



**Troy University  
“Sound of the South”  
Marching Band  
FAQ’S**

**[www.soundofthesouth.org](http://www.soundofthesouth.org)  
email: [troyband@troy.edu](mailto:troyband@troy.edu)**

**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. We encourage you 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. ***Each instrumentalist who marches with the Sound of the South will receive an automatic \$300.00 scholarship in the Fall semester.***

**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.

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

**Absolutely not!** 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. When it is necessary for you to miss class you will be excused by the university and be allowed to make up any work you miss.

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

**Yes!** There is a \$60.00 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. Also each member must buy their own helmet for their marching band uniform. Helmets cost \$75.00. You will use and keep this helmet permanently. Shoes, gloves and a band t-shirt must also be purchased by the student, total cost approximately \$50.00.

For percussionists there is an additional \$50.00 percussion fee to be paid at the beginning of the marching season. This covers sticks, mallets, and replacement parts for equipment.

### **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 of \$31.00 per day 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 \$500 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.