

A L C O R N S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

WORLD RENOWNED GOLDEN GIRLS

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WORLD RENOWNED GOLDEN GIRLS

The World Renowned Golden Girls is the dance performance auxiliary of The Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite Marching Band which is under the direction of Dr. Everson Martin. Founded in July of 1968 by the late Samuel S. Griffin at then Alcorn A&M College, the World Renowned Golden Girls is the first dance line to perform as a featured squad with choreographed movements to a Historically Black College or University's marching band's live tunes. Being the first HBCU dance line means that there is a rich heritage at Alcorn State University. This often imitated but never duplicated exemplary group of young women is arguably the most widely emulated dance line in HBCU history, as well as one of the most widely known college dance lines in college band history overall.

The World Renowned Golden Girls are known for their extraordinary talent, beauty, grace, showmanship, powerful performances, and signature Gold Boots. This amazing group of young women takes pride in being the bar that all HBCU dance lines are measured.

Information source: www.alcorn.edu & www.soundsofdynomite.com.



OUR HERSTORY

"Founded in July of 1968, at Alcorn State University the Golden Girls, affectionately called the "GGs" or "The Mothers of the SWAC" were the first dance line to perform as a featured squad with choreographed movements to a marching band's live tunes. Alcorn State University is the oldest public historically black land-grant institution in the United States and the second-oldest state-supported institution of higher learning in Mississippi. Alcorn State University was founded in 1871 as a result of the people of Mississippi's efforts to educate the descendants of formerly enslaved Africans. It was named in honor of the sitting governor of Mississippi, James L. Alcorn." Read More: <https://www.alcorn.edu/discover-alcorn/history>

EST. 1968



ABOUT ALCORN

LOCATION

The main campus of Alcorn is located on 1700 acres in Claiborne County, Mississippi, seven miles west of Lorman, seventeen miles southwest of Port Gibson, and about halfway between Vicksburg, to the north, and Natchez, to the south. The campus in Natchez is home to the School of Nursing and School of Business, and a variety of courses are offered at the Vicksburg location.

ORGANIZATION

Schools offer programs leading to the associate, baccalaureate, master's, specialist, and doctoral degrees.

ENROLLMENT

Nearly 3,100 full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students from 34 states and 23 countries attend Alcorn State University.

ACTIVITIES

More than 85 clubs and organizations, including student government, student newspaper and yearbook staffs, radio station, honor societies, religious groups, music and theater groups, student council, and special-interest groups.

WHY ALCORN

- Generations of successful alumni have distinguished themselves in the most competitive arenas, including education, medicine, law, business and professional athletics.
- Nationwide recognition for excellence in liberal arts, agricultural research, technology, music and nursing.
- Understanding professors to guide you every step of the way—as you explore possible majors, select your classes and complete your coursework.
- Close, collaborative relationships with faculty mentors create a uniquely supportive learning environment where students thrive.
- Making friends is easy in our active campus community, with so many ways to get involved, develop valuable leadership skills and just have fun. When you are not in class or the lab, or studying in the library or volunteering with Alcorn cares, you can bet you will be up to something rewarding, fun or invigorating.
- In Alcorn's diverse living and learning environment, students develop the skills they need for lasting success in our global marketplace. Alcorn is a place where nurturing and guidance share the stage with independence and accountability.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All official inquiries concerning admission to Alcorn State University should be directed to the Office of Admissions. To be eligible for admission, a person must be a graduate of a recognized high school. Persons who are not high school graduates are required to pass the General Education Development (GED) test and make a satisfactory score on the ACT and/or SAT before being admitted.

UNDERGRADUATE REQUIREMENTS

There are five ways to gain Freshman Undergraduate admission to Alcorn State University:

1. Complete the College Prep Curriculum via the QR code below with a minimum 3.2 GPA.
2. Complete the College Prep Curriculum with a minimum 2.5 GPA and score at least 16 or higher on the ACT or rank in the upper 50% of your class and score at least 16 or higher on the ACT.
3. Complete the College Prep Curriculum with a minimum 2.0 GPA and score 18 or higher on the ACT.
4. Meet full-qualifier certification requirements for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).
5. Summer Developmental Program (*scan the QR code to learn more*)



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

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ABOUT SOD

Heralded as the Showband from Southland, the story of the Alcorn State University band program dates back to 1885, giving light to its storied history.

Known today as the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite, SOD is a world-renowned musical ensemble revered for its rich traditions, prowess in music performance, and legacy of showmanship and pride. The program consists of many subunits but is most known for the earthquaking marching band.

The unit has performed before crowds at Soldier Field in Chicago, the Astrodome in Houston, the Los Angeles Coliseum, Texas Stadium in Dallas, Milwaukee County Stadium, Philadelphia Stadium, LADD Stadium in Mobile, the Orange Bowl in Miami, the Superdome in New Orleans, the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, Giant Stadium in New Jersey, the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, and the Silverdome in Pontiac. In 1975, it was the first college band to perform in the Superdome. It has also performed during halftime for the New Orleans Saints, Atlanta Falcons, and Detroit Lions.

Most of the innovation and success of the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite were seen under the leadership of the visionary former director of bands Samuel S. Griffin.

Griffin enjoyed a legendary career with the Alcorn State University Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite and formally retired as Director of Bands in December 2012. During his 46 years of service to the band and university, Mr. Griffin became a father figure to so many and truly made a positive impact on so many lives. The Legendary Band Director passed away on August 4, 2017, surrounded by his family.

In 2011, the university decided to begin a transition to a new era. Dr. Renardo Murray was named the new Marching Band Director on May 31, 2011, and led the band through a transformation period. Under the direction of Dr. Murray, the band experienced a reemergence in the HBCU band culture, rising to over 250+ members. The band was voted to participate in the Honda BOTB in 2013 and 2016 under his leadership.

During the fall of 2018, Dr. Everson Martin was named the Director of Bands and has continued the traditions of the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite and reestablished the Lady Purple Flashers in 2019. Dr. Martin's progression and sustained success of the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite bodes well for the future of the band as he works to establish his own legacy.

GENERAL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

As a student in the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite Band, you will have the opportunity to gain scholarships, travel to many locations around the country, become a part of a prosperous university and band tradition, and regularly perform for audiences across the nation as a representative of the university. Within the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite, you will form special bonds and relationships with the staff and fellow bandmates that will last a lifetime.

FILL OUT THE AUDITION FORM

This form tells us some basic information about you, including your contact information, parent/guardian name, numbers, etc., which will help us keep you updated on important dates and information.

APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITY

Incoming freshmen and transfer students should apply for admission to the university using the free application on Alcorn State University's Admissions page. If help is needed with financial aid, you can visit Alcorn State University's Financial Aid page. Lastly, you can find out about housing by clicking here for Alcorn State University's Residential Life.

AUDITION

Follow the audition details below.

Link: <https://forms.gle/iJR6bS7ojDRCqHx56>



AUDITION CODE

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AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

INCOMING FRESHMEN

1. Must be at least 17 years of age at the time of auditions
2. Acceptance letter from Alcorn State University (By Round 2)
3. Copy of Unofficial Transcript showing a High School GPA of 2.5 or greater
4. Submit 2 photos (Full body In dance Costume or All Black Dance Attire and Headshot)
5. Strong academic background
6. Positive attitude and work ethic
7. Performance experience and leadership skills
8. Video Audition and Interview (Round 1) and invitation to an in-person audition (Round 2)
9. \$125 Non-Refundable Application Fee for in-person auditions

CURRENT STUDENTS

1. Must currently be enrolled at Alcorn State University
2. Copy of Unofficial Transcript showing a 2.5 Cumulative GPA or greater (screenshots are acceptable)
3. Submit 2 photos (Full body In dance Costume or All Black Dance Attire and Headshot)
4. Strong academic background
5. Positive attitude and work ethic
6. Performance experience and leadership skills
7. Video Audition and Interview (Round 1) and invitation to an in-person audition (Round 2)
8. \$125 Non-Refundable Application Fee for in-person auditions



AUDITION REQUIREMENTS



ROUND 1

The World Renowned Golden Girls of Alcorn State University Round 1 audition video submission will consist of prospective candidates recording their audition routine of no more than 90 seconds and uploading the recording to an Unlisted YouTube Video (through the QR Code link below).

The submission video can be original content to express the creativity, agility, technical ability, and stamina. Music in the audition video should consist of the the "clean" version of the prospective candidate's song choices (no profanity). *The submission dates for 2026 will begin on January 1st the and close on February 25th at 11:59 p.m. CST.* Prospective candidates are required to include their full name, age, academic status (continuing student at Alcorn State University, pending admission to Alcorn State University, admitted to Alcorn State University, transfer student, etc.) in their submission. Prospective candidates are also required to submit two clear image photographs of themselves (including a headshot/face photo and full body picture). They are also required to participate in virtual and/or in person interviews.

Submissions with missing information will not be judged. Prospective candidates will receive a confirmation email within 72 hours of a submission being received.

AUDITION CODE



AUDITION REQUIREMENTS



ROUND 2

Prospective candidates will be notified by March 5, 2026. These candidates will receive an emailed invitation to the in-person audition, which will be held at the Fine Arts Building on the campus of Alcorn State University in the Samuel S. Griffin Band Hall on Saturday-Sunday, April 18-19, 2026. The invitation email will provide detailed information concerning the time and place of the in-person auditions, as well as attire and a schedule for the day. All prospective candidates invited to Round 2 are required to be admitted to Alcorn State University.

NOTE

By participating in this process you understand that auditions are CLOSED to the public. Selections are final and scores will not be shared with applicants/candidates/coaches/friends/family, etc. Further, all applicants/candidates are required to audition regardless of any previous affiliation, who you may know on the team, who trained you, how many clinics you attended, whether or not you were previously a member of the World Renowned Golden Girls, etc. Hence, NO ONE is guaranteed a spot from year to year. Please note that there are fees associated with participation. Please consider this before you agree to audition.

*Apply to Alcorn State University (If you have applied and have not heard back, PLEASE email MR. SIMMONS at drsimmons@alcorn.edu. Please include your first and last name and your date of birth (DOB) and that you are attempting to ensure acceptance to the University before auditions.



AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

BASIC SKILLS FOR IN-PERSON AUDITION

Potential Candidates will be evaluated on Dance and Technical Abilities, Musicality, Agility, Personal Appearance, Showmanship, Energy, Stamina, Poise, Creativity, Enthusiasm, Flexibility, and Physical Fitness.

1. Toe Touch
2. Right and Left Kick
3. Right and Left Split
4. Forward Roll
5. Backbend
6. Walk overs
7. Pop Up
8. Elbow Cartwheel
9. Marching
10. Dance
11. Barrel Roll
12. Heel stretch (left and right)
13. Character and Compatibility for the Team

Qualities of an Ideal Candidate

1. Mastery of Dance Skills
2. Ability to Learn Quickly
3. Agility and Flexibility
4. Experience being a member of a Marching Band Auxiliary
5. Strong Academic Record
6. Leadership Abilities
7. Creativity and Showmanship
8. Good Physical Health and Stamina
9. Positive Attitude
10. Character and Compatibility for the Team

Optional Skills such as tumbling, aerial, Firebird, calypso, leg extension, back handspring, tuck, leaps, spins, agility skills, etc. may add extra consideration to your final assessment. All applicants/candidates are required to audition regardless of any previous affiliation, who you may know on the team, who trained you, how many pre audition clinics you attended, whether or not you were previously a member of this team, etc. Hence, NO ONE is guaranteed a spot from year to year. Selections are final and scores will not be shared with applicants/candidates.

QUICK GUIDE

Step 1: Submit Round 1 Audition Video Link and Photos by February 25, 2026 at 11:59 pm (Use The QR Code Below)

Step 2: Candidate Receives an Invitation to Round 2 In-Person Auditions by March 5, 2026.

Step 3: Accept the Invitation by March 8, 2026.

Step 4: In-Person Audition at Alcorn State University - April 18-19, 2026.

Step 5: CONGRATULATIONS! Successful Candidates will attend in-person and virtual rehearsals Summer 2026 and band camp beginning August 2026

For any questions please contact Dr. Kecia Ashley at kashley@soundsofdynamite.com.

AUDITION CODE



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MEET OUR STAFF



Dr. Kecia M. Ashley

Coordinator of Auxiliaries

Sponsor, World Renowned Golden Girls

Dr. Kecia M. Ashley is a business owner, non-profit founder, academic scholar, and published author who comes from a family of proud Alcornites. A career educator, Dr. Ashley graduated from Alcorn State University in 1992 with a degree in English Secondary Education. During her time at Alcorn State University, she was a member of the World Renowned Golden Girls (1989-1991) in the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite Marching Band. She also was initiated into the Gamma Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Dr. Ashley received her Master's Degree, Administrative Certification, and Educational Specialist Degree from The University of Alabama in Birmingham, and she received her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Samford University in Birmingham, AL. Dr. Ashley has been in the field of education for over 32 years as a teacher, school, and district-level administrator, consultant, college professor, and high education administrator. She also coached and sponsored dance, cheer, and flag during her career and mentors youth in her spare time. She currently serves as the Second Vice President of the SOD Club. Dr. Ashley is originally from Port Gibson, Mississippi.

MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS



ALCORN LEGACY - VIRTUAL TOUR

Alcorn State University, a Historically Black College and University, is a comprehensive land-grant institution that celebrates a rich heritage with a diverse student and faculty population. The University emphasizes intellectual development and lifelong learning through the integration of diverse pedagogies, applied and basic research, cultural and professional programs, public service, and outreach while providing access to globally competitive academic and research programs. Alcorn strives to prepare graduates to be well-rounded future leaders of high character and to be successful in the global marketplace of the 21st century.

JOIN SOD, BECOME #SOD4LIFE

Becoming a member of the Sounds of Dyn-O-mite is more than just "being in the band." You gain entry into a multi-generational family that has sustained a legacy of musical and performance-based excellence that has stood the test of time.

Learn from current students and understand exactly why Alcorn is the perfect place to start the road toward your dreams and develop your true potential. Learn why you should become **#SOD4Life!**



SOD MEDIA TEAM FOOTAGE

Access the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite Marching band media team's Youtube channel. The page was created to share the Alcorn State University Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite Marching Band community access to high-quality recordings and films of the band. Take this opportunity to envision yourself in this amazing ensemble.



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