule, so you won't miss any important material for Band Camp or Welcome Week.

Keep in mind that you will have the best orientation you could imagine by attending band camp as a member of the MVs. You'll meet a diverse group of students, you'll have a chance to make friends and connections before classes start, and you'll have an instant support system within your section and within the band. Being part of The Marching Virginians is a fantastic way to get involved and meet people; two big challenges when moving to a new place and starting college.

I'm not sure if I have time to be in band...should I wait?

NO! Over a third of the band are engineering majors (from first year students to seniors). The band is made up of students majoring in challenging academic majors and is a great academic support system for all students who want to excel in their program. There are study groups, tutors, a super alumni network for students who are looking for jobs, and support to succeed. You will not only have time to be a great student AND be in marching band, but you will be able to get involved in other clubs and activities.

Some students experience a band program in high school that demands time outside of rehearsal, an intense competition schedule, and time prohibitive rehearsals. That is not the case in the MVs. Yes, it is a lot of work, but the environment is different. Because there aren't competitions in college marching band, we are performing a different show each week in front of 66,000 fans. The energy is amazing, and we are constantly learning new music and drill to keep rehearsals interesting. Don't like a show? Just wait two weeks and we'll move on to completely different music and drill.

This is a great environment to be in if you love music, marching, and want to do well in school and be involved in the University.

Do I need to bring my instrument to band camp?

We provide every student in the marching band an instrument—it's a higher quality instrument than student models and we can make sure they are repaired and cleaned regularly. You should plan to bring a mouthpiece.

Do I need to pay or arrange to move into my residence hall early?

You don't have to do anything to arrange for an early move in. Your room will be ready for you to move in to on your designated move in day. Guard and Drumline will move in on Saturday, August 17 and wind players (both brass and woodwinds) will move in on Sunday, August 18. You do not need to pay for early move in.

When (and what) is Band Parents Day?

BAND PARENTS DAY (BPD) is designated for the University of Virginia game on Saturday, November 30. We won't have a block of tickets for the game, so we encourage you to purchase tickets through the Athletic Ticket Office or StubHub. There's also a pregame tailgate with the band that parents, family, and friends can purchase tickets for.

We'll send reminders about BPD throughout the season!

Other questions?

Don't hesitate to contact Dr. Polly Middleton (polly@vt.edu), or Chad Reep, (reepcr@vt.edu). Definitely come visit us if you're here over the summer—Squires Student Center, 241A!