

GATOR



BAND

2024 INFORMATION

UF | Bands
UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA

UFBANDS.COM

Quick Facts

Membership is open to all students regardless of major. In fact, over 110 different majors are represented in the band each year.

Most band members are engineering, science, and business majors.

85% of Gator Band members participate in other clubs and activities.

Gator Band members found marching band manageable with their schedules and had higher GPAs in the Fall.

49% of Gator Band members manage a job.

Students can participate in Gator Band all four years at UF. The band graduates over 50 four-year members each year and they are recognized by the University with a special graduation cord.

There are over 45 leadership opportunities available for members each year.

Band Camp starts when the residence halls open and lasts until the first day of classes. For 2024, those dates are August 15 to August 21.

About the Band

The University of Florida Fightin' Gator Marching Band is the largest and most recognizable student organization on campus. Comprised of over 350 students, the marching band is a collection of some of the most hard-working, intelligent, and enthusiastic individuals at the university - and has been since its creation in 1913. The "Pride of the Sunshine" has performed at events across the country and around the globe in places such as Phoenix, New Orleans, Miami, and in London for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games.

The band performs at all UF home football games, big rivalry games, bowl and championship games. There is a band presence at every away game also, with a pep band of between 50 to 125 players.

The Gator Band is a one-credit academic class that meets during the class block schedule on Monday during periods 11-E1, and periods 9-10 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

How to Join the Band

Visit ufbands.com to access the **2024-2025**

Gator Band Application

The Application

The Gator Band application is an online form on the UF Bands website. Go to ufbands.com. Click on the “2024-2025 Band Application” link on the homepage. Filling out an application is not a commitment to join the band. It is simply a way for the Drum Majors and Section Leaders to share information with you!

The Audition

After completing the online application, you will get an email from the Drum Majors with audition materials and instructions. You will then record a video of yourself playing all 12 major scales, the chromatic scale, and selected school songs. Upload the video to YouTube, and then send a private video link to Professor Watkins (watkins@ufl.edu) by July 1st.

Members from Santa Fe College

Santa Fe College students are welcome to become members of the UF Gator Marching Band through the transient student process. Students who are selected to participate in Gator Band will be required to complete a Transient Application through Florida Shines and must satisfy the following Santa Fe College transient student eligibility criteria:

- Completed at least one semester at Santa Fe College (**one class in SUMMER B can fulfill this requirement**)
- In good academic standing (must not be on academic warning, probation, or suspension)
- A.A. degree-seeking student at Santa Fe College
- Will transfer transient courses back to Santa Fe College to be applied toward SF degree requirements (requested course must count towards your SF degree)
- Have satisfied (or are currently in process for) all SF pre-requisites for the intended transient course(s)
- No active registration holds

Note: A.A. Music students who are receiving a Santa Fe College music scholarship, or who currently have below a 2.6 GPA will not be eligible to participate in Gator Band. You may wish to major in something other than music at Santa Fe, or not accept a scholarship, and then transfer into the music major after you finish a general A.A. when you start at UF.

Additional details about the transient process are available on the SF website: [Transient Process Overview](#). Interested students are urged to speak with their A.A. academic advisors for more information.

Band Directors



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Associate Director of Bands

Director, Gator Band

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Dr. Chip Birkner

Assistant Director of Bands

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Auxiliary Groups

Florida Visual Ensemble

Can you spin a flag, rifle, or sabre? Audition for the Florida Visual Ensemble, the Gator Band color guard. Auditions will be on April 20th at 1 p.m. Contact ufvisualensemble@gmail.com for more information.

Majorettes (Gatorettes)

Auditions for twirlers seeking to join the Gatorettes will be held May 5th at 12 p.m. Contact Mrs. Stoeber, the Gatorette instructor, at junest@ufl.edu with any questions.

Florida Drum Line

The Gator Band drumline, also known as the Florida Drum Line, performs with the band and at many other performances throughout the academic year. Auditions for the drumline are as follows:

Saturday, April 27th 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, May 11th 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, May 25th 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the time commitment for being in band?

Gator Band meets for indoor music rehearsal on Mondays from 6:15 pm to 8:10 pm and outside drill rehearsal on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 4:05 pm to 6:00 pm. Home games also feature a Saturday morning rehearsal.

How do I join Band?

Fill out a Gator Band Application form and complete a live or recorded audition. Visit the Gator Band website to find the form.

What are my chances of being in band?

Students with high school band experience have an extremely high acceptance rate into the Gator Band. Specific audition information for the wind players, drumline, colorguard, and twirlers can be found on the website ufbands.com.

How much does it cost to be in band?

The tuition for the class covers all costs except marching shoes, flip-folders, gloves, reeds, and valve-oil. No more fundraisers!

Does the band travel?

Yes! Each year, the full Gator Band performs at all in-state football games as well as championship and bowl games. We send a smaller pep band of 50 to 125 members to all other away games based on music auditions. All meals, hotels, and travel costs are covered by the Gator Band at no expense to the student.

How many shows does the band perform?

The Gator Band usually performs five to seven shows each season plus our Pregame Show, so you are always learning something new! Shows are selected by a student creative team and designed to entertain over 90,000 fans each week.

Some previous show themes include Led Zeppelin; Earth, Wind and Fire; Aretha Franklin; the 80s; Big Band; Woodstock; and “Back to the Future.”

How do classes fit around band?

Register for marching band, MUN1110 at Preview. Since band fits in class block times, you’ll have the opportunity to shape your schedule around band. If you have an unavoidable class conflict, email Professor Watkins (watkins@ufl.edu) to be added to the band.

How do I manage my time with band?

There is much more free time in college than in high school because you are not in class for eight hours per day. Even with band, there will be plenty of time to study and get involved around campus. Many freshmen in band earn better grades since they plan out their weeks and learn to maximize their time.

Find fellow band members in the courses you are taking, that can make it easier to form study groups. You can also look to other band members who have taken your courses before for advice.

Bands at UF

In addition to Marching Band, there are many other band ensembles available to students throughout the year:

Wind Symphony

UF's premier audition-based ensemble, the Wind Symphony, meets twice a week for rehearsal. Its members perform two concerts per semester, complete various concert tours, and do yearly recording sessions of the ensemble's music.

Symphonic Band

An audition-based ensemble that meets twice per week for rehearsals. In a similar fashion to Wind Symphony, it performs two concerts per semester and completes concert tours.

Concert Bands

The two, non-auditioned ensembles meet during the Spring semester and are primarily comprised of non-music majors.

Jazz Band

The improv-based auditioned ensemble meets twice per week to perform jazz classics.

Volleyball Pep Band

The audition-based pep group that plays at all home volleyball games. Members of the ensemble receive a stipend at the end of the season.

Basketball Pep Band

The audition-based pep group plays at all home basketball. basketball games. Members of this ensemble also travel to tournament games in the spring and will receive a stipend at the end of the season.

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