Department *of* Music

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON
2025 HONOR BAND FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 4–6

Congratulations! Based on your application and audition, you have been selected as a participant in the University of North Carolina Wilmington Honor Band Festival. The festival is sponsored by the UNCW Department of Music and will be held on our campus on **December 4–6, 2025**.

Registration Forms: The invitation email includes a Registration Form & Photography Waiver, which is to be completed, signed by your parent or guardian, and returned to your band director. **Registration forms must be received by Wednesday, November 26, 2025, and should be submitted as a single consolidated PDF, emailed by the band director to the UNCW Department of Music.** *Participants should not email their individual registration forms*. In order for you to participate in the Festival, we must receive your forms (from your band director) by **Wednesday, November 26, 2025.**

Registration Fee: The registration fee to participate in the festival is **$70** per student. Please communicate with your director on the collection of this fee. **Your director will give us one check from your school (payable to UNCW Department of Music) for all the students participating in the festival.** In order to reserve your spot in the Festival, **the registration fee must be paid in advance or delivered at registration (1 check per school).**

Check-in: Check-in will be held in the lobby of the Cultural Arts Building beginning at 5:00 pm on Thursday, December 4. The Cultural Arts Building is located at 5270 Randall Drive (just past the water tower). A complete campus map can be found at (code: CA). https://uncw.edu/seahawk-life/services/parking-transportation/media/pdf/parking-zones-map.pdf
Please plan to arrive by 5:30 pm at the very latest.

Parking: Parking details are still being determined. UNCW will still be in session, and this requires additional communications on our end. Please be on the lookout for updates on this matter. Directors, please let me know if you intend on bringing buses, passenger vans, or personal vehicles.

Placement Auditions: This step is complete! The results of the placement auditions will be announced at the Welcome Meeting on December 4 in Beckwith Recital Hall at 8:00 pm

Medical Information: Parents will be informed of any emergency medical situations that occur during the Festival and will be responsible for all medical expenses incurred. Students with special medical needs or problems should provide the UNCW band staff with a detailed written account at check-in. The University of North Carolina Wilmington is not liable in the event of an accident or personal injury.

Money: Your $70 registration fee covers participation in the Festival, Festival t-shirt, lunch in our dining hall on Friday, December 5, and some snack options during the Thursday evening events. You should bring sufficient money for your hotel room, meals, snacks, souvenirs, etc.

What to Bring: All participants must provide their own instruments and accessories (**mutes, reeds, oil**, etc.). Percussion instruments will be provided by UNCW, but **percussionists should bring their own sticks and mallets**. Clothing should include casual attire for rehearsals, appropriate gear for inclement weather (including an umbrella), and **your high school's concert uniform for the Festival Finale Concert** on Saturday afternoon (3:00 pm). Personal items of value should be labeled with your name, school, address, and telephone number. Insurance and records of identification markings (make/model/serial number) are a recommended precaution. The University of North Carolina Wilmington is not liable for loss, theft, or damage to participants' personal belongings.

Rules and Regulations: There will be absolutely no use of tobacco, alcohol, e-cigs/vape pens, or other controlled substances by students while attending the University of North Carolina Wilmington Honor Band Festival. Prompt **attendance at ALL rehearsals** and exemplary behavior will be expected of all participants (be sure to read the note at the bottom of this page concerning conflicts). Parents of any student in violation of these policies will be notified, and the student may be asked to leave the Festival without refund. In case of emergency, participants may be contacted by telephone through the University of North Carolina Wilmington Department of Music Office at (910) 962-3390 (Thur-Fri, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm).

Festival Finale Concert: The Festival will conclude by featuring the Honor Bands in a Finale Concert in Kenan Auditorium at 3:00 pm on Saturday, December 6. Families, friends, and directors of participating students are encouraged to attend this concert. There is no admission charge.

Reminder: Be sure that your director returns your Registration Form/Photography Waiver by **Wednesday, November 26, 2025** to reserve your spot in the Festival. The $70 registration fee may be paid in advance or at registration (1 check per school). **If you are unable to attend the Festival, please have your director notify us immediately so that we can offer the place reserved for you to another student (registration fees cannot be refunded).**

Again, **CONGRATULATIONS!** We look forward to having you join us for the University of North Carolina Wilmington Honor Band Festival. We believe that it will be an enjoyable and musically rewarding weekend for everyone involved. If you have any questions, or if we can help you in any way, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Dachuan Cao
Visiting Associate Professor of Music
Interim Director of Bands – Dept. of Music
University of North Carolina Wilmington
http://www.uncw.edu/music
caod@uncw.edu

VERY IMPORTANT: *To participate in the UNCW Honor Band Festival, you are expected to attend* ***ALL*** *of the festival rehearsals, concerts, and other events. If you have a conflict which would necessitate missing any part of the Honor Band Festival, you* ***MAY NOT*** *participate in the Festival. Contact Mr. Cao with questions.*

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