

2018 Band Handbook



Abilene Christian University

Welcome to the

Big Purple Marching Band

2018

This is your marching band handbook and syllabus. Read it and sign the agreement on the last page. Tear or cut it out and return it to your section leader.

YBP!



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 held M 11:50-12:45, and WF 11:15 am – 12:45 pm on the Stompin' Grounds. The Friday rehearsals before a home game are usually held at the stadium.

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 band calendar for rehearsals, events, and updates
- 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

DIRECTORS and STAFF

Dr. Steven Ward, Director of Orchestra and Bands
Office: WPAC 129 Email: steven.ward@acu.edu
ACU phone: (325) 674-2028 Cell phone: (325) 260-4996

Dr. Brandon Houghtalen, Associate Director of Bands
Office: WPAC 130 Email: brandon.houghtalen@acu.edu
ACU phone: (325) 674-2240 Cell phone: (678) 416-6488

Dr. Allen Teel, Percussion & World Music
Office: WPAC 153 Email: teela@acu.edu
ACU phone: (325) 674-2030

Marla Diaz, Ensemble Coordinator
Office: WPAC 127 Email: marla.diaz@acu.edu
ACU phone: (325) 674-2197

Ms. Becky Mathis, Colorguard Instructor
Email: Rebecca.ruffu@gmail.com
Cell phone: (325) 370-3506

Mr. David McKnight, Assistant Drumline Instructor
Email: dmcknight@wylie.esc14.net
Work phone: 325-690-1181 ext. 2242

acu.edu/bands

DRUM MAJORS

Meghan Starteri, Alli Mae Bulkley, Hannah Webb

OFFICERS

President – Marissa Lietz

Vice President – Alanna Curley

Secretary – Lily Thornton

Historian/Social Media – Madison Pamplin

Photographer – Molly Bayer

Chaplain – Cassie Christian

Supply Committee – Dakota Mathews, Harrison Adams, Noah Pruitt,
Matt Perrin

Fossil Rep – Dakota Mathews

Senior Rep – Meghan Starteri

Junior Rep – Kellum Harris

Sophomore Rep – Noah Pruitt

Freshman Rep – (pending elections)

Librarian – Tiffany Bartgis

SECTION LEADERS

Piccolo – Kellum Harris

Flute – Ruth Cisneros

Clarinet – Alanna Curley, Harrison Adams

Alto Saxophone – Sara Broughton

Tenor Sax/Bass Clar. – Tim Yerger

Trumpet – Connor Wilson

Horn – Allison Whiddon

Trombone – Jerremy Fender

Euphonium – Noah Pruitt

Tuba – Evan Smith

Battery Percussion – Drew Young

Pit Percussion – Rachel Spelz

Colorguard – Kayla Hill, Alan Torres

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 2018

All members of the Big Purple Marching Band receive a reduced chapel credit load of 45 chapel credits for the fall semester (instead of 55). *You also receive chapel credits for our Stadium rehearsal days, Big Purple small group chapel, and Summit.*

ABSENCE POLICY

For any absence to be excused, an email needs to be sent to **Dr. Houghtalen** 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
- For a University approved absence, attach the signed absence approval form or put a hard copy in Dr. Houghtalen’s box 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

If you have received permission from the directors to miss rehearsal for class conflicts, these numbers are reduced by 1 absence.

A 0-2 unexcused absences

B 3-4 unexcused absences

C 5 unexcused absences, \$250 reduction of participation scholarship

D 6 unexcused absences, \$500 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.

INSTRUMENTS and EQUIPMENT

Instruments may be rented from ACU for a rental fee of \$50 per semester. School-owned marching instruments, including horns, trombones, baritones, and sousaphones, are provided for a \$50 rental fee. Instruments must be returned at the end of the marching season. Lockers and combination locks are provided to all members with the exception of Colorguard. Percussion and Colorguard members are charged a \$50 equipment fee.

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.

UNIFORM POLICY

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

The uniform fee of \$25 covers normal wear and cleaning costs.
(*Colorguard uniform policy below*)

- Uniforms check out times will be announced.
- The uniform room is WPAC B25 (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.

COLORGUARD UNIFORM POLICY

- A \$50 uniform fee is charged to members to cover the purchase of costumes for the new show.
- It is the responsibility of each member to wash their uniform after each performance.
- Uniforms should remain in the possession of each member until the end of the season.

FEES and EXPENSES

All fees will be charged to your student account unless you wish to pay with cash or check.

Equipment Fees

Instrument/Equipment Fee	\$50
Each additional instrument	\$35
Uniform Fee	\$25 (band)/\$50 (colorguard)

Other Required Items:

Black marching shoes	\$36
Black socks (<i>provide your own</i>)	
Color Guard dancing shoes	\$32
White gloves	\$2
Color Guard gloves	\$15
Big Purple t-shirt	\$10
Polo shirt	\$30

Optional Items:

Big Purple baseball cap	\$15
Vibe ear plugs	\$12.00 per pair
Big Purple water bottle	Free
Band Retreat	\$45 (includes t-shirt)

Lost or Damaged Items:

Uniform jacket	\$350
Uniform pants	\$150
Baldric	\$75
Shako & Box	\$75
Plume	\$25
Garment bag	\$25
Flip folder	\$10
Percussion folder	\$10

ADDITIONAL UNIFORM INFORMATION

For certain performances, especially early in the season, we use an alternate uniform (Big Purple polo and khaki shorts or black pants). Instead of using one particular brand of shorts/pants for all members, we allow students to **provide their own**. This is the best way to ensure members have shorts/pants that look and fit the best for their particular body type. Since these are part of a uniform, it is important that they conform to the following guidelines.

Shorts: The shorts must be conservative in nature with no holes or markings. The correct style is often described as a khaki chino short. Men's length must be at the knee, with the bottom of the shorts no higher than 2 inches above the knee cap, and no lower than the center of the knee cap. Women's length must have an inseam of 7-9 inches.

We prefer a flat-front (non-pleated), non-cuffed short. **No cargo shorts** or shorts with protruding pockets are allowed.

Pants: The pants, similar to above, must be plain and black (non-faded/no patterns). No leggings.

We wear our Polos tucked-in, and if your shorts/pants have belt loops you are required to wear a belt.

Please bring your shorts/pants with you to summer band—you will need them for the pep rally performance and Opening Ceremony. Affordable shorts/pants can be found online and at stores such as Target, Old Navy, etc. Examples are shown below.



MARCHING REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

- Be on time with everything you need. Bring all music to every rehearsal. Come to the WPAC quickly after chapel ends on Mondays.
- 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.
- No bare feet, sandals, or flip-flops on the marching field!
- No cell phone use during rehearsal.

DRESS CODE

Members should review the ACU dress code and dress accordingly for rehearsals and all other events.

Excerpted from ACU dress code: *Students are encouraged to demonstrate by their dress and appearance a mature Christian attitude and the ability to discern propriety. The following standards and guidelines will assist you in making decisions about your dress on campus, in class, in Chapel and at all university-sponsored events.*

- All students, staff and faculty are expected to dress with Christian appropriateness. Dress should be modest. Some extremes are not acceptable, including halter-tops, crop tops/ open midriffs, and short and/or revealing skirts or shorts. Men must wear shirts at all times.
- Clothing with inappropriate advertising, pictures and/or sayings that are contrary to the mission and Christian standards of ACU are prohibited.

GAME DAY PROCEDURE

Always check the online calendar for itineraries and additional game day details. Below is a typical schedule. **This schedule is subject to change each week.**

- 11:15-12:00 Percussion/Guard rehearsal at stadium
- 12:00-1:00 Full Band rehearsal at stadium
- 1:00-4:45 FREE TIME
- 4:45 Meet at GATA fountain
- 4:50 Wildcat Country performance
- 5:00 March to the stadium
- 5:45 Pregame performance
- 6:00 Kickoff



GAME DAY EXPECTATIONS

- Early is on time. Do not be late. Traffic/parking WILL be an issue.
- Arrive to the specified meeting place 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 with **all** music, white gloves, the Big Purple baseball cap (remember this is the only hat allowed in the stands), etc.
- Remember, you are being watched at all times while at Wildcat Country, Wildcat Stadium, and after the game. Behave accordingly and represent yourself, our organization, and ACU appropriately.

IN THE STANDS

- Stay engaged in the game and be ready to play anything at any- time. Don't miss the first note!
- Only Band members (and occasionally alumni) sit in our designated area in the stands. Do your best not to permit people to walk through our ranks.
- Support the team and the cheerleaders appropriately.
- Cell phone use should be kept to an absolute minimum and not interfere with playing in the stands.
- Big/Little treats are OK but should not interfere with our job in the stands.
- Keep the stands looking organized and clean. If the uniform jacket is not on, make sure it is in the hanging bag.
- Sit with your section—do not roam around the band.

PERFORMING and EVENTS SCHEDULE

August 27	11:00 am – Opening Ceremony
September 8	6:00 pm – Home Game vs. San Angelo
September 29	TBD – Home Game vs. Incarnate Word
October 13	8:00 am – Homecoming Breakfast/Parade
October 13	2:30 pm – Homecoming Football Game vs. Nicholls State
November 3 St.	TBD – Home Game vs. Northwestern
November 9 - 11	Band Retreat in Brady, TX
November 17	TBD – Home Game vs. Central Arkansas
December 4 Concert	7:30 pm – Big Purple Winter
TBA	Christmas for Kids

All football game kickoff times are subject to change



BIG PURPLE EVENTS

Annual Band Retreat

Band Retreat is one of the highlights of the year for the Big Purple. Held annually at the Heart o' Texas Bible Camp in Brady, this is a weekend of fun and fellowship. Activities usually include silly games, sports, the no-talent talent show and devotional times. 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. The Big Purple participates 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, located on the ACU music resources page: <http://www.acu.edu/academics/cas/music/documents/protect-your-hearing.pdf>.

SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY

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, please call the Alpha office directly (325) 674-2667.

