



2018 Panther Marching Band Feature Twirler Auditions

Audition Information

The position of *Feature Twirler* with the Panther Marching Band at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) is determined through a competitive audition. At UNI, the band features one twirler.

Auditions for the 2018 Panther Marching Band *Feature Twirler* will be held on Saturday January 27th, 2018, in the West Gym on the University of Northern Iowa's campus in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Warm-ups will begin at 9am. Auditions are closed to the public, therefore parents and friends are not invited to observe.

All applicants must have applied and accepted to University of Northern Iowa either as an undergraduate to be eligible for auditions.

Musical media must be an iPod or phone with an AUX cord. A sound system will be provided. Judging is based on the following:

- Twirling Skill, 30 pts.
- Dance/Body Control, 20 pts.
- Routine/Difficulty Content, 15 pts.
- Technique and Execution, 10 pts.
- Showmanship and Presentation, 15 pts.
- Interview, 10 pts.
- Improvisation, 10 pts.

The level of twirling difficulty and technique is the most important factor in the audition. We seek twirlers with well-developed technique who can adapt their skills to a variety of musical styles and perform their routines within the rhythmic foundation of the music. Successful routines will incorporate a variety of turns and catches, toss illusion, highlight tumbling abilities, multiple baton work (four baton is encouraged but not required), and your maximum potential of difficulty. Please be prepared to highlight your strengths and incorporate novelty equipment as needed. No fire batons will be allowed at the audition.

The routine should be continuous and last four to six minutes. You are required to perform one, two, and three baton twirling, demonstrate strutting ability, and incorporate dance skills. It is recommended that you use a variety of music displaying different tempos (rhythms). Additional equipment may be used, but is not required.

Also included in the audition will be a 45–60 second *improvisational routine*. We will give you a tape of music, allow two minutes for you to listen to it, and then have you perform a routine to it. As indicated above, this will account for ten points of your total score. You will be scored on presentation, content,

and consistency of movement (flow), and entertainment value for this routine. This portion of the audition will occur after all candidates have performed their prepared creative routines and before each candidate's interview.

Please wear appropriate clothing. We recommend wearing a twirling costume as well as performance hair and make-up. In general, you should present yourself in the manner you would want an audience to view you with the Panther Marching Band.

Judges will consist of: Justin Mertz (UNI's Marching Band Director), Amy Hunzelman (UNI's Colorguard Instructor), current UNI graduate assistants, and former UNI Feature Twirlers. Auditions will be closed to the public. Judge's comments and scores are confidential and will not be disclosed.

An online application form and a picture of yourself must be submitted at least two weeks (Jan. 12th) prior to auditions. This helps in identifying and remembering your application at audition.

Audition Requirements Applicable to All Candidates

- All prospective candidates must be able to audition in person on campus, at the University of Northern Iowa. No exceptions.
- You must have confirmed University of Northern Iowa student status by the announced audition date in order to be considered in the *Feature Twirler*. For the purpose of *Feature Twirler* auditions, confirmed student status is defined as: **An offer of admission to UNI, i.e., a letter from UNI Admission's office**. No exceptions.
- All prospective candidates must meet the applicable eligibility requirements described below by the date of the audition. Eligibility requirements must be verifiable by the Panther Marching Band office. No exceptions.
- All prospective candidates must complete an online application by Friday, January 12th, 2018. No exceptions.
- All prospective candidates are expected to provide accurate information and are responsible for updating Mr. Mertz with any change in academic status. Providing inaccurate or misleading information at any stage of the audition process will be cause to cancel the student's participation in auditions and/or void the student's audition results.

Eligibility Requirements and Limitations

If you are interested in auditioning for the *Feature Twirler* position, use the information provided to determine the requirements and limitations that are applicable to you. High school students, current UNI students, or transfer students are eligible to audition for the *Feature Twirler*.

Feature Twirler Scholarship

The Karen Ewoldt Kruse Scholarship at UNI awards a scholarship each school year in the range of \$2,500-\$3,000. The *Feature Twirler* shall also seek and maintain regional and national visibility throughout the year. Such opportunities will be decided upon Panther Marching Band staff and the *Feature Twirler*.

Announcement:

The *Feature Twirler* will be contacted by phone within a week after the audition. However, the directors reserve the right not to name a feature if none of the applicants meet the criteria. Once an offer has been extended, the twirler has two day (48 hours) to decide and sign a letter of agreement/acceptance.

UNI Admission Information

The University of Northern Iowa offers the best of both worlds – a large university experience with a small college atmosphere – where you can really stand out and excel. It's a great place to start your college career, finish in four years, and be prepared for success in the real world.

With more than [160 majors, minors, and areas of study](#), you can develop the in-demand skills today's employers are looking for. Experience and internships, study abroad, participate in research. You'll get the personalized attention you want from faculty who get to know you (most of our classes have fewer than 40 students and only 1% are taught by graduate students). And, if you are not sure what you want to study (or be), we are ready to help you find your passion.

Experience all UNI has to offer from 300+ clubs and organizations to NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics to Broadway shows. Be sure to check on the Panther Peek Visit Days and the Saturday Visits on the website, <http://www.uni.edu/admissions/> **Please Note: No one will be allowed to audition without completing the above and being admitted to or enrolled at University of Northern Iowa.**

Students with Disabilities

University of Northern Iowa welcomes students with disabilities into the University's programs, activities, and courses and provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities to ensure equal access and an equal opportunity to participate. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable accommodations for the auditions for the Panther Marching Band please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), by phone at 319-273-2677. Please provide adequate notice of this need so that appropriate arrangements can be made in time for auditions. For further information regarding ODS please visit their web site at <http://www.uni.edu/resources/disability>.

Contact

If you have further questions regarding Panther Marching Band *Feature Twirler* auditions, contact:

Mr. Justin Mertz

Director, Panther Marching Band

319/273-2024

Justin.mertz@uni.edu

Directions <http://www.uni.edu/resources/maps-directions>