

PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

NATIONAL STANDARDS

**College and/or University
INSTRUMENT STANDARDS**
(minimum)

**College and/or University
FACILITIES STANDARDS**
(minimum)

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

ESTABLISHED BY THE

NCPP

NATIONAL CONFERENCE on PERCUSSION PEDAGOGY

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(RENEWED 2019)

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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 fulltime 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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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PERCUSSION PEDAGOGY

College and/or University *Instrument Standards (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 prac set(5 timpani) 1/1					
	1 reh set (5 timpani)					
	(Students should have access to Timpani with multiple types of pedal mechanisms such as Dresden or ratchet clutch, friction clutch, and balanced-action spring tension for preparation in teaching and/or performance.)					
5-oct. Marimba with height adjustment	2	3	4	5	6	7
	(Since much of solo marimba literature as well as band, chamber, and percussion ensemble literature requires the range of one or more five-octave marimbas, most programs will need to maintain a ratio of one five-octave marimba for every three to four students. Current inventories that are solely based on instruments smaller than five octaves will experience severe limitations on students' ability to function in today's musical environment.)					
Marimba (less than 5-oct.) with height adjustment	2	2	2	2	2	3
Xylophone with height adjustment	2	3	3	4	4	4
Orchestra Bells	2	3	3	4	4	4
Chimes	2	2	3	3	3	4
Vibraphone with height adjustment	3	3	3	4	4	5

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
Bass Drum	2	3	4	5	5	5
Drum Set (Includes hardware and cymbals /May include electronic and/or acoustic drum set, depending on teacher preference)	2	2	2	3	4	5
Piano (may include MIDI keyboard)	1/1	1/1	3	3	3	3+
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 vary) (common standard 5-20)					
Crotales	1 set 2-oct.	2	3	3	3	3
Steel Drums	as needed for scope of 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
Small Perc. Instruments (Triangle, Tambourine, Maracas, Woodblocks, etc.)	\$1K	\$2.5K	\$3.5K	\$4K	\$4K	\$4.5K
(These are estimated amounts and will vary from program to program based on departmental needs.)						
Technology	Technology resources commensurate with size and philosophy of the individual percussion program should be provided. Students should have access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video record/playback equipment • Sound record/playback equipment • Electronic instruments (keyboard & drum MIDI controllers) 					
Repair & Maintenance	\$5K	\$6K	\$10K	\$12K	\$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.

- Small instruments that cannot be repaired must be replaced.
- Drum heads: snare, tom toms, bass drums, drum set, timpani, bongo, conga
- Cymbals stands, pads, discs
- Steel drum tuning (circa \$175.00 each + shipping)
- Marimba, xylophone tuning (circa \$400.00 x number of instruments)
- Cracked marimba, xylophone bars (circa \$180.00 each)
- Mechanical issues on all instruments
- Cracked cymbals, tam tams
- Instrument covers, scratches, dents
- Adequate maintenance of percussion instruments will require considerable outsourcing.
- All instruments must be monitored on a daily basis by qualified personnel.

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 Standards do not account for marching percussion instruments.
- The Standard includes hardware for all instruments as appropriate.
- When moving equipment from rehearsal space to concert space, 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

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College and/or University Facilities Standards (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)	2/3 (small 10x12)	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 sq.ft)	2	3	3	3	4
Teaching Studio	1 (25x25)	1	2	2	3	3
	Each teaching studio includes the following large instruments (in addition to main inventory)					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 keyboard percussion instruments (ex. 5-octave marimba & vibraphone) • 1 set 5 timpani • 2 snare drums • 2 drum sets • 1 piano 					
Percussion Repair Area	1 (A dedicated space at least 14x12 with large sink and hot water)	1	1	1	1	1
Faculty Office	1	1	1	2	2	2
Graduate Asst. 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 should vary in size to accommodate various instruments, do not move instruments from rehearsal space to practice rooms.

- Minimum door size for practice rooms, rehearsal space, office, storage = 4 feet. AVOID doors with center posts that are not easily removable!
- 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 percussion 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 temperature and humidity are not properly controlled.
- Adequate maintenance of percussion instruments will require considerable outsourcing.
- All practice rooms should include mirrors wide enough to view full length of 5-octave marimba and/or full view of 5 timpani.