



Troy University "Sound of the South" Marching Band FAQ'S

Do you have to be a music major or music minor to participate in the "Sound of the South" Band Program?

Absolutely not! A musician may participate in any aspect of the band program regardless of their chosen major.

Do I have to audition to participate in the "Sound of the South" Marching Band?

No! There is no formal audition for instrumentalists to be a member of the Marching Band, the Spring Semester Concert Band(s), the Jazz Ensemble II, or the Graduate Conducting Ensemble. Students wishing to participate in the Symphony Band, Jazz Ensemble I, Jazz Combo I, and the Basketball Pep Band are required to audition.

Do I have to have a lot of previous experience or have been a member of a large, competitive high school or marched in drum corps to be successful in the "Sound of the South?"

No! There are many of our current members who came from bands that were smaller than the section in which they are now playing. The only requirement to become a member is to have a great attitude and a willingness to work.

Are there scholarships available to play in the band?

Yes! You must audition in person during the spring semester. Audition times are posted on the website along with the audition requirements. If you need to schedule another time to audition, you may call the band office to make your appointment at 334-670-3281 or email at troyband@troy.edu. You are encouraged to visit the campus and "sit in" with any of our ensembles at anytime. Simply call ahead so that we will know when you will be visiting us.

How much time does it take to play in the band?

Typically, the "Sound" rehearses much less than most high school bands. After the pre-semester band camp, the band rehearses from 4:00 – 5:05 p.m. daily and 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. on Thursday nights. Games and performances are all on Saturday this year.

Will I miss a lot of my classes by playing in the band?

Absolutely not! In fact, this fall there are no scheduled performances or trips that conflict with academic class times in the 2006 season. Being the largest student organization on campus, there is nearly every major represented in the band. In order for non-music majors to be able to continue to participate in their junior and senior years, they must be a part of a group that does not pull them from their academic classes excessively. The band staff makes every effort to create a rehearsal and performance schedule that will not discourage students from remaining in the band during their four years at Troy.

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Will participating in the “Sound of the South” cost me and /or my parents anything?

There is a \$30.00 per year uniform rental fee. This covers the cost of the medallion replacements (and other parts as necessary). Each member who participates for four years or longer will receive their medallion to keep upon graduation. This medallion is presented to each new member by the Chancellor of Troy University before the first major performance of the fall season.

There is no longer a rental fee for the use of university-owned instruments. Students using university-owned instruments must provide their own mouthpieces, reeds, etc. and also will be responsible for routine maintenance while it is in your possession.

For percussionists there is a nominal stick fee to be paid at the beginning of the marching season.

Each member of the band will be responsible for dry cleaning their uniform, marching shoes (black marching shoes as approved by the Band Council), black gloves, black socks, and an official band t-shirt to wear under the uniform (total approx \$50). The purchase of these items will be coordinated by the Band President before and during band camp.

Does it cost the band members any money when the band travels to away games, overnight trips, or other performances?

No! You are providing a service to the university, which assumes all expenses related to travel, including transportation, lodging and meals. The band travels with a professional charter bus company, our overnight accommodations are in quality hotels, and the university provides each member with catered meals or a cash per diem to purchase meals while traveling.

How do I become a member of one of the Auxiliary units?

Students interested in performing with the one of the auxiliary units (majorette, feature twirler, danceline and colorguard) must audition each spring. You will be financially responsible for your own uniform and accessories as determined by the Auxiliaries Coordinator and their respective Captains. Each auxiliary member will receive a \$200 scholarship to help offset uniform costs upon being selected to participate.

Are there band members who, in addition to taking classes, have jobs to help with their school expenses?

Yes. While missing a rehearsal to work is not considered an excused absence, there are many current band members who have jobs and bosses who are flexible with their schedules. The band has a two week member notification policy regarding any change in the performance schedule. Once the performance schedule has been finalized, it generally does not change.

What if I am already registered (non-music major) with a full load (16 semester hours) and I want to add one additional hour for band, will I have to pay for the overload hour?

If a non-music major student has sixteen hours of regular class work and the band credit causes an overload, the student can receive a scholarship from the band to cover this fee (currently \$170.00 per hour, in-state tuition).