**Ten Favorite College Theme Songs**

I was on YouTube looking at some lists, and one common list was the “My favorite college songs”. I decided to make up my own list based on familiarity and significance. After all, the ugly lyrics from a high school song kept showing up in my thought process: “We sober up on wood alcohol!” As a chemist, these lyrics portray a definitely bad approach to college football cheering or anything else.

1. **Notre Dame: “Notre Dame Victory March”** The Rev. Michael J. Shea, a 1905 Notre Dame graduate, wrote the music, and his brother, John F. Shea, who earned degrees from Notre Dame in 1906 and 1908, wrote the original lyrics. This is the classic fight song that has the corrupted lyrics glorifying the college drinking phenomena. It is also used by many high schools throughout the country. Notre Dame has a large percentage of students in music activities. [Band1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixGw_6nDfO0)
2. **Michigan: “Hail to the Victors”** The song was composed by University of Michigan student Louis Elbel in 1898. The song was first played publicly by [John Philip Sousa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Philip_Sousa) and his band. Sousa also wrote “[Pride of the Wolverines](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aecX5M_cJU)” by Detroit mayor request in 1926. This large band is famous for the block M. It has the most recordings and biggest college band reputation. They benefit from excellent high school band programs throughout the state of Michigan. Go BLUE! [Band2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TVcKYpZrj0)
3. **Ohio State: “Buckeye Battle Cry; (Fight the team) Across the Field;”** The best band in the land! (claim in dispute especially by the band up North) The “Pride of the Buckeyes” band is famous for the marching script Ohioand performing across the state and other places. [Band3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SkeBH0jbYo%20)
4. **University of Southern California: “Fight On!; Conquest”** USC's fight song was composed in 1922 by USC dental student Milo Sweet as an entry to inspire fans and players in a Trojan spirit contest. USC's regal processional march, Conquest was composed in 1947 by Alfred Newman for the movie. That white horse, Traveler, and the Trojans keep coming down the field. [Band4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hsz4S8xJ-PM)
5. **Oklahoma: “Boomer Sooner”** The Pride band. The horse-drawn sooner-schooner wagon parades onto the field after every touchdown. [Band5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFGpTt2sPQ4)
6. **Texas: “The Eyes of Texas”** The natural rival of the other team up North. Everything is bigger here, even the Longhorn Band. [Band6](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IluO8RpJ9u0)
7. **Alabama: “Yea, Alabama!”** The Million Dollar Band for a team that is competing for number 1 for so long and gets a lot of TV time and coverage. [Band7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqgAj65Aw1Y)
8. **Clemson: “Tiger Rag”** Winning in the college football ranking gives the band more exposure. Not the fight song, but played frequently since the team nickname is the “Tigers”. [Band8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRTmfUdN3CA%20)
9. **Northwestern: “Go U Northwestern”** It was written in 1912 by Theodore Van Etten, a student in the marching band. The refrain keeps ringing in my head; I saw over 20 games at their stadium. This song is also used by many high schools. [Band9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEcYPZy3m78)
10. **Wisconsin: “On Wisconsin”** The best cheerleader dance routine song. Back in the 1960’s, the Caltech band would invite a local cheerleading dance squad to perform at the game. This song would be played at ever increasing speed, until the dance squad either couldn’t keep up the pace, or started laughing. Special Note: “Jump Around” after the 3rd quarter. [Band10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOYus1BE7jk)

My apologies to the following bands that make many of the YouTube “Top Ten” lists:

**Texas A&M, Fighting Texas Aggie Band** – large military band with complex formations [Band11](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR5G8Wzhyjw)

**Tennessee, Pride of the Southland** – color orange and has adopted “Rocky Top” [Band12](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_n9prNixjbg&t=52s)

**Ohio University, Marching 110** – the other great band from Ohio [Band13](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vqq9pNOl-a0)

**Penn State, Blue Band** – saw them in the 2017 Rose Parade [Band14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppUIKZnTKVg)

**Stanford, the Tree** – takes individualism to a new level [Band15](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IhLOYr5f_M)

**Florida State, Marching Chiefs** – “World-Renowned”, but not necessarily for playing music [Band16](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhlGTBLlDRc)

**Michigan State, Victory for MSU** - Falcone Fight [Band17](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46cylwrNaoM)

**University of Nebraska** – BIG RED and white marches on [Band18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ss9hxYb0cc)

================High School Band Addition from 2021================

Louis went to Hollywood High School in Hollywood, California. The school motto was “**Achieve the Honorable**”. Therefore, Honorable Mention has to go to the **“University of Illinois Loyalty Song”** which serves as the theme song for Hollywood High with small changes in the lyrics; it is also used by many other high schools in the country. [Band20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nl_dKkxYs-g) [Band21](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nl_dKkxYs-g) (all 3 UI songs)

The fight song for the Illini is “Oskee-Wow-Wow”. [Band22](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEgOZNWIhjg)

Adapted from the University of Illinois Loyalty Song, “We’re Loyal to You Illinois,” words and music by T.H. Guild, copyright 1907, by T.H. Guild.   
  
We’re loyal to you Hollywood!  
We’re crimson and white, Hollywood!  
We’ll back you to stand, ‘gainst the best in the land.  
For we know you have sand, Hollywood!  
    Rah!   Rah!  
Then win for us now, Hollywood;  
We’re backing you all, Hollywood;  
Our team is our fame protector.  
On boys, for we expect a   
Vict’ry from you Hollywood.  
        Che’hee, che-ha, che-ho, ha ha  
        Che’hee, che-ha, che-ho, ha ha  
Hollywood!  Hollywood!    H o l l y w o o d !  
  
Fling out that dear old flag of crimson and white;  
Lead on your sons and daughters who for you fight;  
Like men of old on giants, placing reliance,  
Shouting defiance; Oskee-Wow-Wow!  
Beneath these grand old hills, the best in the land.  
For honest labor and for learning we stand,  
And unto you we pledge our heart and hand,   
Our Alma Mater, Hollywood!  
Alma Mater, Hollywood.

