Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I didn’t march in high school, am I still allowed to join?
A: Of course! Many of our members did not participate in high school marching band. The Marching Utes are more than willing to help get you caught up to speed on our marching and playing fundamentals.

Q: Are instruments available to rent?
A: All brass instruments and piccolos are available for rent. Clarinets and saxophones are expected to be provided by the student.

Q: I'm not a music major… is that okay?
A: Absolutely! Over 70% of our members are not music majors, representing nearly every college and department at the University of Utah.

Q: Does the marching band travel?
A: Travel typically consists of two pep band trips during regular season and a full band trip for post season bowl game. All costs, including meals, are covered by the university.

Q: How much does it cost to do college marching band?
A: Course fees for marching band typically cost around $50.

Q: Is band camp required?
A: Yes, band camp is required for all members.

Q: Are scholarships available?
A: Scholarships are available. Send a video to Dr. Sproul, preferably playing two pieces of contrasting style.

Q: I auditioned for the School of Music. Do I need to send in a separate audition?
A: If you are auditioning for the School of Music, that audition counts as your audition for the marching band.

Q: What is the rehearsal schedule for college marching band?
A: The Marching Utes typically rehearse four days a week for an hour and a half. You will register for MUSC 4450. There is also a short rehearsal on game day prior to game day festivities.

Q: I am not attending the University of Utah but would like to march. Can I do that?
A: You are welcome to join the Marching Utes through Continuing Education at the University of Utah. Google “Utah Marching Band Continuing Ed” for more information.

Contact Us!

For more information, visit UofUBands.org or email BRIAN.SPROUL@UTAH.EDU
Hello!

We’re excited to hear of your interest in the University of Utah and the Marching Utes!!!

I think you’ll find that the Marching Utes offer a unique college experience unlike any other in the west. Students in the marching band at the University of Utah forge friendships and create memories that last a lifetime!

Enclosed in this envelope, you’ll find information that will lead you towards one of the most memorable things you’ll do in college. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a personalized campus visit, please let us know and we can get you on the path towards performing in front of sold-out stadiums and national television audiences!

As always, GO UTES!!!

Brian Sproul
Director of Athletic Bands
University of Utah
brian.sproul@utah.edu

How do Auditions for the Marching Utes Work?

YES:
1. Apply to the University prior to December 1.
2. Be sure to fill out the FAFSA paper work, regardless of your financial situation.
3. Are you going to major in music?

NO:
1. Send Dr. Sproul an email indicating your intent to audition.
2. Dr. Sproul will send you a scholarship application via email.
3. Make a video of your playing and send it to Dr. Sproul via attached file or YouTube link.
4. Perform your best

Q: What should I play?
A: Depends on your plan. You should consult your teacher for material that will best represent your abilities. Two pieces of contrasting style is always a good rule of thumb.

Q: Does the marching band audition need to have scales or sight-reading?
A: No.

Q: When does my video need to be submitted?
A: For optimal scholarship consideration, you should send your video prior to April 1.

Q: How much scholarship money will I receive?
A: Any scholarship award is determined after your audition is completed. You will receive a letter in the mail.

Q: What does my video need to look like?
A: This is your audition… the production quality should reflect you and your priorities.

Email Dr. Sproul with additional questions at brian.sproul@utah.edu

Drumline Auditions

The U of U Drumline consists of a corps-sized battery and boasts a modern playing and arranging style. The drumline is open to all university students, regardless of major. You do NOT have to be a music major to participate, as members represent all disciplines and majors across campus.

Joining the drumline not only offers the opportunity for students to advance their musical skills, but also to develop discipline, experience a high level of excellence, and to achieve a challenging goal as a member of a cohesive team. Percussionists already accepted into the School of Music as music majors or minors are automatically placed in the drumline, although they must audition to determine instrument placement.

The U of U Drumline holds auditions in May. Students are expected to learn an audition packet consisting of warmups and cadences, which will be used throughout the year.

The drumline holds a “CHOPS CLASS” every week from January to May that cover the what, why, and how of the U of U Drumline. These clinics serve to better prepare you for a successful audition. “CHOPS CLASS” is FREE and open to interested students, including high school JUNIORS and SENIORS.

If you are interested in participating in the U of U Drumline, you should contact Dr. Sammons via email (mike.sammons@utah.edu) to reserve your spot at auditions any time after January 1 and before auditions. Packets may be downloaded on the marching band’s website: www.uofbands.org.