

UWM Music Ensembles – FAQ

Music ensembles are a great way for students to meet peers with similar interests from across campus and remain engaged in an activity they love. Participation helps with student retention and improves their college experience.

Visit <https://uwm.edu/arts/music/ensembles/> for recordings and additional information.

Courses that fulfill Arts GER requirements:

ENTRY-LEVEL CHOIRS

Alta Voce, MUS 045 – 3 cr.

Open to students who prefer to sing soprano or alto and/or identify as female

Kameraden, MUS 350 – 3 cr.

Open to students who prefer to sing tenor or bass and/or identify as male

ENTRY-LEVEL BANDS

NON-AUDITIONED: Univ Comm Band, MUS 334 – 3 cr.

AUDITIONED: Symphony Band, MUS 340 – 3 cr.

ORCHESTRAS

NON-AUDITIONED: Univ Comm Orch, MUS 081 – 2 cr.

AUDITIONED: Symphony Orchestra, MUS 382 – 3 cr.

1-credit, non-GER options:

ENTRY-LEVEL CHORAL ENSEMBLES

Alta Voce, MUS 044 – 1 cr. (same as MUS 045)

Kameraden, MUS 050 – 1 cr. (same as MUS 350)

ENTRY-LEVEL BANDS

Symphony Band (MUS 40) – 1 cr. (same as 340)

Univ Comm Band (MUS 30) – 1 cr. (same as 334)

ORCHESTRAS

Symphony Orchestra, MUS 182 – 1 cr.

- **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 3- AND 1-CREDIT ENSEMBLES?:** The 2- and 3-credit ensemble options fulfill Arts GER requirements while the 1-credit options do not. While the class and performance schedules are the same, students in the 3-credit courses complete additional assignments, assessments, and other requirements to meet UW System and/or campus learning goals.
- **SHOULD STUDENTS SIGN UP FOR THE 1- OR 3-CREDIT ENSEMBLE?:** If a student has already fulfilled their Arts GER or if their credit load does not allow for a 3-credit ensemble without an overload, they should register for the 1-credit option. This allows a student to continue playing/singing in an ensemble throughout their college career without accumulating too many music credits.
- **WHAT IF ENSEMBLES TAKE A STUDENT ABOVE THE RECOMMENDED LOAD FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS?:** Music ensembles require more contact time (performances, dress rehearsals, etc.) but generally less out-of-class time than traditional academic courses. Thus, a student with a 3-credit music ensemble can usually handle a higher credit load than a student with only traditional academic courses.
- **DO STUDENTS HAVE TO AUDITION?:** Even non-auditioned groups require a brief “placement” time to determine which part the student will play/sing. Students should register for entry-level groups PRIOR to auditioning. Ensemble directors will reach out to enrolled students to schedule placements during or before the first week of classes.
- **WHO SHOULD REGISTER FOR THE AUDITIONED VS. NON-AUDITIONED BANDS?:** Students who were leaders in their high school band and who wish a more challenging musical experience should register for Symphony Band. Symphony Band requires an audition during the first week of classes where students perform prescribed musical material for faculty. Students who do not wish to prepare a formal audition or who want a more relaxed ensemble environment should register for University Community Band.
- **IS THERE A PEP BAND?** Yes! Panther Band is the official pep band at UW-Milwaukee. It is a non-credit activity and is open to students of any major, but membership/acceptance preference goes to students who are also active in Music Department ensembles. Panther Band usually begins in October.
- **ARE THERE MORE ADVANCED ENSEMBLES?:** Yes! Our most advanced ensembles (Concert Chorale, Bella Voce, Wind Ensemble, and Symphony Orchestra), are all open to non-music majors. First-year students interested in these groups need a significant record of past performing successes, and they should contact the director listed below to set up an audition. Transfer students with prior college music ensemble experience are also welcome to reach out.
- **WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?:** For additional information, visit <https://uwm.edu/arts/music/ensembles/> or contact: Choirs – Dr. Zack Durlam, durlam@uwm.edu; University Community Band and Wind Ensemble – Dr. John Climer, climer@uwm.edu; Symphony Band – Dr. Scott Corley, scorley@uwm.edu; University Community Orchestra – Prof. Margery Deutsch, mdeutsch@uwm.edu; Symphony Orchestra – Dr. Jun Kim, kimjy@uwm.edu