

# 2022 Collegiate Marching Band Experience Survey

## Full Report

This survey was distributed to the marching arts community from January 9th, 2023 through February 15th, 2023. Respondents were required to have participated in a collegiate or university-level marching ensemble during the Fall 2022 season/semester/quarter.

This survey received a total of 73 responses.

### 1. Participant Demographics

<b>Which of the following best describes your status as a college/university student for the Fall of 2022? (n=73)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Freshman	26	37.14%
Sophomore	15	21.43%
Junior	14	20.00%
Senior	13	18.57%
Super Senior/Fifth Year Senior	1	1.43%
Grad Student	1	1.43%
Not enrolled in college/university for Fall 2022	3	4.29%
<b>Which section(s) did you participate in this past season? (Choose all that apply) (n=73)</b>	<b>Collective Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Brass	30	41.10%
Woodwinds	19	26.03%
Battery/Marching Percussion	12	16.44%
Colorguard	9	12.33%
Drum Major/Conductor	4	5.48%
Front Ensemble/Pit Percussion	2	2.74%
<b>Please select the statement that best applies to you: (n=73)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
I am currently not enrolled in college/university, but participate in a college/university marching ensemble.	2	2.74%
I attend a different college/university than the marching ensemble.	5	6.85%
I attend the same college/university as the marching ensemble.	66	90.41%
<b>What is your current major? (n=73)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
STEM	37	50.68%

Education	15	20.55%
Arts and Music	10	13.70%
Other	8	10.96%
No Response	3	4.11%
<b>If applicable and if you are comfortable, please let us know which communities you belong to: (n=73)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Marginalized	48	65.75%
NO RESPONSE	25	34.25%

## 2. School Information

<b>What type of institution best describes your ensemble's college/university?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Public college/university	69	94.52%
Private college/university	3	4.11%
Unsure	1	1.37%
<b>Which region/country (choose one) is the college/university located in? (If you select Canada or Mexico, please fill in which province or state in the "Other" section)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Canada	8	10.96%
Midwest (MN, ND, SD, IA, NE, WI, MO, IN, IL, MI, OH, KS)	14	19.18%
Northeast (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA, NJ)	7	9.59%
South (MD, DE, DC, WV, VA, TX, TN, SC, OK, NC, MS, LA, KY, GA, FL, AR, AL)	36	49.32%
West (HI, AK, ID, MT, CO, WY, UT, NV, AZ, CA, OR, NM)	8	10.96%
<b>If you would like to specify which state or province, use this space to do so:</b>		
AZ	1	USA
BC	1	Canada
CA	4	USA
ID	1	USA
IL	1	USA
IN	7	USA
KY	3	USA
LA	1	USA
MA	5	USA

MD	7	USA
MN	1	USA
MO	2	USA
MS	1	USA
NC	15	USA
OH	2	USA
ON	7	Canada
PA	1	USA
TX	2	USA
VA	1	USA
Unknown	10	
<b>Is this ensemble considered a class at the college/university? (ie: did you have to enroll in the class to participate?)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Yes	65	89.04%
No	8	10.96%
<b>In addition to any course/credit costs, how much were any dues to participate in the ensemble?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
<b>Average \$</b>		<b>\$120</b>
<b>Median \$</b>		<b>\$50</b>
\$0	10	\$0
\$2	1	\$2
\$8	1	\$8
\$10	3	\$30
\$15	1	\$15
\$20	1	\$20
\$30	1	\$30
\$40	8	\$320
\$44	1	\$44
\$45	1	\$45
\$50	2	\$100
\$70	1	\$70
\$74	1	\$74
\$75	2	\$150
\$80	3	\$240
\$90	1	\$90
\$100	1	\$100
\$125	1	\$125

\$150	3	\$450
\$170	1	\$170
\$175	1	\$175
\$200	2	\$400
\$300	1	\$300
\$1,000	1	\$1,000
NO RESPONSE	9	
Unsure	15	
<b>What was the ensemble's attendance policy?</b>		
<b>Policy (n=73)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Mandatory Attendance/Specific Exceptions	63	86.30%
No Policy	7	9.59%
NO RESPONSE	3	4.11%
<b>Exceptions (n=63)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 63</b>
Allowed absences with "prior approval/communication/documentation"	30	47.62%
Allowed specific number of absences	10	15.87%
No Exceptions Mentioned	23	36.51%
<b>Grades/Course Passing Affected (n=63)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 63</b>
Yes	15	23.81%
Not Mentioned	48	76.19%
<b>Did you receive any scholarships towards your education for participating in the marching ensemble?</b>		
	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Yes	30	41.10%
No	43	58.90%
<b>Would a scholarship or financial assistance have made marching in a collegiate ensemble more accessible to you? (NO's only from above, n=43)</b>		
	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 43</b>
Does not apply	11	25.58%
No	15	34.88%
Yes	17	39.53%

### 3. Rehearsals

<b>How many days of Band Camp/pre-season rehearsals did you have?</b>		
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<b>Days</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Total Days</b>
NO RESPONSE	2	
<b>Average (n=71)</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>546</b>
0	4	0
1	1	1
2	1	2
3	1	3
4	2	8
5	6	30
6	7	42
7	16	112
8	7	56
9	7	63
10	8	80
12	3	36
13	1	13
14	6	84
16	1	16
<b>How many hours in a typical week did your marching ensemble rehearse?</b>		
<b>Hours</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
NO RESPONSE	2	25
<b>Average (n=71)</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>544</b>
1	4	4
2	2	4
3	2	4
4	1	6
5	2	4
6	24	10
7	5	144
8	11	35
9	3	88
10	7	27
12	4	70
13	1	48
14	1	13
15	1	14
17	1	15

20	1	17
25	1	20
<b>How difficult/challenging were rehearsals for you?</b>	<b>Count</b>	
1 - Extremely Easy	6	
2	7	
3	14	
4	18	
5	13	
6	12	
7	2	
8	1	
9	0	
10 - Extremely Challenging	0	
<b>How difficult/challenging were pre-season rehearsals for you?</b>	<b>Count</b>	
NO RESPONSE	3	
1 - Extremely Easy	6	
2	4	
3	5	
4	6	
5	11	
6	6	
7	18	
8	10	
9	3	
10 - Extremely Challenging	1	
<b>How would you rate the total amount of rehearsal you had this season?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
We did not rehearse enough	12	16.44%
We rehearsed the right amount	54	73.97%
We rehearsed too much	7	9.59%
<b>How would you rate the productivity of your rehearsals?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Very productive	14	19.18%
Productive	45	61.64%
Unproductive	13	17.81%
Very unproductive	1	1.37%

<b>How would you rate the tone of your rehearsals?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Always Positive	11	15.07%
Mostly Positive	42	57.53%
Sometimes Positive/Sometimes Negative (50/50 split)	17	23.29%
Mostly Negative	3	4.11%
Always Negative	0	0.00%
<b>Did you practice on your own/as a section outside of rehearsal time?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Yes	50	68.49%
No	23	31.51%

#### 4. Performances

<b>How many performance days did your marching ensemble have? (Includes pre-game/halftime/post-game shows, exhibitions, festivals, etc.)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
5-9	21	28.77%
10-14	30	41.10%
15-19	6	8.22%
20-24	6	8.22%
25+	5	6.85%
NO RESPONSE	5	6.85%
<b>In general, do you feel that your rehearsals prepared you for your performances?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
No	6	8.22%
Yes	67	91.78%
<b>Overall, did you enjoy performing with your marching ensemble?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
No	6	8.22%
Yes	67	91.78%
<b>Did your marching ensemble ever have to travel to any performances?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Yes	68	93.15%
No	5	6.85%

<i>Of the respondents who traveled to performances... (n=68)</i>		
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<b>Please select the methods of transportation the marching ensemble used: (choose all that apply)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 68</b>
Coach Buses (58)	58	85.29%
Members drive (26)	26	38.24%
School Buses (15)	15	22.06%
Airplane (9)	9	13.24%
Train/Transit (5)	5	7.35%
Rental Cars/Vans (2)	2	2.94%
<b>Did your marching ensemble ever travel out of state/country?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 68</b>
NO RESPONSE	18	26.47%
Out of Country	1	1.47%
Out of State	46	67.65%
Out of State, Out of Country	3	4.41%
<b>If your ensemble has a specific Code of Conduct for travel, please describe it here:</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 68</b>
NO RESPONSE, N/A	47	69.12%
Has specific Code of Conduct	21	30.88%
<b>Did your ensemble ever provide you with a per diem (stipend) for football games/shows?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 68</b>
NO RESPONSE	2	2.94%
No	29	42.65%
Yes	37	54.41%
<b>Do you feel it was worth it for your marching ensemble to travel to performances?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 68</b>
No	6	8.82%
Yes	62	91.18%

**Is there anything else you would like to mention about your marching ensemble's performances?**

Respondents reported that despite long days and large amounts of work required to prepare for performances, performances were generally a positive experience.

## 5. Leadership, Staff, and Volunteers

<b>What types of staffing/faculty/leadership does your marching ensemble have? (choose all that apply)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
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Band/Executive Directors	68	93.15%
Student Leadership (horn sergeant, section leaders, etc),	60	82.19%
Music/Band Fraternity/Sorority (Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, etc)	55	75.34%
Section-specific Director(s) (percussion, winds, etc)	51	69.86%
Instructional/Admin Staff (not eligible to be members of the ensemble)	42	57.53%
Assistant Band Director(s)	40	54.79%
Media/Marketing Staff	34	46.58%
Medical Staff	27	36.99%
Truck Crew/Drivers	26	35.62%
Instructional/Admin Staff (eligible to be members of the ensemble)	16	21.92%
Recruitment Staff	7	9.59%
<b>Did you have a leadership role in the ensemble? (horn sergeant, section leader, field staff, etc)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
No	46	63.01%
Yes	27	36.99%

<b>Of those that had a leadership role... (n=27)</b>		
<b>Did you enjoy your experience in a leadership role?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 27</b>
No	4	14.81%
Yes	23	85.19%
<b>Do you feel you were respected in your leadership role by other ensemble members?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 27</b>
No	2	7.41%
Yes	25	92.59%
<b>Do you feel you were respected in your leadership role by your band director/higher-level instructional staff?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 27</b>
NO RESPONSE	1	3.70%
No	4	14.81%
Yes	22	81.48%
<b>Were you provided any leadership training?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 27</b>
No	9	33.33%
Yes	18	66.67%
<b>If you answered "Yes", could you describe the type of leadership training you were provided?</b>		

Common themes of the leadership training described by participants include leadership training being concentrated in the pre-season timeframe or early summer, leadership training being of short duration (lasting between one and five days), and leadership training being typically in-person and synchronous.		
<b>Duration</b>	<b>Count</b>	
<1 Day	1	
1-2 Days	4	
3-4 Days	5	
5-7 Days	1	
Asynchronous	2	
Undefined	6	
<b>When</b>		
Before Season Started	10	
After Season Started	0	
Undefined	7	
Asynchronous	2	
<b>Focus</b>		
Leadership Development	11	
Management Skills	1	
Teaching Pedagogy	4	
Team Building	1	
Undefined	6	
<b>Style</b>		
Asynchronous	1	
In-Person	9	
Student-Led	1	
Virtual	1	
Undefined	7	
<b>Were you compensated or provided financial support (i.e. scholarships) for being in a leadership role?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 27</b>
No	18	66.67%
Yes	9	33.33%
<b>Is there anything else you would like to mention about your experience in a leadership role?</b>		
Participants reported mixed feelings regarding their experiences with serving in a student leadership position. Participants with negative experiences reported conflict with students and staff, gender-based disrespect, and a heavy workload as factors lowering the quality of their experience. Negative experiences and lack of compensation may lead to student leaders to feel as		

though serving in a leadership role to not be worth the personal cost.		
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## 6. Staff Instruction

<b>Would you consider your marching ensemble to be more student-led or faculty-led?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Faculty-led	30	41.10%
Student-led	43	58.90%
<b>Overall, do you feel your ensemble leadership/staff was transparent about expectations (ex. performance schedule, skill level, time commitment, etc)?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
No	3	4.11%
Yes	70	95.89%
<b>How would you rate the quality of instruction you received?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
1 - Extremely Low Quality	0	0.00%
2	1	1.37%
3	3	4.11%
4	3	4.11%
5	5	6.85%
6	7	9.59%
7	12	16.44%
8	19	26.03%
9	10	13.70%
10 - Extremely High Quality	13	17.81%
<b>Is there anything else you would like to mention about your experience with ensemble staff/leadership?</b>		
Participants had mixed reactions to their staff and leadership. Many noted that the musical instruction or the content of their education was strong, but the organization, division of responsibilities, and staff commitment widely varied in quality. Issues were often not staff-wide, but rather contained to certain staff members or leaders causing issues in the flow of the ensemble.		

## 7. Member Safety and Well-being

<b>What was your ensemble's COVID-19 management approach?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Reported Approach	51	69.86%

No approach/No Response	22	30.14%
<b>Do you feel your ensemble adhered to its COVID-19 approach?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
NO RESPONSE	2	
There was no COVID-19 approach	17	
No	3	
Yes	51	
<b>If you felt sick/ill, did you feel pressured to attend rehearsals/performances?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of Sick/III (61)</b>
I was never sick/ill	12	
No	47	77.05%
Yes	14	22.95%
<b>Was there ever a time during rehearsals or performances that you felt you did not have enough water/water breaks?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
No	41	56.16%
Yes	32	43.84%
<b>Was there ever a time during rehearsals or performances that you felt you did not have enough food/snack breaks?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
No	49	67.12%
Yes	24	32.88%
<b>Was there ever a time where the ensemble rehearsed or performed in extreme weather (too cold/hot, thunderstorms)?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
No	31	42.47%
Yes	42	57.53%
<b>Did you ever experience or witness any forms of hazing/initiation rituals?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
No	70	95.89%
Yes	3	4.11%
<b>Did you witness or experience instances of discrimination or harassment?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
No	54	73.97%
Yes	19	26.03%
<b>For those who responded "Yes" to the previous question (n=19)</b>		
<b>What was the basis of discrimination or harassment that you witnessed</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 19</b>

<b>or experienced? (Choose all that apply)</b>		
Sex	10	52.63%
Gender Identity	6	31.58%
Disability	4	21.05%
Sexual Orientation	3	15.79%
Race/Ethnicity	1	5.26%
Body Size	1	5.26%
Other	1	5.26%
<b>Who were these instances of discrimination/harassment carried out by? (Choose all that apply)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 19</b>
Members	18	94.74%
Instructional Staff/Leadership	3	15.79%
Executive/Directorial Staff	3	15.79%
Alumni	1	5.26%
Parents	1	5.26%
Other	1	5.26%
<b>Were these instances followed up upon by your ensemble's administration/ community, or the league's administration/community?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 19</b>
Yes	8	42.11%
Unsure	7	36.84%
No	4	21.05%

## 8. Ensemble Culture and DCI Impact

<b>How much influence do you feel drum corps (DCI/DCA) has on your ensemble?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 72</b>
NO RESPONSE	1	
1 - No DCI Influence	12	16.67%
2	9	12.50%
3	9	12.50%
4	1	1.39%
5	9	12.50%
6	9	12.50%
7	7	9.72%
8	8	11.11%
9	5	6.94%
10 - Complete DCI Influence	3	4.17%

<b>What were your main motivating factors for participating in your ensemble? (choose all that apply)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
To make new friends/spend time with friends	68	93.15%
To continue playing my instrument	57	78.08%
To get better at my instrument/equipment	42	57.53%
To support or be involved with the athletic teams at my institution	30	41.10%
To travel with the ensemble/athletic team	27	36.99%
Class credit (not a degree requirement)	18	24.66%
Degree requirement	7	9.59%
General love of the marching arts	2	2.74%
Other	8	10.96%
<i>To be a part of a high achieving and fun musical ensemble</i>	1	
<i>To continue marching in a country with almost no available options</i>	1	
<i>DCI experience</i>	1	
<i>Name Dropping/ Connections</i>	1	
<i>To support the ensemble</i>	1	
<i>Ambition</i>	1	
<i>Family</i>	1	
<i>Composition experience and teaching experience</i>	1	
<b>What were the main motivating factors in your ensemble's rehearsals? (choose all that apply)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
Fun/ Enjoyment	56	76.71%
Success	55	75.34%
Community Building	50	68.49%
Education/ Learning	49	67.12%
Self-growth	49	67.12%
Ensemble Culture	40	54.79%
Promise of opportunities	18	24.66%
Money/ Retaining Scholarships	15	20.55%
Shame/ Guilt	3	4.11%
Social Status	3	4.11%
Pain	3	4.11%
Fear	3	4.11%
Getting into Sport games for free	1	1.37%
<b>Do you feel participating in your ensemble had an impact on your academic performance?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>

Yes, my academic performance declined	12	16.44%
No impact on academic performance	34	46.58%
Yes, my academic performance improved	25	34.25%
N/A, not enrolled in college/university	1	1.37%
NO RESPONSE	1	1.37%
<b>Is there anything else you would like to mention about your ensemble's culture?</b>		
43% of participants described the culture of their band program as a supportive community, while 31% described their band programs as toxic and cult-like. One participant reported a strong sense of friendship among students <i>despite</i> the high expectations of the directors.		

## 9. High School/Past Experience

<b>Which of the following best describes your high school experience?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 73</b>
My high school did not have a marching band	11	15.07%
My high school had a marching band and I participated	62	84.93%
<b>Of those who participated in high school marching band... (n=62)</b>		
<b>Did your high school marching band compete in a competitive circuit?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 62</b>
No	10	16.13%
Yes	52	83.87%
<b>How does your college/university marching ensemble experience compare to high school?</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 62</b>
I enjoyed both about the same	19	30.65%
I enjoyed my college/university experience more	34	54.84%
I enjoyed my high school experience more	9	14.52%
<b>Of those whose high school did not have marching band... (n=11)</b>		
<b>Did you participate in other music/performing arts ensembles prior to joining a college/university marching ensemble? (choose all that apply)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>% of 11</b>
Concert Band	10	90.91%
Jazz Band	8	72.73%
Ensemble not affiliated with a school (e.g., your own band, or a friend's band)	5	45.45%
Chorus/Choir	5	45.45%
Community Band	4	36.36%
Musical Theater/Plays	4	36.36%

Orchestra	2	18.18%
Pep Band	1	9.09%
Dance	1	9.09%
Community/Religious Ensemble (e.g., church choir, samba band)	1	9.09%
<b>What motivated you to participate in a marching ensemble in college/university?</b>		
The motivation to participate in college mostly stemmed from the opportunity to participate and to continue playing, and having fun while doing it.		

## 10. Final Thoughts

### **What is one thing you wish you knew before joining a college/university marching ensemble?**

Most respondents who answered this question wish they had known how big of a commitment it would be to participate.

### **How do you think MAASIN can support performers in college/university marching ensembles?**

Most respondents who answered this question stated a request for resources, specifically more communication about these resources to the collegiate community.