

Questions and Answers for New UNT Percussion Students

1. What instruments do I need to bring? A practice pad, snare drum, accessory instruments, music stand and an assortment of mallets and sticks. Recommendations will be in the 2020-2021 Percussion Manual that will be posted on the UNT Percussion website music.percussion.unt.edu in early August. You do not need a drum set unless you are enrolled in drum set lessons.

2. How do I get my private lesson instructor assignment? Freshman and transfers who attend an orientation session will be given their lesson codes to register. When you arrive at UNT in August, go to the Percussion Area Bulletin board for important information.

You will need to fill out a "Lesson Availability Form" online at <https://percussion.music.unt.edu/student-resources> by Monday, August 24th. You must fill in your schedule and leave blank available times for private instruction. Be sure to provide all contact information requested.

Lesson assignments will be posted on Friday, August 28th. Lessons begin the second week of classes on **Tuesday, September 1st.**

3. Will I get to study privately with the percussion faculty? We are fortunate at UNT to have faculty that can specialize on their instruments. Timpani, vibraphone, drum set, snare and marimba are all taught by our percussion faculty. At many universities and colleges you have one, sometimes two, professors to teach all the percussion instruments. We offer more diversity. We have five faculty, six adjunct faculty and six graduate teaching fellows in our percussion area. UNT maintains well over 100 percussion majors, but with many performance opportunities available at North Texas, the size of our area is essential to the College of Music.

Our program is designed for each student to take two half-hour lessons each semester on two different percussion instruments with different teachers. The Percussion Manual has the suggested order of study for the different degrees. In the first semester freshmen will often study mallets and snare with graduate teaching fellows, but will quickly move to major professors by their second semester. Some freshmen will start off with major professors.

All incoming students take a methods class with Professor Ford their first semester of study at UNT. Also the percussion ensembles (of which there are fourteen), with the exception of one classical and one steel band, are all taught by our percussion faculty. You will have many opportunities to study with our outstanding faculty while at UNT!

4. How do I find out my level for lessons? Your teacher will determine your level during the first week of lessons. Lessons begin the second week of school. It is recommended that undergraduates buy the Level 1 method books. Even if you are deficient in one of these areas, you will still need these books.

5. Percussion Departmental Recitals? All percussion majors and concentrations are required to attend percussion departmental recitals every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall. This is part of your private lesson grade. Guest artists for the Percussion Club are also scheduled

during this time. **Be sure to leave 1-3 p.m. free** in your Friday schedule.

6. What about practice rooms and Percussion Club dues? Practice rooms are available to rent each semester. Timpani, vibraphone and marimba rooms are \$20 each *per semester*. Private rooms for *student owned drum sets* are available for rent at \$50 *per semester if* enrolled in private drum set lessons, or if space is available. Percussion Club dues are \$30 *per semester*. These dues pay for guest artist clinics and concerts during the semester. Signs will be posted on the bulletin board as to rental dates, times and late fees.

7. How do I accomplish everything there is to do at the UNT College of Music?

The variety of opportunities offered at UNT is vast. The percussion area alone has many ensembles including African, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, Classical Percussion, Contemporary, Drum Line A (indoor), Gamelan, South Indian and Steel Band. The performance level of your UNT percussion comrades is outstanding. Remember to pace yourself. It is easy to spread yourself too thin by saying "yes" to every performance opportunity and joining too many ensembles. You are here to reap the benefits of everything UNT has to offer and to contribute to an outstanding music program. Keep your time manageable, make good music and enjoy your time here!

If you have further questions regarding our program please contact Professor Ford at

MarkFord@UNT.edu

We look forward to working with you this fall!