

Appendix D: Frequently Asked Questions

· Do sectionals for marching band count for tracking hours? It is required to participate and play for one of the varieties of sectionals held during each week of marching band.

- Absolutely! So if you are practicing outside of regularly scheduled marching band rehearsals, that time can count toward your hours. What would not count is participating in a regularly scheduled rehearsal or sectional that is held during band camp or regular season.

· Let's say that my chapter does not have a rush class for the incoming fall school year. If we were to have a spring rush class in 2021, how would the hours of the membership candidates add to the hours needed to be completed by the chapter per month?

- Membership candidates and conditional members are also encouraged to participate in the challenge. If you have a spring class during those months, you can include them in your total practice hour goals (using the formula provided to calculate that exact number value).

· Does the program begin at the start of school in August and end when school is out of session for the year?

- Chapters should track practice hours each month that school is in session, or within the timeframe that you agreed to run this initiative. The start and end timeframes are somewhat ambiguous, and that was on purpose because every school has a slightly different academic calendar.

· What is defined as practice, and who decides if it's practice or not? Does the FGP Coordinator decide what is practice or not?

- **Any practice that takes place outside of a regularly scheduled rehearsal/class can count for practice hours for the For Greater Practice Initiative. The National Program Guide outlines what activities can be defined as practice and how to track hours for group proactive as well. See [Appendix A](#) and the below list for approved practice activities:**
 - Participating in the sectionals for large or small band ensembles (Snare line sectionals, low brass sectionals, etc.).

- Participating in an Instrumental Master Class (Not just being there, actively playing/conducting).
- Participating in an Auxiliary Clinic (Not just being there, actively spinning/dancing).
- Participating in a Conductor's Symposium (Not just being there, actively conducting).
- Music preparation for Chapter/Joint Chapter
- Recital rehearsals
- Membership Candidate Recital
- Music practice for Coda Projects
- Music practice Crescendo Projects
- Music preparation for Women In Music Recitals
- Practice for ensemble auditions or chair ranking
- Instrumental ensemble pass offs
- Music preparation for instrumental accompaniment for rituals

· Would activities such as mouthpiece exercises, reading through new music, breathing and breath support exercises, or stretching (guard) count as practice?

- Absolutely! Other activities that members can use include:
- Practice rhythm and sight-reading skills (can practice sight reading vocally).
- Research some of their previous or current band repertoire to better understand the piece(s). Also, finding recordings of them so that they can listen to and understand the piece.
- Do breathing exercises like breathing gym and stretches like yoga for musicians every day to stay in shape.
- Score Study
- Research the background of a piece of music
- Listen to performances of songs that they are looking to play to hear how they should be performed.
- Practicing for a handbells concert
- Practicing another instrument they may have access to at home (ukulele, recorder, piano, etc)

· How many members of the chapter need to participate in the challenge?

- We are encouraging all active members to practice. If they do not have access to their instruments or a practice space they can use some of the ideas within this guide. The For Greater Practice Initiative was designed to help chapter members serve their

bands and bring a more musical approach to community-based projects. While the guidance within this document refers directly to members with active status, conditional members and membership candidates are highly encouraged to participate as well! As your chapter calculates your weekly and monthly goals, you may count conditional members and membership candidates in your total practice hour goals.

What does “while school is in session” mean? Could part of our 3 months occur during a school break, or would that violate the challenge?

- The most important part of the challenge is to achieve the chapter’s goal. Most chapters do not conduct business over breaks, so that is where the "while school is in session" part comes from. If they happen to track hours over the winter break- that is fine, as long as they reach that 3-month goal. Additionally, if a chapter takes longer than three consecutive months to reach that 3-month goal- that is fine as well because the main objective is to meet the overall goal.