

Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the University of Central Missouri Marching Percussion Section! We are proud of our ensemble's long history of excellence, and we are excited to see what is in store this season.

Registration

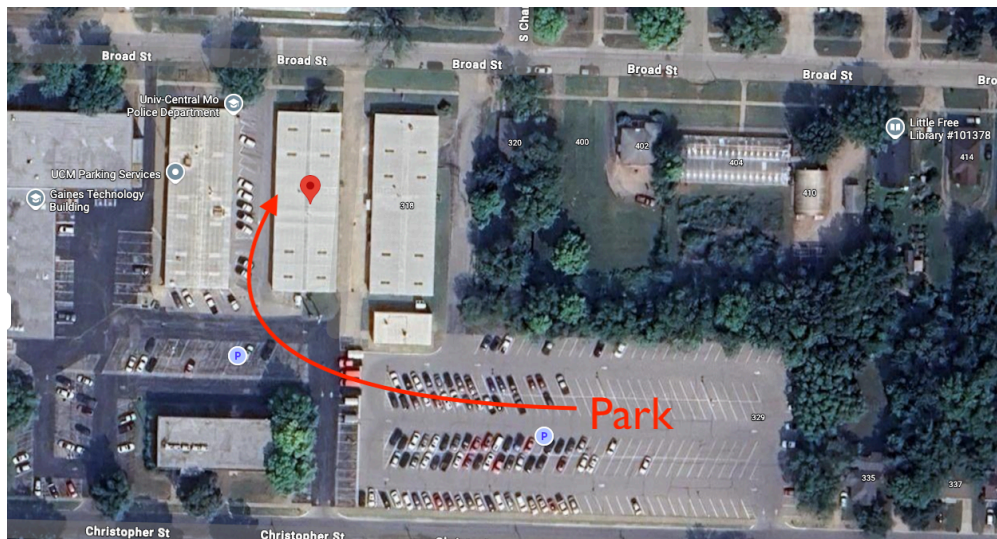
All students interested in the UCM Marching Percussion Section (Drumline and Front Ensemble/Rhythm Section) must complete the [online registration form](#).

Help Sessions

High school students (freshmen through seniors), UCM returning members, and current UCM students interested in auditioning are invited to join us for our help sessions this spring! All students are welcome including those that are unsure about where/if they plan to attend college. At help sessions, UCM percussion professors, instructors, and veteran student members of the ensemble will work with attendees on UCM technique, exercises, and performance pieces. Help sessions will take place occasionally throughout the spring from 7-9pm on Thursdays. For the most up to date schedule please refer to the UCM Percussion Events [online calendar](#). Please check the calendar regularly, as the schedule is subject to change. We will announce any short notice changes to our schedule via [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). We hope to see you at any and all of the meetings! If you are not able to attend the help sessions, we would be happy to meet with you over Zoom.

Location

All help sessions and audition days will take place in the [Temporary Band Building](#) on UCM Campus. We recommend parking in [the lot to the Southeast](#) of the Temporary Band Building.



Audition Days

Audition Day 1: Saturday, April 18, 2026; 9:00am-5:00pm

Audition Day 2: Sunday, May 10, 2026; 9:00am-5:00pm

See [online calendar](#)!

Schedule for Both Audition Days

9:00am – Block 1

Subsectionals

Individual auditions conducted during this time (First audition day only)

12:00pm – Lunch (On your own)

1:00pm – Block 2

5:00pm – Audition day ends

Drumline and Front Ensemble set by end of last audition day

Attendance at both audition days is mandatory for all sections in the Drumline and Front Ensemble/Rhythm Section. Students who cannot attend an audition day must contact Dr. Smith and Prof. Navarro(contact information below) in order to arrange a separate meeting. Priority will be given to students who attend both audition days.

Instruments and bass drum mallets will be provided; however, students should bring their own printed or electronic copies of the exercises and music, and sticks and keyboard mallets. Please wear weather suitable athletic clothing, and bring other supplies, such as sunscreen and sunglasses, in case we are able to go outside.

Students selected for the UCM Marching Percussion Section will receive a service award.

Audition Materials

[Click here to download the audition packet!](#) Students should prepare all the following materials for auditions:

Exercises (Click [here](#) for select exercise audio)

- Drumline
 - o 8816
 - o Bembe
 - o Double Triple
 - o Stick Control
 - o Paradiddles
 - o Triplet Rolls
 - o Chuggeda
 - o Triplet Grid
- Front Ensemble
 - o 8816
 - o Stick Control
 - o Scales in Fourths

Performance Pieces (Click [here](#) for audio)

- Full Ensemble

- o Posted later in spring 2026
- Drumline Traditional Cadences
 - o Go Mules
 - o Bump n' Grind
 - o Drum Yell
 - o Sticks & Swing
 - o Street Time
- Front Ensemble
 - o TBD
 - o 2022 Performance Piece

Other Materials

- Exercises and performance pieces handed out at help sessions and at auditions
- Sight reading

Suggestions for Preparation

- o Practice with a metronome
 - o The percussion section is often relied upon to provide timing references for the ensemble. It is important, especially in the early stages, to develop good habits by practicing slowly and with a metronome.
- o Prepare the material carefully
 - o The exercises are meant to teach fundamental concepts. The better we understand those concepts, the easier it will be to apply them to music, and the faster we will progress as an ensemble. All exercises should be learned at a wide variety of tempi and dynamics. As we progress as an ensemble, we will explore different variations of the exercises in order to advance even further.
- o Learn more than just the part you want
 - o The simple fact of the audition process is that there are not enough spots on each instrument for everyone to be placed on their first choice of instruments. The more familiar you are with other parts, the easier it will be to find a place in the ensemble where you can be successful in the event that you do not make your first choice.
- o Play to an externalized consistent pulse
 - o Whether marking time, tapping your foot, or grooving out, the pulse must be physically visible while playing.

Expectations

All students selected for the 2026 Marching Percussion Section must attend the pre-season Marching Percussion Camp. Move-ins will be on Saturday, August 8th. Percussion and full band camp will last until Saturday, August 15th. Band camp, rehearsal, and season schedules will be detailed on the [UCM Bands website](#).

Members of the Marching Percussion Section are also required to attend one 2-hour full percussion section rehearsal outside of the scheduled marching band time (usually Monday evenings) each week. In addition to the full percussion section rehearsal, each subsection may hold a weekly 1-hour student-led subsectional as is required by the sub-section leader.

Additional expectations and performance dates will be overviewed at the second audition day.

Please contact Dr. Smith and Prof. Navarro with any questions!

Sincerely,

Dr. Alex Smith
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Director of UCM Percussion
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