



University of Vermont Pep Band Handbook/Syllabus

The University of Vermont Pep Band is an ensemble of student musicians that perform at athletics events throughout the academic year (primarily men's and women's hockey and basketball). Rehearsals are held weekly.

DIRECTORS – pepband@uvm.edu

Jack Curtis – jdcurtis@uvm.edu 802-318-0766

Neil Wacek – nwacek@uvm.edu 802-272-1141

Within the pages of this handbook/syllabus are the various policies and procedures that will guide you throughout the year. Please take the time to read this document carefully and come to understand what is expected of you as a member of our ensemble. We are very excited to have you be a part of this year's band!

OUR MISSION...

- To foster school pride and support UVM athletics teams through our musical performances at events.
- To inspire community pride in our performances, words, and actions.
- To provide high quality musical entertainment for the public and student body.
- To create an atmosphere where friendships, musical expression and education can flourish.

GOALS FOR OUR STUDENTS/MEMBERS...

- To improve musicianship, confidence and proficiency on their instrument(s) through performance of many styles/genres of music.
- To provide opportunities to improve music composition, arrangement and conducting skills.

Rehearsals – 8:00pm – 9:45pm every Wednesday while in session

- Section Leaders & Rhythm Section – Asked to arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of rehearsal to facilitate setup.
- Band Members – We ask that you arrive at least 5 minutes before the start of rehearsal to allow time to set up/warm up.

Games/Events

- Rhythm Section/Large Instruments – an hour prior to scheduled tip-off/puck drop/downbeat
- All Other Band Members – 45 minutes prior to scheduled tip-off/puck drop/downbeat

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Those who do not attend rehearsals will not be permitted to perform at games or events.
- Members must RSVP for each event they intend to participate in. (Rehearsals do not require an RSVP).
- If you are on the roster for an event and are unable to attend, your Section Leader should be notified at least 48 hours in advance so a substitute can be arranged.
- The Section Leader will bring an attendance sheet to every rehearsal/game/event. It is your responsibility to make sure your section leader has you signed in.

- Directors and Section Leaders will aggregate attendance into the tracking worksheet at least monthly.
- Band members are welcome to ask for their current point tally from their Section Leader or the Directors.
- If a Section Leader is unable to attend a rehearsal/game/event, they must delegate their responsibilities for that particular day to another Section Leader, a member of their section, or one of the Directors. This delegate is responsible to act in the role of the Section Leader for the duration of the event, or until the Section Leader arrives.

APPROPRIATE CONDUCT

By participating in the UVM Pep Band, you become a member of one of the most publicly visible student groups of the University! As such, while representing the band we always need to be considerate of our words and actions, and how they reflect upon the image we want to portray of our University and band program.

- Members must refrain from any negative comments towards players, fans or officials.
- Inappropriate language and obscene gestures are not tolerated.
- Smoking and alcohol usage is strictly prohibited.
- Use of phones/texting outside of emergencies or approved band-related uses is not permitted.
- Members are required to read and confirm their intent to follow the UVM Athletics "AFFILIATED STUDENTS/STUDENT GROUPS CODE OF EXPECTATIONS" form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzWTnKvwZhSLSTIVSFRvM3dMVmc/edit?usp=sharing>

According to NCAA rules, as official representatives of the school, participating bands can cause a technical foul to be called against their team. Students who choose not to follow these guidelines can be suspended or dismissed from the band.

GRADING / POINTS

Catamount Pep Band - MUE 2111 A

Grades and selection for involvement in post-season events and trips are based upon the number of rehearsals, games and events that students attend. Each of these is worth a certain number of points:

Rehearsals / Games = 1 point

Special Events = ½ - 3 points (based on the specific event)

Extra Credit = ½ - 3 points (pre-approval required)

A = 10 or more points

B = 7-9 points

C = 5-6 points

D = 3-4 points

F = Fewer than 3 points

Arriving late or leaving early may result in not getting full credit, unless the Directors or your Section Leader(s) were notified ahead of time with a legitimate excuse. Points may be deducted for unexcused absences at events.

Registration for Pep Band is not optional. If you have a full course load or other extenuating circumstances, please reach out to Neil to discuss options. There are "no credit" options that may be available for particular situations, but it requires approval and additional registration steps through the College of Arts and Sciences.

MUSIC

- Music will be distributed by the Directors, Section Leaders and volunteers at the first meeting of the year, and then as new charts are added to the playlist.
- Section Leaders are responsible for pulling all section folders at each rehearsal to ensure any new music is updated in all band folders and flip books for their section.
- Section Leaders are NOT responsible for updating personal folders that band members bring home.
- If you lose a music folder it is your responsibility to replace it.

UNIFORMS

All members will be provided a polo shirt and/or hockey jersey before each event. Our complete uniform consists of the UVM Pep Band shirt (polo or hockey jersey; depending on the event) and blue jeans (not shorts). Hats are allowed if they are UVM hats or "blank" in a school color (Green, Gold/Yellow, White, Black, and/or Gray). Members are permitted to wear a t-shirt or sweatshirt under their polo/jersey but it must also be a school color.

Uniforms must be worn at all official performances. The exception being special events where another outfit is approved by the Directors (Rally Against Cancer games; supporting other non-UVM sports teams; Halloween; etc.). Members not wearing our uniform will not be permitted to sit or perform with the band.

TRIP SELECTION / POSTSEASON GAMES

Postseason roster sizes and trip schedules will be decided by the Athletics Department with consideration for the specific tournament protocol for participating band roster size. Band roster evaluation and decisions will be made by the Directors along with approval by the Athletics Department.

The Directors will provide an application to members who are eligible for the postseason band rosters. Only those that submit their roster application by the deadline will be considered for selection.

Post season roster selection criteria:

- Instrumentation (determined by the Directors)
- Size/Number of Members Permitted (determined by Athletics)
- Member Status
- Member Points and Bonus Points

BONUS POINTS

Registered for Credit = 5 points

Section Leader = 10 points

1st year Pep Band = 0 bonus points

2nd year Pep Band = 5 bonus points

3rd year Pep Band = 10 bonus points

4th year (or more) = 15 bonus points

In case of ties, the tie breakers are:

#1: Actual number of events attended (current season)

#2: Seniority in Pep Band (semesters of involvement)

#3: Coin toss

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Our policy is that Pep Band members must be current University of Vermont students.

ALUMNI POLICY

The band welcomes opportunities for our alumni to share their knowledge, talents and abilities with our current students. With members typically limited to four years of playing with the band, our alumni continue to play an important role “bridging the gap” to the next generation of musicians. Maintaining a connection to our former members allows our program to continue to embrace the traditions and experiences of our past and build a strong foundation for the ensemble’s future.

Alumni are generally welcome to attend our normal weekly band rehearsals, but are asked to notify the Directors or Section Leaders ahead of time.

Alumni may be invited by the Pep Band Directors to participate at specific games and events where there is an instrumentation need due to member absence. Alumni substitutes require prior approval.