



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
BLAZIN'
BRIGADE

Percussion Auditions 2019

Thank you for your interest in being a part of the 2019 Blazin' Brigade Drumline and Front Ensemble! This document will provide you general information about battery and front ensemble auditions for the upcoming marching season. These auditions are meant to assess your technique and level of skill so we can best utilize your talents in order to field the strongest section possible; no one will be turned away based on strength of audition.

How do I register to audition?

Visit <http://blazinbrigade.org> for audition registration and sheet music downloads.

When?

Auditions are June 22, 2019, at 1:30 PM in the Fine Arts Building of Valdosta State University. A detailed schedule will be sent via email in the weeks leading up to the audition date.

What should I bring?

Potential members should bring appropriate implements for the instrument on which they are planning to audition, i.e. marching snare sticks, tenor mallets, bass drum mallets, keyboard mallets. To an extent, we can help with implements if we are aware ahead of time.

If you are a high school student auditioning for snare or tenors, we politely request you bring your own drum and stadium stand because the number of those auditioning may exceed the number of instruments we have at VSU. Those auditioning for bass drum or front ensemble do not need to bring instruments. *Please bring earplugs/hearing protection for all rehearsals.*

How does the audition process work?

The audition process will break down into two components:

- Individual evaluation
- Ensemble evaluation

What will I be asked to play during the individual audition?

Each potential member auditioning for the battery will play the snare line of the following exercises:

- 8-8-16
- VSU Bucs (accent/tap)
- 16th Timing (w/ check pattern: A)
- 16th Rolls

Battery members are evaluated based on the consistency of their technique and sound quality as well as tempo control and rhythmic accuracy. Please mark time for all exercises.

All potential front ensemble members will play the two double-stop exercises (6-4-3-2-1), Green scales in three major keys of your choosing, Manifest Destiny, and a four-mallet exercise of your choosing if you are comfortable. The four-mallet exercise is strongly encouraged but not required.

*All potential members are urged to be familiar with the full packet of exercises which will be posted by May 15.

How will I be evaluated in ensemble rehearsal?

After individual auditions have taken place, evaluations will continue in a full ensemble setting. Potential members' reading skills and quickness in learning will be evaluated through full ensemble exercises given out during the first full rehearsal.

Other questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about the Blazin' Brigade Drumline, please contact Dr. Ryan M. Smith: ryanmsmith@valdosta.edu and Dr. Benjamin Harper: bgharper@valdosta.edu