



Abilene Christian University

Welcome to the

2024 Big Purple Marching Band

This is your marching band handbook and syllabus. Read it and fill out the [Handbook Acknowledgement Google Form](#).



DIRECTORS and STAFF

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP

DRUM MAJORS

Kierra Bacon, Matthew Darby, Karissa Ward

OFFICERS

President – Lydia Copeland
Vice President – Patrick Slafko
Secretary – Amy Stephens
Historian/Social Med./Photographer – Ashlynn Smith
Historian/Social Med./Photographer – Autum Olivas
Chaplain – Macey Bridgeman
Ops – Jason Miller, Laura Evans, Lydia Copeland, Jude Torres
Fossil Rep - Matthew Darby
Senior Rep – Royal Carnes
Junior Rep – Creed Ezell
Sophomore Rep – Hawke Ratliff
Freshman Rep – (TBD pending elections)
Librarian – Lauren Graves

SECTION LEADERS

Flute/Piccolo – Abigail Shields
Clarinet – Ryan Gussert
Saxophones – Cierra Zamora
Trumpet – Royal Carnes
Horn/Mello – Laura Gill
Trombone – Anahi Romero
Low Brass - Steven-Daniel Meyer
Brandon Cheever - Sousaphone
Battery Percussion – Creed Ezell
Front Ensemble Percussion – Megan Denton
Colorguard – Kylie McLeod

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK/SYLLABUS

The purpose of this handbook is to inform all members of the Big Purple Marching Band policies and expectations.

MEMBERSHIP and REHEARSAL

Open to all students enrolled at ACU and other local colleges and universities. You must be registered in one of the following courses: MPEI 210.01 (PE credit); MPEI 301.01 (non-credit); MPEI 311.01 (credit)

Rehearsals are MW 11:15-12:45, and F 11:50 am-12:45 pm on the Stompin' Grounds. Friday rehearsals before a home game are usually held at the stadium and begin at 11:15.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goals of the Big Purple Marching Band are:

- To promote excellence in rehearsal and performance
- To foster school spirit at game day, at ACU, and in the Abilene community
- To be a strong social and spiritual support system for all of its members
- To provide a lab experience for music education majors

EXPECTATIONS

To achieve the goals of the Big Purple, each member is expected to:

- Arrive on time for all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances
- Follow the Google [ACU Bands calendar](#) for rehearsals, events, and updates, and add to your calendars
- Set up Canvas for notifications and announcements, access to course documents, etc.
- Prepare your music to the best of your ability including memorization
- Have a positive and supportive attitude
- Fully cooperate with directors, drum majors, officers, section leaders, and staff

Any member may be removed or have their role reassigned at any time at the discretion of the directors.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION CREDIT POLICY FOR 2024

Students are required to obtain 500 spiritual formation points per semester. All Big Purple Marching Band members receive 150 points, reducing the total 350 points. There are other points awarded through the band during the semester (band retreat and other chapels and meetings).

ATTENDANCE and GRADING

Large ensembles, especially the Big Purple, are unique and unlike other classes. Your attendance is vital to the success of this organization! Please stay on top of your calendar, take care of your health, and communicate with the directors, the officers, and your section leader.

ABSENCE POLICY

Students are allowed up to 3 absences (or the equivalent of one rehearsal week) for the semester. Absences will be considered "excused" and will not count towards the student's total absences for the semester when the student provides a University Approved Absence form seven days prior to the absence.

Absences beyond 3 (or one rehearsal week) will be considered for exemption if they fall under certain categories and are documented through SOAR. Excused absences due to extended illness or emergencies will be considered when documentation from SOAR is provided. SOAR, our Student Advocacy Resource on campus, is equipped to assist students facing long-term medical or mental health challenges or other types of emergencies. The instructor will take SOAR's documentation into account when determining the impact of these absences on the student's academic standing and participation requirements. This process ensures that students receive the appropriate support during critical situations while maintaining the integrity of our academic and performance standards. Information on SOAR can be [found on their website](#), emailing soar@acu.edu, or by calling 325-674-2036.

REHEARSAL GRADING POLICY

- A 0-3 absences
- B 4 absences
- C 5 absences, ½ reduction of participation scholarship
- D 6 absences, ¾ reduction of participation scholarship
- F 7 or more absences, participation scholarship is forfeited

DRESS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE GRADING POLICY

Missing a dress rehearsal (Friday before a game or game day) or performance is not permitted and will affect your grade and your participation scholarship for the semester. The amount is determined by the directors.

APPAREL FEE

Every member of the marching band is charged an apparel fee of \$160. This fee will be charged to your student account and covers the following:

- \$35 - covers normal wear and cleaning costs for uniforms.
- \$125 - Hat, Big Purple polo, Big Purple athletic t-shirt, black athletic shorts, black tennis shoes (use new for performances only and possibly stadium rehearsal), gloves.

UNIFORM POLICY

Each member is assigned a uniform, and it is your responsibility to care for the uniform appropriately.

- Uniform check out times will be announced. The uniform room is WPAC B25 in the basement.
- Uniforms are turned in after the final performance at the posted times. A \$10 per day fee will be charged to your account if you fail to turn in the entire uniform.
- Adjust pant length so they do not drag the ground.
- Take care in putting the plume in the shako. All the way in and don't crack the guide.
- Keep track of all uniform parts issued to you, and treat our uniforms with care at all times.

ADDITIONAL UNIFORM INFORMATION

Provide your own **long black socks**. Our alternate uniform for performances is the ACU Bands polo (tucked in) with black dress shorts or pants. You **provide your own** shorts and pants. Guidelines/examples:

Shorts: Style - plain with no holes or markings. Men's length at the knee, with the bottom of the shorts no higher than 2 inches above the kneecap, and no lower than the center of the knee cap. Women's length must have an inseam of 7-9 inches (mid-thigh or lower). A flat front (non-pleated), non-cuffed short. No cargo shorts or shorts with protruding pockets are allowed. **Pants:** The pants should be plain and black (non-faded/no patterns). No leggings. If your shorts/pants have belt loops you are required to wear a belt.



INSTRUMENTS and EQUIPMENT

Instruments may be rented for a fee of \$50 per semester. This includes school-owned marching instruments and a fee for percussion and colorguard members. Instruments must be returned at the end of marching season (basketball band members recheck their instruments out). Lockers and combination locks are provided to all members with the exception of Colorguard. You are responsible for lost, damaged or stolen ACU instruments and equipment. You will be charged for damage caused by negligence. Keep your instrument(s) **locked** in your locker when not in use.

Feel free to visit the music store in the main office for supplies such as reeds, cork grease, valve oil, etc. These may be charged to your account.

ADDITIONAL FEES AND EXPENSES

All fees will be charged to your student account.

Lost or Damaged Items:

Uniform jacket	\$500	Plume	\$30
Uniform pants	\$200	Garment bag	\$25
Baldric	\$100	Flip folder	\$10
Shako & Box	\$100	Percussion folder	\$10

Optional Items:

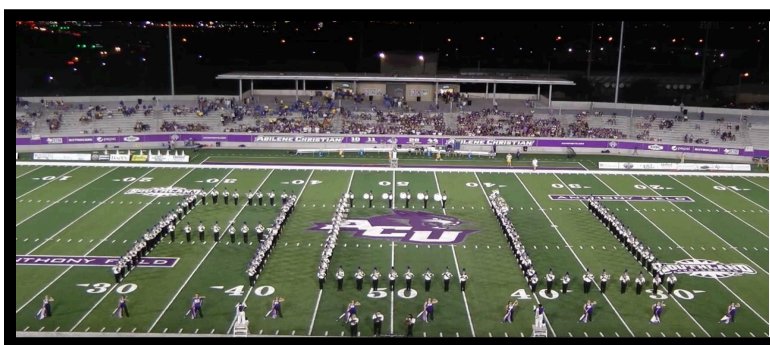
Big Purple t-shirt	\$10	Vibes ear plugs (encouraged)	\$12
Show theme t-shirt	\$10	Band Retreat (includes t-shirt)	\$45

DRESS CODE

Members should review the ACU dress code and dress accordingly for rehearsals and all other events. Please visit the [General University Policy Dress Code](#) webpage for more specific information.

MARCHING REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

- Be on time with everything you need. Bring **all music** to every rehearsal (halftime, pregame, stands). Come to the WPAC quickly after chapel ends on Fridays.
- Get your lanyard and coordinate sheets from your section leader when you arrive.
- Lanyards are worn at all rehearsals for coordinate sheets and attendance. If you forget to get your lanyard, you will be counted absent.
- **Wear athletic shoes at all times. No bare feet, sandals, flip-flops, crocs, etc. For your safety!**
- No cell phone use during rehearsal, except as directed.



GAME DAY PROCEDURE

Always check the [ACU Bands calendar](#) for itineraries and additional game day details. Below is a typical schedule.

This schedule is subject to change for each game.

10:30-11:00	Percussion/Guard rehearsal at stadium
11:00-12:00	Full Band rehearsal at stadium
12:00-4:00	FREE TIME
4:15	Meet at stadium, southwest corner
4:30	Wildcat Walk/Tailgate performance
5:15	Eat at tailgate
6:40	Pregame performance
7:00	Kickoff

EXPECTATIONS

Music

- Strive to memorize **all** of the music we play. Please use the mp3s in Canvas to help with your learning and memorization of the music. Memorization is expected on the following:
 - ACU Essentials (includes pregame)
 - ACU Essential Stand Cheers
 - Halftime music
- Do your best to memorize **all** stand cheers and any other music we play in the stands.
- If you lose/misplace a piece of music, don't wait. Print off the pdf yourself or see the librarian immediately. Same with flip folder.
- Do your best! If you need assistance or have a question, ask your section leader, an officer or other leader, or a director.

Game Day

- Early is on time. Do not be late. Traffic/parking WILL be an issue. Communicate to your section leader and directors if you are going to be late.
- Arrive fully dressed in the correct uniform. Suspenders of the uniform pants should be over the shoulders at all times. T-shirt sleeves may not be rolled.
- Have everything you need: flip folders/binder with **all** music, white gloves, the Big Purple baseball cap (remember this is the only hat allowed in the stands), etc.
- Check the calendar carefully for any changes.
- Remember, you are being watched at all times! Represent yourself, our organization, the Big Purple Family, and ACU appropriately.

In the stands/at stadium

- Stay engaged in the game and be ready to play at all times. Listen for announcement, whistle, if we have a sign with a number and/or title of tune, etc. Don't miss the first note!
- Only Band members (and occasionally alumni or invited prospective students) sit in our designated area in the stands. Do your best not to permit people to walk through our ranks. If there is a problem see a drum major or director.
- Support the team and the cheerleaders appropriately and positively.
- Avoid overly rude statements/cheers/etc. about the opposing team or referees.
- Cell phone use should be kept to an **absolute minimum** and not interfere with playing in the stands.

- Do not throw anything into the air, spray anything in the air, etc. This is dangerous, no matter how “lightweight” or innocuous it seems. We are sitting close together, with expensive instruments, focused on playing and doing our job (and having a great time!).
- Keep the stands looking organized and clean.
- Sit with your section in your assigned location—do not roam around the band.
- We do NOT go to the concession stand during the game. Bring food if you need it, and make sure it is appropriate – power bars, Big/Little treats, etc. Nothing “gooey” or anything that will possibly damage our uniform or interfere with our job in the stands.
- One member at a time per section may leave to get water or visit the restroom. Check in with your section leader and go quickly!

PERFORMING and EVENTS SCHEDULE (see the online calendar for specific times & details)

Monday Aug 26	Opening Assembly (Moody Coliseum)
Saturday Sept 7	Home Game vs. West Georgia
Saturday Sept 21	Home Game vs. Idaho
Saturday Oct 5	Home Game vs. Central Arkansas
Saturday Oct 19	Homecoming vs. Eastern Kentucky
Saturday Nov 2	Home Game vs. Southern Utah
Nov 8-10	Band Retreat
Friday Nov 22	Wind Ensemble concert
TBA	Christmas for Kids

Annual Band Retreat (Nov 8-10)

Band Retreat is one of the highlights of the year! Held annually at the Heart of Texas Bible Camp in Brady, this is a weekend of fun and fellowship, with games, sports, the no-talent talent show, devotional times and plenty of R&R. Come enjoy a weekend where the band instruments are left at home and Big Purple members enjoy time together as a band family and friends. Attendance is highly recommended!



Christmas for Kids

Christmas for Kids is a decades-old tradition. We participate in the Salvation Army’s “Angel Tree” program with our own tree, raising money and shopping to help underprivileged families.

ALPHA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Abilene Christian University is dedicated to removing barriers and opening access for students with disabilities in compliance with ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The Alpha Scholars Program facilitates disability accommodations in cooperation with instructors. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with [Alpha Scholars Program](#), and you must complete a specific request for each class in which you need accommodations.

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, the office is located in the Hardin Admin building Rm 124 or call the Alpha office directly (325) 674-2699.

Protecting Your Hearing Health

Student Information Sheet on Noise-Induced Hearing Loss

A NASM – PAMA Student Information Sheet on Noise-Induced Hearing Loss

Hearing health is essential to your lifelong success as a musician.

Your hearing can be permanently damaged by loud sounds, including music. Technically, this is called Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). Such danger is constant.

Noise-induced hearing loss is generally preventable. You must avoid overexposure to loud sounds, especially for long periods of time.

The closer you are to the source of a loud sound, the greater the risk of damage to your hearing mechanisms. Sounds over 85 dB (your typical vacuum cleaner) in intensity pose the greatest risk to your hearing.

Risk of hearing loss is based on a combination of sound or loudness intensity and duration.

Recommended maximum daily exposure times (NIOSH) to sounds at or above 85 dB are as follows:

- 85 dB (vacuum cleaner, MP3 player at 1/3 volume) – 8 hours
- 90 dB (blender, hair dryer) – 2 hours
- 94 dB (MP3 player at 1/2 volume) – 1 hour
- 100 dB (MP3 player at full volume, lawnmower) – 15 minutes
- 110 dB (rock concert, power tools) – 2 minutes
- 120 dB (jet planes at take-off) – without ear protection, sound damage is almost immediate

Certain behaviors (controlling volume levels in practice and rehearsal, avoiding noisy environments, turning down the volume) reduce your risk of hearing loss. Be mindful of those MP3 earbuds. See chart above.

If you are concerned about your hearing health in relationship to your program of study, consult the appropriate contact person at your institution.

This information is provided by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and the Performing Arts Medicine Association (PAMA). For more information, check out the [full version of NASM- PAMA hearing health recommendations](#).

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