



Abilene Christian University

Welcome to the

2023 Big Purple Marching Band

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

Join Remind! TEXT @bigpurple to 81010 to receive important Band Announcements.



DIRECTORS and STAFF

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP

DRUM MAJORS

Kierra Bacon, Matthew Darby, Karissa Ward

OFFICERS

President – Emma Forester
Vice President – Emily Fulton
Secretary – Amy Stephens
Historian/Social Media – Abigail Kallas
Photographer – Kaylee Bentle
Chaplain – Macey Bridgeman
Ops – Steven-Daniel Meyer, Caleb Myers, Aidan Martin, TBA
Fossil Rep – JC Gambill
Senior Rep – Brian Lester
Junior Rep – Royal Carnes
Sophomore Rep – Cierra Zamora
Freshman Rep – (pending elections)
Librarian – Lauren Graves

SECTION LEADERS

Piccolo – Emily Fulton
Flute – Naomi Benetiz
Clarinet – Kaylee Bentle, Johnni Fuller
Saxophones – Lauren Graves
Trumpet – Benjamin Briggs
Horn – Caleb Myers
Trombone – J. C. Gambill, Brian Lester
Baritone – Steven-Daniel Meyer
Tuba – Taylor Blankenship
Battery Percussion – Cameron Ohashi
Front Ensemble Percussion – Megan Denton
Colorguard – Anika Groeneveld, Kylie McLeod

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK/SYLLABUS

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

MEMBERSHIP and REHEARSAL

YBP is 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 – may be used once); 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 ACU and in the Abilene community
- To support the ACU football team
- 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 with announcements, 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.

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.

CHAPEL CREDIT POLICY FOR 2023

This year, students will be required to obtain 500 chapel points per semester. All members of the Big Purple Marching Band receive 150 chapel points, reducing their load to 350 points.

ABSENCE POLICY

For any absence to be excused, an email needs to be sent to **bigpurple@acu.edu** with the following information:

- Date(s) absent
- Reason for absence
- If a school related absence, describe the event/reason
- For illness, describe illness/symptoms and how long you have had them
- Student Leadership should refer to meeting discussions regarding unexcused absences
- For a university approved absence, forward the signed absence approval form to **bigpurple@acu.edu** at least **7 days before the absence**. The class/group instructor will not submit these for you!

All other absences from regular rehearsals are at the discretion of the directors, and your prompt communication will be factored into that decision.

REHEARSAL GRADING POLICY AND FEES

- A 0-2 unexcused absences
- B 3-4 unexcused absences
- C 5 unexcused absences, quarter reduction of participation scholarship
- D 6 unexcused absences, half reduction of participation scholarship
- F 7 or more unexcused absences, participation scholarship is forfeited

DRESS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE GRADING POLICY

Missing a dress rehearsal or performance is not permitted (except for absences approved beforehand!) and will affect your grade and your participation scholarship for the semester. The amount will be determined by the directors.

APPAREL FEE (New for 2023)

Every member of the marching band is charged an apparel fee of \$155. Beginning this year we will get new apparel every year, including shoes! This fee will be charged to your student account and covers the following:

- \$35 which covers normal wear and cleaning costs for uniforms (see below)
- \$125 which includes: Hat, Big Purple polo, Big Purple athletic t-shirt, black athletic shorts, black tennis shoes, gloves (colorguard included)

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
- 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, and Guidelines:

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 from ACU 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 unless you wish to pay with cash or check.

Lost or Damaged Items:

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

Optional Items:

Big Purple t-shirt	\$10 (free for 2023!)
Show theme t-shirt	\$10
Vibes ear plugs (encouraged)	\$12 per pair
Big Purple Bucket Hat	\$26
Band Retreat (includes t-shirt)	\$45 (includes t-shirt)

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 each week/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 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.
- 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 "goosey" 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. Go quickly!

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

Monday Aug 28	Opening Assembly
Thursday Aug 31	Home Game vs. Northern Colorado
Saturday Sept 9	West Texas Fair & Rodeo Parade
Saturday Sept 16	Home Game vs. Incarnate Word
Saturday Oct 7	Exhibition performance at Wylie High School
Saturday Oct 14	Homecoming vs. North Alabama
Oct 27-29	Band Retreat
Saturday Nov 4	Home Game vs. Utah Tech
Saturday Nov 11	Home Game vs. Tarleton (they are bringing their band!)
TBA	Christmas for Kids

Annual Band Retreat (Oct 27-29)

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 gather together to enjoy time together as 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.

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](#).

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.

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