

Mobile Percussion Seminar 2011 FAQ

Housing

Where are students housed?

Seminar students will be housed in a dormitory in the “Southwest Residential Area” of campus (which Southwest building we’ll be using has yet to be determined). Southwest dorms consist mostly of double rooms and a few triple rooms.

When will I know what dorm my student will be in?

As soon as we get confirmation from UMass Conference Services regarding our assigned dormitory, you will be sent a letter with: the name of the dormitory, parking tips, and any other updated information regarding registration.

How are the students assigned roommates?

Placement of students in rooms is based upon age and gender. No students will be assigned a room to him/herself.

We try to assign students from different schools in the same room to promote meeting and working with new people. If your student has a specific roommate request, it must be made PRIOR to July 22nd. We will be unable to grant roommate requests after this date.

There are NO CO-ED rooms. Females are housed on one floor and males are housed on the remaining floors.

Males are not permitted in females’ rooms and vice versa.

What kind of Dorm Supervision takes place?

Generally, there are 20 staff members who live in the dorms with the Seminar students. This includes both professional and UMass percussion student volunteer teaching assistant (“TA”) staff.

The staff rooms are placed strategically on all floors of the dorm.

Bed checks are done every night to ensure that all Seminar students are accounted for.

What is building security like?

All Southwest Dormitories are locked 24 hours a day. Seminar students will receive a “swipe card” that serves as their admittance pass to the dormitory.

Please note: the “swipe card” also serves as their meal ticket to the Dining Commons. No other camps at UMass will be housed in or have access to our assigned dormitory.

HOWEVER, we ***strongly urge*** all students to lock their dorm rooms when not in the room and to leave any valuables not pertaining to the Seminar at home (computers, ipods, etc). The Mobile Percussion Seminar and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Meals

Where are meals provided?

All meals are provided for Seminar students at the Berkshire Dining Commons. The cost of meals is included in the camp tuition. We recommend bringing some additional money for snacks and drinks from the vending machines.

What are my options if I am a commuting student?

Commuters have many options regarding meals. Students may bring their own “bagged” lunches and dinners (we typically have access to a refrigerator in our dormitory to store meals), purchase individual meals at the dining hall, leave campus with their parents for meals, etc. Please inform our staff if you plan on leaving campus so we know you are accounted for!

Does the Dining Commons cater to students with dietary restrictions?

Yes. Serving over 20,000 students on campus each year, the Dining Commons offer a variety of foods for those with various dietary restrictions and allergies. The following link is helpful for learning about nutrition on campus:
<http://www.umassdining.com/nutrition>

Equipment

Is equipment provided or should students bring their own?

All Students who play snare, tenors, bass, and cymbals should make every effort to bring their own instruments, harnesses, and sticks/mallets.

***Please Note:** Equipment borrowed from the Seminar will be of “college/drum corps” weight and NOT of “high school” weight. This means that the drum will mostly likely be heavier than what most high school students are accustomed to. We will provide a stand for all Seminar drums that are borrowed and encourage students to use them to avoid injury.

Students enrolled in the mallet percussion track will be provided with instruments.

Students enrolled in the drum set program should bring their own sticks, hi-hat, hi-hat stand, ride cymbal and stand, and drum seat.

Where will equipment be secured when not in use?

All marching percussion equipment will be stored in the lounge space of our dormitory at night.

All drum set equipment will be locked in Grinnell Arena (the UMass Marching Band drumline building) throughout the Seminar.

Daily Schedule

Morning session

- Physical warm up/stretching
- Marching basics (battery percussion only)
- Percussion warm up (exercises)
- Large ensemble

Afternoon session

- Break up into smaller, more individual attention groups
- Music reading fundamentals
- Section Leader leadership sessions (for those enrolled in Section Leader track)

Evening session

- Music review with full ensemble (marching percussion, mallets & drum set students)

Other questions

Questions regarding camp procedures, health and safety, documents and registration, or other student-related business should be directed to our Business Coordinator at office@percussion.org.