



AUDITION REQUIREMENTS for The Tennessee State University Band Program

Admission to the Band Program (marching, concert, etc.) at Tennessee State University is contingent upon a successful audition. There are two categories available for admission to the band:

1. Those who meet minimal qualifying standards to participate in the Aristocrat of Bands (marching band)
2. Those who meet the higher qualifying standards to be considered for available scholarships (Aristocrat of Bands plus participation in the University's other major ensembles)

To schedule an audition contact our office at (615) 963-5350. Provide your name, instrument, home phone number, and at least two possible dates for you to audition. We will then schedule a convenient date and time with the respective University Bands faculty member. Auditions are also conducted at high schools in select cities. You must provide the auditioner with a presentable copy of your audition piece.

Videotaped Auditions

If for some reason a live audition cannot be arranged, a high quality videotaped audition may be submitted. Percussionists should angle the camera to pick up stick and mallet positions. The videotape must include all of the qualifying audition requirements listed below. At the beginning of the tape state your full name, instrument, and high school. Include with your videotape a copy of your audition piece. Your audition is given full consideration only after a sight-reading session has been done. Taped auditions should be mailed to: Dr. Reginald A. McDonald, Tennessee State University Band, 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd., Box 9531, Nashville, TN 37209. You can also send via email to aobnation@tnstate.edu. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Scholarships

Band scholarships are competitive. They are not based on need, but rather on skill. Scholarships are awarded based upon your audition results. You are also required to submit a letter of recommendation from your current band director. The earlier you audition the better your chances of receiving a scholarship if you meet the qualifying criteria.

Auditions for scholarship consideration must represent above average skills in intonation, phrasing, breath support, tone quality, articulation, technique, range, and ability to read music. Remember you must provide a copy of your audition piece for the auditioner.

All students are required to apply for federal financial aid. This should be done as early as January in order to be considered for the best financial aid package.

Criteria for Evaluation of All Musicians:

- Intonation
- Phrasing, breath support
- Tone quality
- Articulation and technique
- Range
- Ability to read music
- Control throughout dynamic range

Minimum Criteria for Non-Scholarship Consideration:

1. C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, and Db major scales and arpeggios, legato and staccato.
2. A prepared piece that represents good tone quality, control of articulation skills, good basic technique, and intonation. A short solo or etude is desired, but you may substitute quality band music where your instrument has the melody. ✧
3. Demonstrate sight-reading skills.

Criteria for Woodwind and Brass Scholarship Consideration:

1. All major scales and arpeggios, two or more octaves where possible, legato and staccato
2. Chromatic scale for the practical range of the instrument
3. Prepared pieces demonstrating two contrasting musical examples (lyrical and technical) which best demonstrate your technical facility and musicianship. Band music is not acceptable for scholarship consideration. ✧
4. Sight-reading

Percussion Audition Criteria:

Scholarship Audition Requirements: Prospective students auditioning for the program must demonstrate skills in at least three of the following areas:

Non-Scholarship Audition Requirements: Prospective students auditioning for the program must demonstrate skills in at least two of the following areas:

Mallets: Etude or solo demonstrating two, three and or four mallet technique.

Snare Drum: Etude or Solo demonstrating concert and or rudimental drumming.

Timpani: Etude, Solo or orchestral excerpt.

Hand Percussion: Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental patterns.

Drum Set: Etude, Solo and or basic styles: jazz, Latin, funk, etc...

Degree Programs: Music Education and Commercial Music

Ensemble Opportunities: Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Jazz Combo, Jazz Ensemble, Concert Percussion Ensemble, World Percussion Ensemble, Commercial Music Ensemble and Orchestra.

Other: Students will be asked to sight read, play major scales, play PAS International Rudiments and subdivide written rhythms.

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- ✧ Students who wish guidance in choosing appropriate audition material are encouraged to contact the department well in advance of their audition date. Examples of recommended pieces are solo movements, etudes, orchestral excerpts, or sonatas from method books, state solo lists, etc.