



NOTRE DAME LEPRECHAUN

The University of Notre Dame Leprechaun

Tryout Information

Updated: February 2026

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Notre Dame Leprechaun is an extension of the cheerleading program, an athletic program supporting all athletics and realms of the University of Notre Dame. As a program, it is of utmost importance to support and foster educational success for each athlete. The program should help in the development of a responsible, mature, and well-rounded adult, both physically and mentally, as well as spiritually. Through the cheerleading and leprechaun programs, members will develop leadership skills, communication, teamwork, management, and the ability to adapt to new and evolving situations, all of which will foster personal growth.

As a Leprechaun at the University of Notre Dame, athletes are expected to enhance and/or create spirit among fans, students, the public, within the team, and all people they encounter. Representing the University in an honorable manner is expected at all times; on campus, during games, at practice, while visiting communities, whether locally or while traveling, on social media, and as an individual in all walks of life. This should be done by not only performing all cheerleading-related activities but also by graciously partaking in public service and interacting with fans and the public in a professional and welcoming manner.

LEPRECHAUN OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For the 2026-2027 academic year, there will be up to 4 students selected to portray the Leprechaun and represent the University of Notre Dame. Their responsibilities vary with their performance ability, seniority, and availability. The leprechaun represents Notre Dame Athletics at all football, men's and women's basketball, volleyball, men's and women's soccer, hockey, men's and women's lacrosse, softball, baseball, and additional events across campus and throughout the community.

RESOURCES

Resources provided to members of the program are athletic training, strength and conditioning, sports nutrition, sports psychology, approved class misses for travel, and priority scheduling.

TRYOUT INFORMATION MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP INFO: Location – Heritage Hall of The Joyce Center (enter through Gate 2 entrance)

Wednesday, March 25th, 5:30 p.m. - Tryout Submission Information Meeting

Tuesday, March 31st & Wednesday, April 1st, 5:30 p.m. (attend one of the two) - Tryout Submission Workshop

Wednesday, April 15th, 5:30 p.m. - In-Person Tryout Planning and Workshop

TRYOUT ELIGIBILITY

- Leprechaun candidates must be current Notre Dame students.
- Students with a GPA above 2.0 are eligible.
- Students must be enrolled in full-time (12 hours) to be eligible.
- Students must be in good disciplinary and academic standing with the university. An in-person interview will be conducted during the final tryout process.

TRYOUT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following documentation must be submitted with video submissions, which are due on **Tuesday, April 7th at 5 p.m.** Tryout Submission can be submitted through this [form](#).

TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS

The following paperwork is required if selected for the final in-person tryout in April.

- **Up-to-date physical (within 6 months of the tryout date)**
- [Tryout Waiver](#)
- [Health Questionnaire Form](#)

PERSONAL STATEMENT

The program is seeking well-rounded students-athletes and individuals who demonstrate required skills and are committed to:

- Academic and athletic excellence
- Community Service
- Ambassadorship for the University in all aspects

Please discuss in a **maximum of 1-minute video**, using examples, your willingness and ability to hold to the ideals stated above. Please provide any information regarding any extenuating circumstances about which you feel we should be aware. For more information on the mission and values of the University of Notre Dame Athletic Department, please visit fightingirish.com.

SUBMISSION AND TRYOUTS

Video Submission: The video should be a **minimum of one minute and a maximum of two minutes**. There is no content requirement for this video, and it is not required to be of professional quality. This video should be used as a medium to display creativity, excitement, and passion and to set you apart from others as a candidate for the next Notre Dame Leprechaun. Submissions are sent via Google Folder to cheerleading staff to ndcheer@nd.edu.

Candidates will be chosen and invited to the final tryout. The final 8-10 candidates will be invited to the formal tryout. **Invitations for the Final Tryout will be extended via email no later than Friday, April 10th at 7 p.m. (dates are subject to change pending the spring athletics schedule).**

FINAL TRYOUT INFORMATION

Tryout Components:

Part 1. Spring Athletic Event - W. Lax vs. Louisville - Thursday, April 16th, 5 p.m.

- Pending the candidate's academic availability

Components:

1. In-Game Persona
2. Fan Interaction

Part 2. In-Person Tryout – The PIT of the Joyce Center on Friday, April 24th at 6 p.m.

Open to Students and the Campus Community

Components:

1. Media/On-Camera Experience
2. Mock Pep Rally or In-Game Experience
3. Community Involvement Skit
4. Formal Interview – Closed to the public.
 - a. Casual attire for the interview is recommended.

Part 3. Blue-Gold Game (if applicable or necessary for final decisions)

1. In-Game Persona
2. Fan Interaction

CANDIDATE SELECTIONS

Selections will be announced a minimum of one day following the completion of the tryout and a maximum of one week following the completion of the tryout. The format in which this will be announced will be communicated to the candidates before the conclusion of their tryout. If announcements are made in time, selected students will join the cheerleading team meeting on Sunday, April 26th.

