

Camp FAQs

Can I room with somebody I know?

Yes, arrange for your roommate to check in to the dorm at the same time and tell the counselor whom you want to room with. There is no reason to e-mail Dr. Dickman with your roommate request.

Is there a limit for the number of sax players accepted to the camp?

No. There is no longer a limit. However, there are a limited number of positions in the ensembles. The standard instrumentation of a jazz band is 5 saxes. We usually place 6 to 7 in each band. If there are more than 30 sax students, the players who do not make a band (mostly based on sight reading ability) will be placed in sax fundamental class. This class meets at the same time as jazz band.

Do I have to play in a jazz band?

No. You will be asked which ensembles you prefer when you audition.

Do I have to play in concert band?

No. You will be asked which ensembles you prefer when you audition.

Do I have to take a music theory placement test?

Yes, the camp offers three or more levels of music theory. We want to place you with other students at or near your level of theory ability.

Why do I have to audition?

All students will be placed in an ensemble with other students at or near their level of playing ability. This will make the ensembles sound better and also helps the director to select appropriate music.

What will I play on the audition?

All students will be asked to play a few scales and to sight-read. We want to hear what scales you know and listen to your tone quality and range. You will be given a short excerpt to sight-read.

I play first chair at home and I was placed in a lower band. What gives?

Ensemble selection and chair placement rely a great deal on sight-reading. Because of time constraints we cannot spend a large amount of time with each student. The auditions are fair because each student is given the same amount of time and the same excerpt to read. The bands have a short amount of time to prepare for Thursday's concert and we need players of similar ability to make up each band.

I am in a class that is too hard/easy. Can I change classes?

Yes. We want you to feel comfortable.

I am in a band that I feel is too hard/easy. Can I change bands?

It is not easy for us to place you in a different band because of the instrumentation requirements of the ensembles. If you are second trombone in JEII and feel you should be in JEI, we would have to shift another player from somewhere to fill your position. It is unfair to the other players to shift students who feel that they blew it at the audition.

What is a combo?

A combo is a small jazz ensemble typically consisting of piano, bass, drums, guitar, trumpet,

trombone and sax.

Can I play in a combo?

There are a limited number of combo positions available. We are limited by the amount of rhythm sections attending the camp and playing ability. We do not feel it educationally sound to pair beginning rhythm sections with advanced horn players or vice versa.

Why can't I play in a band or a combo with my friends from my school?

To be fair to you and the other students, we have to rely the judgment of the faculty member that listened to the audition. Part of the fun of the camp is getting to know students from other schools. Lifelong friendships are made each year at the camp.

Can I leave campus to have dinner with a friend?

No. You can only leave with a parent or immediate family member. You must also check out with the camp director or head counselor.

Can I invite non-camper friends to hang out with me at the evening concerts?

Non-campers have no business being at UNF during the week of camp. They will be asked to leave.

What do I do if I play more than one instrument?

Unlike other music camps, we allow students to play more than one instrument. You will need to audition on each instrument that you want to play. Since jazz bands meet at the same time, you need to decide which instrument you prefer for jazz band. If you notify us in advance, you can attend different master classes on different days. For example; if a student plays sax and clarinet, they may attend sax class one day and clarinet class on another. They will play sax in a jazz band and clarinet in concert band. They can bring sax and clarinet to improvisation class.