

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE LYNN UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE

LYNN UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is impossible to grade a student on their participation in an ensemble when they are not present. Therefore, students are required to participate as assigned and scheduled.

Because there are many considerations that go into part assignments and scheduling, students should not re-assign or reschedule themselves. Requests for an excused absence must be made in writing as outlined in the student handbook with ample advanced notice or as soon as possible in extreme circumstances (illness, family emergency). A student being excused from a rehearsal or concert is done at the discretion of the conductor. A student should not expect to automatically be excused.

LYNN UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE GRADING POLICY

For wind ensemble, students will receive a letter grade that has the following numeric equivalents.

A = 93-100%	Outstanding Performance
A minus = 90-92%	” ”
B plus = 87-89%	Above Average Performance
B = 83-86%	” ”
B minus = 80-82%	” ”
C plus = 77-79%	Average Performance
C = 73-76%	” ”
C minus = 70-72%	” ”
D plus = 67-69%	Below Average Performance
D = 60-66%	” ”
F < 59%	Unacceptable Performance

There are three guiding principles that will lead every student to successfully passing any college level performance ensemble course, in particular the Wind Ensemble at the Conservatory at Lynn University. They are as follow:

1. **Don't be late.** Being late to a rehearsal is disruptive, unproductive, unprofessional and rude.
2. **Have everything that is needed at the beginning of rehearsal.** Barring rental equipment which may not be available, arriving to a rehearsal without the required music, instrument and all the instrumental accessories is unproductive, unprofessional and careless.
3. **Prepare individual parts ahead of time.** Rehearsals are a time when a player learns everyone else's part. Only a mastery of one's own part beforehand will make this possible.

Arriving prepared, on time and with all necessary equipment is a minimum requirement for this course and ought not to be a problem for most students.

Each student is graded for each rehearsal separately based on their scheduled participation in that rehearsal. At the end of the rehearsal period the rehearsal grades for a

student are averaged (using the highest number in a grade letter's range) to produce the student's final wind ensemble grade. All students begin each day's rehearsal with a courtesy, above average grade of B minus (80%). Arriving at rehearsals prepared is expected.

Constructive participation at each rehearsal will result in a student's grade for that rehearsal **increasing**. Such behavior includes but is not limited to the following:

- Leadership within a section (Take ownership of how well your section sounds).
- Inspired and imaginative phrasing (Offer ideas through your playing—go beyond the notation.)
- Conscientious spontaneity (Do not simply play loudly with vibrato and call it musicality—consider context.)

Disruptive, unprofessional or unsupportive behavior will result in a student's grade for that rehearsal **decreasing by a ½ letter grade for each infraction**. Such behavior includes but is not limited to the following:

- Not having prepared one's individual part (A studious musician should not assume that they are able to sight-read their music. Prepare the music for performance level before the first rehearsal. The simplest looking notation may prove difficult when played at dramatic tempi and dynamics).
- Unexcused lateness. Being late means not being in your seat *with your instrument fully assembled* with all necessary equipment at the assigned time(s). A tuning note will be sounded at the start of rehearsal. If you are not tuning at that time you are late.
- Not having required equipment and/or music at the beginning of your assigned rehearsal (mutes, mallets, auxiliary instruments).

Since students are being graded on their participation in the wind ensemble, the following action will result in the **decrease of a student's rehearsal grade by a whole letter**.

- Having an unexcused absence from scheduled participation in a piece being rehearsed (see attendance policy above).

For those students who are assigned to multiple pieces there could be multiple rehearsal times in one day. The same infraction for more than one of these rehearsal times will result in an adjustment of a student's grade for each infraction accordingly.

Since students are being graded on their participation in the wind ensemble, a student's numeric rehearsal grade **will be 0%** for being absent and unexcused from a substantial portion of a scheduled rehearsal.

Since students are being graded on their participation in the wind ensemble, the following action will result in a student's **final grade being an "F"**.

- Having an unexcused absence from scheduled participation in a concert (see attendance policy above).