

2021 Band Handbook



Abilene Christian University

Welcome to the

Big Purple Marching Band

2021

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

YBP!



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

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 [ACU Bands 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

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

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

Mr. Daniel Ayala, Director, Big Purple Basketball Band
Email: dra17a@acu.edu
Cell phone: (210) 441-8258

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

Mrs. Laura Dickson
Office: WPAC 124 Email: laura.dickson@acu.edu
ACU phone: (325) 674-4892 Cell phone (325) 518-7359

Mr. Zach McKennon, Colorguard Instructor
Email: zachmckennon@gmail.com
Cell phone: (325) 514-8563

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

acu.edu/bands

DRUM MAJORS

Bailey McCall, Xel Salinas, Jada Williams

OFFICERS

President – Garrett Higbee

Vice President – Caleb Rektenwald

Secretary – Kris Finch

Historians/Photographer - Hailey Randolph, Jenna Miles

Social Media – Leighton Meyer

Chaplain – Carson Ross

Band Operations –Michael Lester, Wyatt Long, Renee Butts

Senior Rep – Bailey McCall

Junior Rep – Taylor Whitworth

Sophomore Rep – Brian Lester

Freshman Rep – (pending elections)

Librarian – Meghan Ahern

SECTION LEADERS

Piccolo – Lily Jenkins

Flute – Rachel Puckett

Clarinet – Jenna Miles, Will Stanley

Alto Saxophone – Meghan Ahern

Low Reeds – TBA

Trumpet –Michael Lester

Horn – Renee Butts

Trombone – Caleb Rektenwald, Matthew Whitwell

Euphonium – Garrett Higbee

Tuba – Carson Ross

Battery Percussion – Cameron Ohashi

Pit Percussion – Nathan Saldivar

Colorguard – Leighton Meyer

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 2021

This year, students will be required to obtain 400 chapel points per semester. All members of the Big Purple Marching Band receive 140 chapel points, reducing their load to 260 points. More details will come from the Spiritual Formation Office!

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

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, 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.

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.

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.

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--New for 2021

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

The uniform fee of \$35 covers normal wear and cleaning costs.

- Uniform 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.
- Our BRAND NEW UNIFORMS must be treated with respect and care at all times.

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	\$35

Other Required Items:

Black socks (*provide your own*)

Black marching shoes	\$36
Color Guard dancing shoes	\$32
White gloves	\$2
Color Guard gloves	\$15
Big Purple t-shirt	\$10
Polo shirt	FREE

Optional Items:

Big Purple baseball cap	\$15
Vibes ear plugs	\$12 per pair
Big Purple water bottle	FREE
Band Retreat	\$45 (includes t-shirt)

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

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, except as directed..

DRESS CODE

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

Excerpt from the ACU Dress Code:

All members of our community are responsible for the way they present themselves and how the decisions they make communicate what they value. Through the way they dress, students are encouraged to reflect their God-given worth and professional aspirations...the university is a professional and educational environment seeking to prepare students for their chosen careers. Part of the educational process is learning to dress professionally and teaching students that from the first day at ACU, the way you present yourself to faculty, staff, visitors, future employers, and fellow students matters.

- 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. Shirts must be worn 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 [ACU Bands 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 TBD
4:50	Wildcat Country performance
5:50	Pregame performance
6:05	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 or invited prospective students) 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.
- Sit with your section in your assigned location—do not roam around the band.
- Only one member at a time per section may leave to get water or visit the restroom. This should be done quickly.

PERFORMING and EVENTS SCHEDULE

September 11	Home Game vs. LA College
September 18	Home Game vs. UTPB
October 2	Home Game vs. Central AR
October 16	8:00 am – Homecoming Breakfast/Parade
October 16	Homecoming Game vs. Lamar
October 18	UIL Exhibition Performance
November 5 - 7	Band Retreat in Brady, TX
November 13	Home Game vs. Tarleton
November 20	Home Game vs. Sam Houston State
TBA	Christmas for Kids

All football game kickoff times are subject to change



BIG PURPLE EVENTS

Annual Band Retreat (Nov. 5-7)

Band Retreat is one of the highlights of the year for the Big Purple. Held annually at the Heart of 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 on the [ACU music resources page](#).

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, call the Alpha office directly [\(325\) 674-2667](tel:3256742667).

