

MPS FAQs

HOUSING

Where are students housed?

Seminar students will be housed in one of the “low-rise” dormitories in the *Southwest Residential Area* of campus. These dorms are 3 or 4 floors high and consist of double rooms.

Due to ongoing maintenance of the Residence Halls on campus during the summer months, we will not be assigned a dormitory until mid to late June. As soon as we get confirmation from UMass 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.

****Parents:** please be sure to provide a working email address on your student’s Registration Form so that we can email you the Dorm Confirmation Letter and any other pertinent Seminar information.

How are the students assigned roommates?

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

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 24th. We will be unable to grant any requests after this date.

What kind of dorm supervision takes place?

Generally, there are 10-15 staff members who live in the dorms with the Seminar students. This includes both adult Professional Teaching Staff and UMass Drumline

undergrad Teaching Assistant (“TA”) Staff. The staff rooms are placed strategically on all floors of the dorm and the TA Staff conducts “bed-checks” 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 special “swipe card” that serves as their admittance pass to the dormitory. The “swipe card” also serves as the student’s meal ticket to the Dining Commons. No other camps/programs at UMass (including the *Drum Major Academy*) will be housed in or have access to our assigned dormitory.

That being said, 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, iPads, Beats headphones, 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 Hampshire 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 in the dorm.

What are my options if I am a Commuting Student?

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. Visit umassdining.com/nutrition for more information.

EQUIPMENT

Is equipment provided or should I bring my own drum/harness?

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

**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.*

Students enrolled in the Mallet Percussion Track will be provided with instruments.

Where will my drum/harness/case be stored at night?

All marching percussion equipment will be stored in the Lounge space of our dormitory at night. The cases will be stacked in the Lounge as well.

DAILY SCHEDULE

What is the basic schedule of the camp?

The Morning Session includes physical warm up/stretching, marching basics (battery percussion only), percussion warm up exercises, technique sessions, and large ensemble work.

The Afternoon Session includes breaking up into smaller/more individual attention

groups, music reading fundamentals, and “Leadership Sessions” for those enrolled in the Section Leader Track (starts on Monday).

The Evening Session starts with battery small group work, full battery group work, and ends with a music review with full ensemble (Battery and Mallets).

Have a question that's not answered here? Shoot us an email at office@percussion.org or directly to MPS Assistant Business Manager Sally Johnson at sallyjohnson81@gmail.com.