

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

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DANCE 2022

THE BAND

The Spartan Marching Band, under the direction of Dr. Craig McKenzie, takes the field in CEFCU Stadium each Fall semester, creating an electrifying atmosphere for the fans that attend our SJSU Football Games. The combination of woodwinds, brass, and battery percussion 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. We also perform at a handful of parades, pep rallies, the occasional away game, and other events throughout the year providing a “Spartan Soundtrack” to the college experience here at SJSU.

As a “college marching band,” we exist to support our teams, promote school spirit, and energize a crowd of thousands at any number of University events. We learn new halftime shows for each home game and play a wide variety of popular music and traditional school songs. You’ll hear us play everything from the national anthem to classic rock, movie themes to today’s hip-hop hits, Broadway musicals to video game soundtracks and more.

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

OUR DIRECTOR

Dr. Craig McKenzie is the Assistant Director of Bands / Director of Athletic Bands at San José State University in San José, California. His responsibilities at SJSU include directing the Spartan Marching Band and Spartan Basketball Band, conducting the Symphonic Band, and teaching within the Music Education department.

With over 20 years of middle school, high school, and college teaching experience, Dr. McKenzie previously taught at Abraham Lincoln High School, a visual and performing arts school in San José, CA and before that at Pioneer High School in Whittier, CA. He has experience teaching Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Concert Band ensembles, Mariachi, Marching Bands, Pep Bands, Jazz Bands, Orchestras, and Musical Theater. He holds degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder, San Jose State University, and the University of Miami.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

HOW DO I SIGN UP?!?

- Follow this link to get on our contact list: <https://tinyurl.com/3hz7w4ea>
- Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SJSUMarchingBand>
- Email our Director: craig.mckenzie@sjsu.edu

WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE BAND REHEARSE?

Throughout the Fall semester, our regular rehearsal time is 3:30pm-6pm, Mon, Wed, and Fri. Most days we rehearse at CEFCU Stadium at the San Jose State SOUTH Campus. Occasionally, inclement weather forces us back to the music building on Main Campus.

IS THERE AN AUDITION FOR BAND?

Wind instruments are open to all participants without audition. Battery Percussion, Color Guard, and Spectrum all have auditions during the Spring and Summer leading up to the Fall season.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR AUDITIONS/WORKSHOPS FOR DRUMLINE, COLOR GUARD, OR THE SPARTAN SPECTRUM DANCE TEAM?

DRUMLINE:

- Contact Coach: Lane Sanders - doransanders@gmail.com
- Instagram: @sjsudrums

COLOR GUARD:

- Contact Coach: Karissa Naone - karissa.naone@sjsu.edu
- Facebook: "SJSU Spartan Color Guard"
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/417949159535451>
- Instagram: @sjsucolorguard

SPARTAN SPECTRUM DANCE TEAM:

- Contact: spirit@sjsu.edu
- Instagram: @spartanspectrum
- Audition Sign-ups: forms.gle/N6F7RRbU1GGnb7sF8

DO I HAVE TO USE MY OWN INSTRUMENT?

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

DO I HAVE TO DO FUNDRAISERS?

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

I HEARD WE GET “PRIORITY REGISTRATION.” WHAT’S THAT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

That’s right! If you commit to being in the band early enough, you can get “Priority Registration” status. This allows you to register for your classes early so you can get into those classes that fill-up quickly and structure your schedule around band rehearsal. No more waitlists!

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

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.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ATTEND SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY?

- In-state tuition and fees (yearly): approximately \$7,852
- Out-of-state tuition and fees (yearly): approximately \$19,732
- Open University (for 1 unit): approximately \$280
- More info on tuition and fees can be found here:
<https://www.sjsu.edu/tuition-and-fees/>

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

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

WHAT IS “OPEN UNIVERSITY” ENROLLMENT?

“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 \$280.00 and you will receive 1 unit, 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.