

Percussion Equipment & Facilities

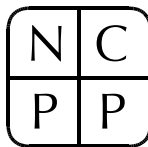
NATIONAL STANDARDS

College and/or University
LARGE INSTRUMENT STANDARD
(minimum)

College and/or University
PERCUSSION FACILITIES STANDARD
(minimum)

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES SERVING PERCUSSION AREA
(Percussion Ensemble, Dedicated Practice Rooms, Storage)

Established by the
NATIONAL CONFERENCE on PERCUSSION PEDAGOGY



2003, Renewed 2006

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THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT INTENDED AS AN ACCREDITATION STANDARD

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Since the mid 1970s, the scope of percussion in schools, in performance venues, and society in general, transformed into an unprecedented musical phenomenon. Instruments with enhanced capabilities, an explosion of new literature, new performance techniques, emerging new artists, significant increases in full time faculty positions in percussion, and broadening of performance venues are evidence of the transformation. These events exist in tandem, resulting in a need for information to assist in guiding schools when making decisions about the role of percussion in individual programs. The percussion program in higher education is an independent musical entity with quality instruments, literature, and teachers to support its position. In an effort to assist administrators, educators, and learners in acquiring up-to-date inventories and facilities, the *National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy* established the NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES.

The NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES serve as the primary source for upgrading programs, assisting with new building design, determining the scope of individual programs, and fulfilling an institution's educational mission. The Standards serve as minimum guidelines. Exceptional programs will exceed established standards.

Percussion Equipment NATIONAL STANDARDS

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COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Large Instrument Standard (minimum)

Equipment Serving Percussion Area (percussion ensemble, dedicated practice rooms)

Number of students in percussion area (includes majors and non-majors studying privately in percussion ensembles)

	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30
Timpani	1 practice (5) 1 rehearsal (5) (at least one set of Dresden-style timpani)	1/1	1/1	3 sets	3 sets	4 sets
Marimba	4 (5 oct.)	5 (5 oct.)	6	7	8	9
	Size (range) of marimba depends on literature selected by teacher and general philosophy with the studio. Since percussion ensemble literature and solo marimba literature require one or more 5-octave instruments in a brief period of time, most programs will need to maintain a ratio of one 5-octave marimba for every three to four students. Purchasing marimbas less than 5 octaves is not recommended. Current inventories that are solely based on instruments smaller than 5 octaves will experience severe limitations on students' ability to function in today's musical environment.					
Xylophone	2	3	3	4	4	4
Orchestra Bells	2	3	3	4	4	4
Chimes	2	2	3	3	3	4
Vibraphone	3	3	3	4	4	5
Bass Drum	2	3	3	4	4	4
Drum Set	2	2	2	3	4	5
	(Includes hardware and cymbals / May include electronic and/or acoustic drums, depending on teacher preference)					

	Number of students in percussion area (includes majors and non-majors studying privately in percussion ensembles)					
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30
Piano	1/1 (May include MIDI keyboard)	1/1	3	3	3	4
Concert Toms	2 sets of 8	3 sets of 8	4	4	5	5
Snare Drum	6	6	7	8	9	9
Congas	1 set of 3	2 sets	2	3	3	4
Tam-Tam	3	4	6	7	8	8
Specialty Gong	Needs will vary (common standard 5-20)					
Crotales	1 set (2 oct.)	2	3	3	3	3
Steel Drums	As needed for the scope of the program					
Suspended Cym.	6	6	8	10	15	15
Crash Cymbals	3 pr	4	6	7	8	8
Bongos	2 pr	3	3	4	5	5
Technology	Technology resources commensurate with size and philosophy of the individual percussion program should be provided. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound recording/playback equipment • Video recording/playback equipment • Electronic instruments (electronic/MIDI keyboard instruments, etc.) 					
Repair & Maintenance	\$5K	\$6K	\$10K	\$10K	\$12K	\$15K
	List of possible repair and maintenance items. This list is only a small representative picture of the total annual repair necessary to serve a percussion program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small instruments that cannot be repaired must be replaced. • Drum heads: snare, toms, bass drum, drum set, timpani, bongos, congas • Cymbal stands, pads, discs • Steel drum tuning • Marimba, xylophone tuning (approx. \$250 x number of instruments) • Cracked marimba, xylophone bars (approx. \$170 each) • Mechanical issues on all instruments • Cracked cymbals, tam-tams • Instrument covers, scratches, dents • All instruments must be monitored on a daily basis. 					

NOTES

- Number of instruments may vary when percussion ensemble, band, orchestra share rehearsal space.
- Number of instruments may vary when accounting for studio, office, practice, and rehearsal space.
- Highly discourage transfer of instruments from practice areas to rehearsal areas.
- College/University standard does not account for marching percussion instruments.
- The Standard includes hardware for all instruments as appropriate.
- Small percussion instruments are a critical component of any percussion inventory. Small instruments are often needed in large quantities (Example: 10 woodblocks for a medium-sized program)
- When moving equipment from rehearsal space to concert site, account for potential loss of rehearsal time by groups not giving a concert or undue stress on the instruments by constant moving from one area to another. In that case, duplicate equipment is necessary.
- If instruments are moved from rehearsal to concert site, include budget to account for transportation and personnel.

Percussion Facilities NATIONAL STANDARDS

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COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Facilities Standard (minimum)

Facilities Serving Percussion Area (percussion ensemble, dedicated practice rooms)

	Number of students in percussion area (includes majors and non-majors studying privately in percussion ensembles)					
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30
Dedicated Practice Rooms	1/2 (large 14x12 / small 10x12)	2/3	2/4	3/5	3/6	3/8
Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal Space	1 large (large 35x35 / small 25x30 – two-story ceiling)	1 large/1 small	1/2	1/2	1/3	2/3
Storage	1 (400 square feet)	1	2	2	3	3
Teaching Studio	1 (25x25)	1	2	2	3	3
	Each studio includes the following large instruments (in addition to main inventory):					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 keyboard percussion instruments • 1 set of 5 timpani • 2 snare drums • 2 drum sets • 1 piano 					
Faculty Office	1	1	1	2	2	2
Graduate Office	1	1	1	2	2	2

NOTES

- Steel Drum Ensemble requires dedicated rehearsal and storage space in addition to items listed above.
- Percussion practice rooms and rehearsal space should be on the same level and in close proximity to other rehearsal space (band/orchestra) and concert hall(s) and loading dock.
- Practice rooms often serve multiple purposes (i.e. keyboard percussion, multiple percussion, snare drum, chimes, bells).
- Practice rooms vary in size to accommodate various instruments; do not move instruments from rehearsal space to practice rooms.
- Minimum door width for practice rooms, rehearsal space, office, storage = 4 feet.
- Minimum width of hall area in percussion area = 6 feet.
- Avoid thresholds that cause undue stress when moving instruments.
- Provide large lockers for student drum sets.
- Provide large lockers for student supplies (music, mallets, etc.).
- All percussion areas should include adequate soundproofing.
- All percussion areas should include adequate security.
- All percussion areas should include adequate climate control. The variety of wooden percussion instruments and skin head percussion instruments are particularly susceptible to costly damage when conditions of temperature and humidity are not properly controlled.
- Adequate maintenance of percussion instruments wukk require considerable outsourcing.
- All practice rooms should include mirrors.