



CAROLINA BAND

Prospective Member Information

Welcome! We are delighted that you are interested in joining the University of South Carolina Marching Band, “The Mighty Sound of the Southeast.” The USC Athletic Bands comprise the largest, most visible, and most dynamic student organizations on campus. We have a place for you in the Carolina Band or our pep bands, whether you are an instrumentalist, colorguard member, twirler or dancer.

The Carolina Band performs for home football games at Williams-Brice Stadium and a portion of the band performs at all away games. Performing regularly for millions on national television, the band also travels to all postseason games and bowl games. In 2017 the band was recognized by the College Band Directors National Association as one of the most outstanding marching bands in the country, and we recently celebrated our 100th year in 2020-2021!

“The Mighty Sound of the Southeast” performs powerful, exciting and entertaining music designed to reach a wide-ranging audience. The band’s traditional pregame show and varied halftime shows highlight all genres of music, from traditional school songs to popular music including rock, jazz and music from movies and television.

Students in the Carolina Band participate in a pre-season camp and rehearse Tuesday through Friday from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Copenhaver Band Hall (326 Sumter St.), a state-of-the-art \$10 million rehearsal facility and synthetic practice field.

Scholarships and out-of-state tuition reduction

Each member of the Carolina Band receives a \$500 scholarship for participation. In addition, all out-of-state full-time Carolina Band students who are not already receiving a tuition reduction from other scholarships or sources on campus will receive a departmental tuition reduction for the fall and spring semesters of the 2024-2025 academic year. Based on the 2023-2024 tuition rates, this waiver reduces out-of-state tuition from \$17,267 per semester and \$34,534 per year to \$9,517.25 per semester and \$19,034.50 per year. Minimum academic requirements apply.

Auditions

New woodwind and brass players interested in joining the Carolina Band must submit an audition video. Videos may be submitted beginning March 1st, and instructions are available at carolinaband.org. Priority will be given to students who submit auditions prior to April 1. Notification of admission will begin April 10th. Auditions will continue to be accepted as space permits. In-person auditions are held in April for the Drumline, Colorguard and Coquettes, with help/clinic sessions held several weeks in advance. When openings occur, auditions are also held for Feature Twirlers. For questions about the Carolina Band, contact the USC Band Office at 803-777-4278 or uscbands@mozart.sc.edu.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be a music major to be in band? No. The overwhelming majority of band members are majoring in something other than music, and like you, simply love making music and being part of the Carolina Band family.

Will I have time to be in marching band? YES! Band is a significant time commitment, but likely involves less time than it did in high school. Also, having a musical outlet gives your schedule variety and helps you be more focused when you return to class and studying.

Will my grades suffer because of the time commitment? No. Carolina Band members are among some of the best and brightest students on campus. Members of the band regularly appear on the President's and Dean's Lists, and receive other top academic honors at USC. You will, however, need to schedule an earlier orientation session date in order to avoid course conflicts with Marching Band.

Is there a cost involved? There are very minimal costs involved, and are limited to instrument/locker rental, shoe/glove and phone clip purchase. The Carolina Band pays for all housing, food, and travel associated with membership. Band members are well-outfitted in official Carolina Band apparel.

Is marching band a class? Yes. Marching band is an academic course for which you receive variable 1 or 2 hours of elective credit.

What should I play for my audition? A chromatic scale (full, comfortable range of your instrument), our fight song (Step to the Rear) and a selection of your choice. You can play any solo or etude for your instrument. You can even play an excerpt or excerpts from some of your band music. Choose something that demonstrates your very best playing, and try to demonstrate both technical and lyrical playing. You should play accurately, with all the correct notes and rhythms, along with expressive dynamics and a steady tempo.

Is there a band camp? Yes. All members will report to camp. Exact dates are TBA.

Do I need to have my own instrument? We provide instruments for brass and percussion, as well as equipment for Colorguard and Coquettes. We have a limited number of piccolos available for rental (all flute players must play piccolo). Clarinet and saxophone players must provide their own instrument.

What about basketball band and concert band? Marching band members do not have to play in basketball band or in concert band, but many choose to do so. The basketball bands perform for all home men's and women's basketball games as well as postseason tournaments. USC has 3 concert bands that are available to any USC student regardless of major. Some concert bands require an audition.

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