

McLENNAN COLLEGE WIND/PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS FALL 2026

All musicians must take part in an audition.
Please check mclennan.edu/bands for audition schedules.

TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL AUDITION:

- 1) **DOWNLOAD AND PRACTICE EXCERPTS** from the Ensemble Auditions webpage.
- 2) **REGISTER FOR AN AUDITION** on the Ensemble Auditions webpage.
- 3) **PRACTICE** the excerpts at a consistent tempo the doesn't speed up/down.
- 4) **LISTEN** to recordings (search YouTube, Google, etc.).
- 5) **CHECK** your email regularly for audition announcements.

McLennan College Bands Audition FAQs

1. What bands are available for McLennan students?

The McLennan Bands program offers a diverse range of musical ensembles, including three concert bands, a marching band, a pep band, and a jazz band. The **Wind Ensemble** is recognized as the premier wind ensemble within the program, and it is complemented by the **Waco Community Band** and the **New Horizons Band**. Each of these wind bands incorporates woodwind, brass, percussion, keyboard, and string instruments. Please note that participation in the **Jazz Band**, **Pep Band (Blue Crew)**, **Waco Community Band**, and **New Horizons Band** does not satisfy the major ensemble requirement for music majors. Additionally, McLennan students enrolled in the Wind Ensemble have the opportunity to audition for the Baylor Marching Band.

2. Are music majors required to be in a concert ensemble?

In accordance with the Department of Music policy, it is required that all music majors specializing in woodwinds, brass, and percussion who are enrolled in applied lessons participate in the primary large ensemble, specifically the Wind Ensemble.

3. Why do we audition at the beginning of each semester?

All students are required to participate in an audition for their band placement. The Wind Ensemble is a highly selective group with specific instrumentation requirements. The audition process will determine appropriate assignments and ensure that each student's educational experience is maximized.

4. May I choose to sign up for the concert band of my preference?

No, this is considered standard practice within the collegiate framework.

5. Are the audition parts available? What should I do if the audition materials seem difficult?

The excerpts are available online at mclennan.edu/bands. Please navigate to the "Ensemble Auditions" link to access the relevant material. Additionally, recordings can be found on platforms such as Google and YouTube. It is advisable to practice these excerpts slowly using a metronome. Gradually increase the tempo only when you are comfortable with the musical line. Focus on maximizing the shaping and dynamic possibilities within the pieces. These excerpts reflect the level of music in the Wind Ensemble and may present a challenge for some individuals. It is important to approach this with dedication, as faculty members rely on this information to make accurate placement decisions. Aim to select a tempo that closely aligns with the written tempo while maintaining a steady pulse without any fluctuations.

6. As a sophomore, will I be automatically assigned to the Wind Ensemble?

Placement is not determined by student classification. Instead, assignments are based on the demonstrated playing skills during the audition process.

7. When are the auditions?

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (actual times will be emailed closer to the audition date)

August 17, BPAC 145

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Woodwind

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Brass

August 18, BPAC 145

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Percussion/Piano

8. Do the concert ensembles have responsibilities outside of class?

Yes, the Wind Ensemble serves as a representative of McLennan College both on and off campus. Consequently, there are instances of off-campus performances and sectionals that occur outside of regular class hours. This practice is typical for all university and college wind ensembles, and it is expected that all students will actively engage in all rehearsals and performances.

9. Finally, some tips before your audition:

- Arrive extra early to ensure you are warmed-up
- Dress in professional attire
- Have your instrument ready and make sure it is working properly
- Bring your own copies of the required audition music
- Auditions will be blind, do not speak during your audition
- Perform expressively – do not be satisfied with only correct notes and rhythms
- Stay focused and calm. If you make mistakes, stay positive and avoid frustration - Do not make excuses

GOOD LUCK!