

# Everything you always wanted to know about the Spartan Marching Band



The Spartan Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. Scott Pierson, takes the field in Spartan Stadium each fall semester, creating an electrifying atmosphere for the thousands of fans watching the exciting performances. The combination of brass instruments, saxophones and percussion instruments creates a driving sound that is hard to forget, while the addition of the Spartan Color Guard and the dazzling Spartan Spectrum Dance Team give the band a visual style that is uniquely its own.

The band is made up of students from all fields of study on campus, plus several "Open University" members. SJSU students receive up to two units of academic credit. SJSU students also receive Priority Registration privileges, a definite plus when it comes to scheduling classes.

Band Director Scott Pierson has been at SJSU for thirty three years. His prior experience includes five years of teaching at the high school level, seven years of marching, brass, and color guard instruction with the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum & Bugle Corps, three years with the Sacramento Freelancers Drum & Bugle Corps and two years with the Casper Troopers Drum & Bugle Corps (Wyoming). Mr. Pierson also spent two years as the outdoor entertainment coordinator at Santa Clara's Great America theme park. He arranges all of the music played by the Spartan Band and writes all of the drills performed by the band and color guard.

Here are the answers to some of the most asked questions about the band:

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## WHERE CAN I OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FOR SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY?

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Most of your school counselors or offices have them. You may also call SJSU to have one mailed to you. Call the Admission Office at (408) 924-2000. You can also download applications from the following Internet site: [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu).

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## HOW MUCH ARE THE FEES AT SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY?

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First, there is an application fee of \$55.00. Second, student fees are based on the number of units you are taking; 12 units and above require fees of about \$3,500.00 per semester. There is also a \$25.00 "Band Fee" that each member pays to cover the cost of uniform cleaning, instrument repair, etc.

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## DO I HAVE TO BE A FULL TIME STUDENT TO BE IN THE BAND?

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No! Part time, as well as "Open University" enrollment is welcome.

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## WHAT IS "OPEN UNIVERSITY" ENROLLMENT?

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"Open University" enrollment means that you can attend a community college, have a job, or do just about anything you want and still be able to march in the SJSU Band. The fee is usually around \$100.00 and you will receive two units, the use of equipment and uniforms, and all other band-related privileges that full time students enjoy. You DO NOT have to apply to SJSU in order to take advantage of this enrollment option; simply fill out a form when band starts.

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## DO I HAVE TO USE MY OWN INSTRUMENT?

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No. You may use your own instrument, or the band will provide instruments when needed (saxophones, mellophones, marching french horns, trombones, bass trombones, baritones, sousaphones, and percussion instruments).

*...spartan marching band continued*



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**WHEN DOES THE MARCHING BAND REHEARSE?**

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The Marching Band class meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3:45 PM to 6:15 PM. On game dates (Saturdays) the band also rehearses for three hours inside Spartan Stadium prior to the games.

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**WHAT SPECIFIC ITEMS DO I NEED IF I WILL BE PLAYING A SAXOPHONE, A BRASS INSTRUMENT, OR A PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT?**

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You will need several items:

- a. At least one pair of white socks
- b. At least one pair of white gloves (can purchase from uniform managers)
- c. A pair of white, plain-toe marching band shoes that tie (no buckles; no velcro)
- d. Two "marching band" t-shirts (one blue, one white) \$15.00 each

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**WHAT SPECIFIC ITEMS DO I NEED IF I AM ACCEPTED INTO THE COLOR GUARD?**

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You will need a few items:

- a. A pair of jazz shoes (style and color to be determined)
- b. An SJSU Color Guard warm-up suit (style to be determined)

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**WHAT IF I WANT TO AUDITION FOR THE SPARTAN SPECTRUM DANCE TEAM?**

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Provide the band director or band office with your name and address, and a personal invitation will be sent to you. Auditions are usually held in late April or early May each year.

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**DO I HAVE TO DO FUNDRAISERS?**

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Absolutely not! Your days of car washing and candy sales are over. The band pays for all trips, including transportation and lodging. This includes bowl games at the end of the season.

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**HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE USUALLY IN THE SPARTAN BAND?**

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The number varies, but this is what we would like to field each fall:

10 1st Trumpets	06 Snare Drums
06 2nd Trumpets	03 Quad Drums
06 3rd Trumpets	05 Bass Drums
04 Mellophones	06 Cymbals
04 Marching French Horns	07 Mallet Percussion
12 Alto Saxophones	03 Aux. Percussion
12 Tenor Saxophones	
16 Trombones	20 Color Guard
06 Baritones	10 Dancers
08 Sousaphones	01 Drum Major

**145 TOTAL MEMBERS**