

## Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: Pep Band  
Program Manager: Dr. T. André Feagin  
Fiscal Year: FY2024

1. In what ways does your program support CWU students? Please be specific, yet concise.

The Central Washington University Pep Band provides students with an opportunity to engage in musical performance outside of the academic curriculum. It supports student development in the following ways:

- **Musical Development:** Students refine their skills in a non-traditional ensemble setting, playing a variety of music genres that support athletic events, enhancing their versatility as musicians.
- **Community Engagement:** By performing at athletic events, including men's and women's basketball games, the Pep Band fosters school spirit and connects students to the broader CWU community.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Through participation, students take on leadership roles within the ensemble, whether as section leaders, student conductors, or mentors, helping develop essential leadership and teamwork skills.
- **Team Building and Networking:** The group provides an avenue for students from various academic disciplines to interact, offering both a social and professional networking environment.
- **Stipends for Participation:** Membership in the Pep Band comes with a performance stipend, helping to support students financially while offering an outlet for artistic expression.

2. What are your specific program goals or learning/operational objectives? How are you assessing the effectiveness of your program in achieving those targets?

**Foster high-quality musical performance**  
*Objective:* Provide students with the opportunity to play at a high level for athletic events and university events, honing their musicianship and ensemble skills.  
*Assessment:* Evaluations after performances and student feedback on musical challenges; periodic performance reviews.

**Promote school spirit and student engagement**  
*Objective:* Increase the visibility of the Pep Band and its positive impact on campus community and student-athletes.

*Assessment:* Attendance at performances, feedback from athletic department, student-athletes, and engagement during events (student interactions, social media presence).

**Develop leadership and teamwork among students**

*Objective:* Encourage students to take on leadership roles and work collaboratively to execute preparation/performance plans.

*Assessment:* Peer and self-evaluations, as well as leadership feedback during rehearsals and performances.

**Ensure student recruitment and retention**

*Objective:* Maintain a high level of student interest and participation in the Pep Band, including recruiting new members each year.

*Assessment:* Participation rates and retention numbers, as well as feedback from returning and new members regarding their experience.

3. What is the overall purpose of your program and what service(s) does your program provide?
  - a. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs who have a similar purpose or service?

The purpose of the Pep Band is to support CWU athletic events, specifically basketball games, and to serve as a musical ambassador for the university's spirit programs and the department of music. The Pep Band provides:

- Live Music for athletic events, energizing the crowd and supporting CWU's men's and women's basketball teams, and the university through special events.
- School Spirit through energetic and engaging performances, motivating both athletes and spectators.
- Representation of the CWU Department of Music through dynamic, high-quality musical performances that enhance the university's cultural presence and connect with students, faculty, and alumni.

**a. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs who have a similar purpose or service?**

The Pep Band overlaps with several other student organizations and university initiatives:

- **Wildcat Marching Band:** Both ensembles perform at high-visibility athletic events and promote school spirit, though the Pep Band focuses on basketball games and smaller performances, whereas the Wildcat Marching Band covers football games and other large-scale events.
- **University Athletics:** While the Pep Band provides musical support for basketball events, it shares an overlapping mission with the Athletics department in fostering school spirit and community engagement.
- **Student Government and Campus Clubs:** Some student organizations collaborate with the Pep Band for events or joint performances, aligning on shared goals of promoting CWU and fostering student engagement.

4. How does your program align with the purpose of S&A funding? *“Supporting cocurricular and extracurricular activities and programs participated in by students in the furtherance of their education.”*

The Pep Band aligns with the purpose of S&A funding by providing students with a co-curricular activity that complements their academic experience. The band allows students to engage in extracurricular music-making while supporting university athletic programs. These performances enhance student learning in:

- **Musical Growth:** Students gain real-world performance experience outside of the classroom, applying their music skills in a collaborative setting.
- **Leadership Development:** Students take on leadership roles within the ensemble, which enhances their leadership, communication, and organizational skills—valuable in both their academic and professional careers.
- **Campus Engagement:** By supporting athletic events, the Pep Band fosters student connection to the university community, aligning with CWU's goal of creating a welcoming and vibrant campus environment.

5. How does your program support CWU’s mission and goals? (<https://www.cwu.edu/mission/>)

The Pep Band supports CWU’s mission of building a community of equity, belonging, and inclusivity by:

- **Promoting Campus Spirit:** Through musical performances that energize and unite students, athletes, faculty, and the greater CWU community.
- **Diversity of Participation:** The Pep Band is open to all students, regardless of their academic discipline, providing an inclusive environment where students from diverse backgrounds can participate and contribute to the university's cultural landscape.
- **Fostering Authentic Relationships:** The group’s collaborative nature fosters meaningful peer-to-peer relationships and creates a sense of belonging among students.
- **Supporting Equity in Student Engagement:** With the band being open to students from all majors and backgrounds, it ensures that diverse voices are represented in the university's extracurricular activities.

6. Please provide detailed information regarding who utilizes your program? (*Students, faculty, staff, community? Specific demographic information? Class standing, gender, ethnicity, transfer, campus location, etc.*)

The Pep Band serves a wide variety of CWU students, including:

- **Demographics:** Open to all students, regardless of academic discipline, the band typically includes a mix of undergraduates from various majors.
- **Class Standing:** The majority of participants are undergraduate students (freshmen through seniors).
- **Gender and Ethnicity:** The group is composed of a diverse mix of genders and ethnicities, reflecting the diverse student body at CWU.

- **Participation:** Members participate voluntarily (though an audition), often in addition to their academic commitments, showcasing strong dedication and time management skills.

7. How many unique CWU students utilize your program or services?
  - a. How do you gather these metrics?
  - b. If you do not, what is preventing you from getting that data and how are you determining usage by CWU students?

On average, 32-40 students participate in the Pep Band each year.

**a. How do you gather these metrics?**

Student participation is tracked through the audition process in November. Attendance is also tracked at each rehearsal and events to monitor active participation.

8. Are there any current vacant positions in your program?

Currently, there are no vacant positions for faculty or staff in the Pep Band.

9. Given the budget reductions taking place and continuing for the remainder of the funding cycle, please tell us what specific impacts those reductions have had on your program compared to what was originally planned and including in your initial base funding request.

The budget reductions have impacted the **Pep Band** in the following ways:

- **Stipend Reductions:** With limited funding, performance stipends for students have not increased, which has impacted recruitment and retention. A reduction could also impact the number of students who would benefit from the stipend.
- **Reduced Outreach:** There are fewer funds available for outreach and promotional activities, limiting the band's ability to increase its visibility within the university and the local community.
- **Limited Equipment and Travel:** Travel funds for games and additional performance opportunities have been reduced, limiting the band's ability to perform in diverse venues outside of basketball games.

10. Are there any circumstances or challenges that are currently impacting your ability to use your base funding allocation this year?

The Pep Band is currently facing challenges in fully utilizing its base funding due to:

- **Limited Funding for New Equipment:** The group needs some new instruments to replace older instruments, but the budget constraints prevent necessary purchases.

- **Travel Limitations:** Reduced travel funds mean that the Pep Band cannot participate in potential regional events that would raise CWU's profile and provide broader exposure for the students involved.
- **Stipend Funding:** The base funding has not been increased to meet the needs of adding more students or higher operational costs for the program.

11. What growth or increases would you like to see in your program in the future?

**Increase in Student Membership:** A larger Pep Band with more students from diverse academic disciplines would enhance the group's ability to provide spirited performances at athletic events.

**Enhanced Performance Stipends:** Increased stipends would allow for better recruitment and retention, attracting highly dedicated students to the ensemble.

**Expanded Travel and Performance Opportunities:** Additional funding would allow for the Pep Band to perform at more events, increasing its visibility on and off-campus and promoting greater school spirit.

**Additional Instructional Support:** The program would benefit from increased sectional instruction in brass, woodwinds, and percussion to maintain high musical standards.