Frequently Asked Questions:

Does San Jose State University offer scholarships for cheerleading?

Yes! The scholarship is merit-based and the dollar amount is contingent on funding. This season, we were able to offer $1000 annual grants-in-aid to 5 cheerleaders.

What skills do I need to make the team?

Please prepare the highest level of skill that you can perform cleanly and safely to present at your tryout. Although there is no minimum tumbling requirement, the applicants with the higher skill level in tumbling as well as stunting will be given more consideration. Currently, everyone on the team has at least a back handspring.

Is San Jose State’s cheerleading program Coed or All-Girl?

Currently, our cheerleading program is Large Coed, but we competing in the Small Coed category. We are always wanting more males, but will keep both styles in our repertoire. Our 2017-18 team consists of 23 members, but we are looking to go up to 32 members for the 18-19 season. Our team composition will be determined at the discretion of the head coach after tryouts. All of our coed females will top; and all of our coed males will base.

Is it too late for me to apply to SJSU?

The official deadline to apply for SJSU tends to fall in, on or near the November 30 date each year. It may be later for transfers and graduate students.

Do I need to be accepted into the school before I can tryout?

Yes, our potential cheerleaders need to be accepted into the university before tryouts. Some applicants who are not accepted, at first, may be able to gain acceptance upon review.

Should I be cheering for my high school or an All-Star team to prepare myself for college cheerleading?

A combination of both may make you a better-rounded cheerleader. Typically, college cheerleading has many similarities to a well-structured high school cheerleading program; in the same way that collegiate basketball or football is similar to high school basketball or football.

When are tryouts, and what do I bring?

Tryout are announced in the Tryout Packet. Please check our webpage periodically for updates. Previous tryout packets can be an excellent resource until the current tryout information packet is released and can be found at www.sjsuspartans.com.
What is required of our members?

At San José State University, our cheer program runs year-around. SJSU cheerleaders are required to attend all scheduled practices, workout sessions, study hall, promotional appearances, fundraisers, and university events. In addition, we cheer at all home football games at CEFCU Stadium Home of the Spartans as well as all men’s and women’s basketball games at the Event Center. Occasionally, we have the privilege of traveling with our athletic teams to their away games or tournaments, which will also be mandatory.

What is the time commitment as a member of the team?

On average, cheerleaders spend 15 to 20 hours per week attending games, workouts, fundraisers, appearances, and practices. Some weeks will have more than 20 hours and others will have less than 20 hours.

What are the out-of-pocket expenses?

All practice attire, uniforms, warm-ups, sweats, shoes, bows, and pompons are provided by the San José State University Athletics Department. Also, meals and travel expenses to athletics events are paid for. Because competition is a special event outside the normal scope of cheerleading activities, the team is responsible for fundraising for this trip.

Does SJSU participate in any cheerleading competitions?

Participation in competition is based on fundraising, the individual work ethic and skill level of each cheerleader. If someone is not pulling his/her weight, that person will not compete. Decisions will be made with the team [as a whole] in mind. In the 2017-18 season, we competed at both the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) College National Championship and the United Spirit Association (USA) Collegiate Championship.

Do I need to try out in person to make the team?

There is definitely an advantage to trying out in person! We understand that not everyone will be able to make if out for tryouts/auditions, in which case we do accept tryout videos. Please be sure to review the guidelines for video content.

Is there a way to get feedback on my skills now so I can better prepare for tryouts/auditions?

We are happy to help all potential cheerleaders prepare for our tryouts. Feel free to mail us a DVD of your current skills or email us a “YouTube” link of your video. We will look through your video and give you feedback as soon as possible. Be sure to label it: “SJSU – Your Name Preliminary Video” and adjust your settings to PRIVATE.

I would like to try out this spring. What do I do now?

Take a look through tryout information posted on our website. Even if tryout dates have not yet been posted, tryout packets from previous years have useful information about our program and may be your best resource until the tryout packet for the next year becomes available. The next step is to visit www.sjsuspartans.com and complete the Recruiting Questionnaire located at the top right-hand corner of the page.

Kelvin Lam
Head Coach
Cheerleading
1393 S. 7th Street
San Jose, CA 95112
Phone: 408-924-1272