

Huskie Marching Band
Drum Major Application

Name: __________________________

Preferred Email: ________________________  Preferred phone #: ______________________ 

Major: ________________________________  GPA: ___________________________

Please take time to plan out your answers to these questions. Open this document, type in your answers, save the document, and then bring 7 copies of the questions and your answers to the band office before the date specified. This is not a test, SO RELAX! Rather, it is a chance to reflect carefully upon your own skills and qualifications, as well as areas in which you may have opportunities for growth. Unlike some classes, there is nothing to be gained by spinning out long answers when a few words would do. At the same time, don’t be afraid to take the time and space to frame your thoughts in a thorough manner. Adjust spacing between the questions as needed.

This is only part of the screening process to become a drum major. As you reflect upon these questions, I hope that you come to a greater awareness of yourself and of your role in the Huskie Marching Band.

Due the last weekday in January.

1. In our band, we believe that the best leaders must first demonstrate their ability to be outstanding followers. Describe as specifically as possible how you have done so. You might start by discussing exemplary attendance, examples of cooperation with the current UG’s, or other evidence on a daily basis of your willingness to work within the structure of this organization.

2. Specifically, what musical training, achievement, or skills make you qualified to help other members of the band become better players and learn their show music?

3. What marching experience, skills or training make you qualified to help other members of the band become better marchers?
4. Besides the qualifications you describe in playing and marching, what other skills or experiences will help you be a successful drum major?

5. Being a member of the Huskie Marching Band leadership team will require time outside of rehearsal, extra effort on your part, and considerable stress. Are you prepared for this?

6. If so, describe why you want to devote yourself to serving other members of the band, and your thoughts on how you might do so. Give specific examples if possible.

7. Describe your teaching style. Give specific examples if possible.

8. Describe your techniques for avoiding conflict with members of the band where possible. When and if conflict does arise, describe your techniques for minimizing and then resolving the conflict.

9. What are your greatest strengths as a leader? That is, in what area are you most comfortable helping the band….music, marching, being a friend, helping the section get along, contributing choreography and visuals, or other? Describe specific examples of leadership you have demonstrated in this area.

10. In what areas would you like to grow as a leader, as a person, or as an instructor? What types of training you would like to get to be even more effective as a part of the leadership team?

11. If you are selected as drum major for next year, how will this position allow you to make a greater contribution to the Huskie Marching Band? In other words, what will you be able to do on behalf of the band as the drum major that you cannot do now?

12. Being drum major requires you to interact with all sections of the band, including the drumline, guard, winds and brass, and Silverettes. What challenges do you anticipate in working with sections with which you have little experience? What are your plans to solve some of these challenges.

13. As drum major, you have many roles: to assist in administering the band, to manage rehearsals from the podium, to conduct, to give directions to the ensemble, and to lead cheers in the stands. Which of these do you see as your greatest strength, and which your greatest challenge? Be as specific as possible.

14. The role of drum major requires a high degree of both musical and personal assertiveness. Describe specific examples where you have demonstrated these qualities, either in an ensemble or in a leadership position outside of music.
15. Not everyone who applies for this position will be selected to do so for next year. If you are NOT selected, how will that affect your participation or performance next season?