



HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
"THE MARCHING FORCE"



Dear Future Marching Pirate,

Thank you for your interest in Hampton University, your new "Home by the Sea!" At some point along the way, you provided us with your contact information and intended role in The Marching Force. We would like to thank you for your interest, and we will guide you in the next steps that you should take in becoming our newest member. This is an exciting time for our band program as we capitalize on our excellent recruiting efforts and high-level performances, such as our New Year's Day 2020 performance in Rome, Italy, and our performance in the 2021 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. With your continued interest in our university band program, we are committed to guiding you every step of the way, from application to your first day of Fall Band Camp. Do you have what it takes to meet the challenge and become a Marching Pirate? Of course you do—so let's get started!

The first thing you should do is to find out more about Hampton University's rich heritage and traditions. Our campus is located on a peninsula in the heart of historic downtown Hampton, Virginia. HU boasts one of the most picturesque waterfront campuses you will ever see, and the university itself is ranked as not only one of the top Historically Black Colleges and Universities, but one of America's top universities, period. More information can be obtained by visiting the official website at www.hamptonu.edu. In addition, you should also check out the Hampton University Marching Force website in order to stay up-to-date on news, media, and upcoming performances at www.humarchingforce.com/.

Because we care, we have provided a step-by-step checklist of key tasks to complete before the start of Fall Band Camp. While it may seem a little daunting at first, completing these steps will ensure a smooth transition to college life and will maximize the impact of your financial aid award. In addition, consider this to be your first test of membership in The Marching Force. The diligence, organization, and effort you put into this process will be reflective of the same skills that will be required of you throughout the band season. Those lessons will carry you not just through college, but also through life. Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, we are just a phone call, email, or office visit away. We want you to succeed, and we will make our best efforts in helping to set you up for that success. So again, thank you for your interest in The Hampton University Marching Force!

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Jones, Jr., Ph.D.
Director of University Bands
Assistant Professor of Music



New Member Checklist

1. Apply to Hampton University at www.hamptonu.edu/apply and submit all required application materials. Please notify the band staff when you have completed this step. **The band staff will be able to expedite your application once you email us your test score report, unofficial transcript, letter of recommendation, and personal essay.** Through this method, you will receive a decision within a day to a week, as opposed to a typical time of 4-6 weeks.
2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. This will ensure your eligibility for scholarships, grants, and other financial aid (need- based grants, such as the Pell Grant, are worth up to \$7,395 as of 2023-2024).
3. Visit the HU Financial Aid website at <http://www.hamptonu.edu/studentservices/financialaid/> in order to find an extensive listing of available scholarships for which you may qualify (merit/academic scholarships range from \$5,000 to a full scholarship, based on test scores (minimum 1100 SAT/22 ACT) and 3.3 grade point average). In addition, follow the HU Fin Aid Twitter at @HUPirate_FinAid in order to stay up-to-date on news, scholarship opportunities, and deadlines. Legacy Scholarships (\$1,000) are also available to incoming Freshmen whose parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents attended Hampton University.
4. Search for other scholarships sites to tap into the billions of scholarship funds that are offered each year.
5. (Virginia Residents) Apply for the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (worth \$12,500 as of 2023-2024).
6. Prepare for your audition! While exceptional instrumentalists compete for band scholarships, you do not need to be a music major in order to receive one. Scholarships for Managers, Media Team, and Auxiliary Members (Flags, Dancers, Majorettes) will be provided based on need, merit, and availability.
7. Pay your \$600 Advance Housing Deposit by March 1, 2024. Doing this will help secure your room assignment for the fall semester, and for band students, this may also qualify you for a room scholarship (worth \$7,092 as of 2023-2024).
8. Complete and return the **Statement of Intent** form as your commitment to attend Hampton University and secure your spot as a member of The Marching Force!



SEASON 2024 STATEMENT OF INTENT

Name: _____

Gender: Male Female Other

HU Instrument/Position: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ HU Email: _____

HU ID: _____ Major/Track/Minor: _____

Classification: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Transfer

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have been admitted to Hampton University and have completed the necessary steps to become eligible for participation in The Hampton University Marching Force. Even though this is not a binding contract, I also acknowledge that the accuracy of this statement will help the Director of Bands to plan for the upcoming marching band season. I have completed the steps as outlined in the New Member Checklist, and my signature below serves as my intent to participate in The 2024 Hampton University Marching Force.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

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