



**WEST ALABAMA MARCHING BAND**  
**HANDBOOK**  
**2025-2026**

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*Revised 7/25*

# 2025-2026 Season Schedule

(Subject to change)

## August

- 25 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 30 - Neutral site game vs. Fort Valley State, 4:15 p.m.
  - Full WAMB Travel
  - Halftime show #1

## September

- 1 - Labor Day - Possible Night Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- 8 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 13 - Home game vs. Charleston University, 1:00pm
  - Halftime show #1
- 15 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- 20 - Home game vs. Barton College, 6:00 p.m.
  - Marching Honor Band - new music MHB only
- 22 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- 27 - Exhibition Day!
  - Marbury High School- Camellia Marching Band Festival
  - Halftime show #1
- 29 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

## October

- 4 - Home game vs. Lincoln, 6:00 p.m.
  - Halftime show #2
- 6 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 11- Bye Week
- 13 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 14 - Assessment Day - no rehearsal
- 18 - Home game vs. UWF, TBD
  - Halftime show #2
- 20 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 23 - Homecoming Bonfire, 7:00 p.m.
  - Call time, 6:30 p.m.
  - Intramural Fields
- 25 - Home game vs. Delta State, TBD
  - Homecoming
  - Halftime show #2 or Halftime with Alumni
- 27- Stadium Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 31 - Travel for away game vs. Valdosta State University
  - Possible full WAMB
  - Performing at \_\_\_\_ High School

## November

- 1 - Away game vs. Valdosta State University
  - Possible full WAMB travel
- 3 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 8 - Bye Week
- 10 - Stadium Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 15 - Home game vs. Northeastern State, TBD
  - Halftime Show #3
- 22 - Possible playoffs

- 29 - Possible playoffs

#### **December**

- 6 - Possible playoffs
  - Or Demopolis Christmas on the River Parade
    - You carpool to this
- 7 - Christmas on the Square - Downtown Livingston
  - 3:45 p.m. arrive at Regions, warmed up ready to tune.
- 13 - Possible playoffs
- 20 - Possible playoffs

#### **January**

- 13 - Mardi Gras Band reading rehearsal
- 15 - Mardi Gras Band reading rehearsal
- 22 - Mardi Gras Band rehearsal
- 29 - Mardi Gras Band rehearsal

#### **February**

- 3 - Mardi Gras Band rehearsal
- 5 - Mardi Gras Band rehearsal
- 10 - Mardi Gras Band rehearsal
- 13 - Mardi Gras Band possible departure
- 17 - Mardi Gras Band possible return

#### **March or April**

- UWA Football Spring Game - required performance for all WAMB

## **The Purpose of This Handbook**

This handbook is the text and syllabus for this course. The materials and policies contained within this handbook apply to all members of the West Alabama Marching Band (WAMB). On the first day of band camp, you will sign a handbook agreement form and turn it into the band office. You are responsible for knowing these policies and for following them.

Using this handbook requires three simple steps:

- Read it.
- Comprehend and ask questions if necessary.
- Sign and return the contract agreement.

The rules and guidelines in this handbook are designed to make the band function smoothly, efficiently, and effectively. Updates are made to this handbook as circumstances demand.

## **2025 UWA Marching Band Staff**

**Director of Bands:** Dr. Tyler Strickland, tstrickland@uwa.edu

**Assistant Director of Bands:** Mr. Carson Walker, cwalker@uwa.edu

**Majorette Instructor/Auxiliary Coordinator:** Haley Richardson, hrichardson@universitycharterschool.org

**Colorguard Instructor:** Jillian Heaster, heasterj@uwa.edu

**Drum Major:** Aubrey Smith, smitha1541@uwa.edu

**Piccolo/Clarinet:** Naomi Huckabee, huckabeen@uwa.edu

**Mellophone/Alto Sax:** Bella Johnson, johnsoni5914@uwa.edu

**Trumpet:** RJ Branch, branchr5995@uwa.edu

**Trombone/Baritone:** Jabari Caves, cavesj@uwa.edu

**Sousaphone:** Sabino Galvan, galvans@uwa.edu

**Drumline:** Auberie Sanford, sanforda8813@uwa.edu

**Front Ensemble:** Penny Nonaless, nonalesp@uwa.edu; Emily Dodge, dodgee@uwa.edu

**Guard:** Caroline McKinley, mckinleyc1929@uwa.edu

**Majorette:** Elyse Dean, deane5300@uwa.edu

**WAMB Experience Coordinators:** Sabino Galvan, galvans@uwa.edu; Caroline McKinley, mckinleyc1929@uwa.edu; Ben Sailors, sailorsb@uwa.edu; Auberie Sanford, sanforda8813@uwa.edu

The UWA Bands office is located in Foust Hall. The band's indoor music rehearsal facility is the band room in Foust. The outdoor rehearsal area is Lyon Quad.

## **The Directors' Role**

All decisions regarding WAMB rehearsals, performances, attire, musical and visual displays, scholarships, and member status, as well as other band-related decisions that may arise, are entirely at the discretion of the Director and Assistant Director. Any person who chooses to work or act in any way contrary to the stated guidelines in this handbook may be dismissed from the ensemble and all scholarship money will be forfeited. In addition, a student who quits the ensemble also forfeits their scholarship money.

## **Basic Philosophy and Principles**

### **1 - Work hard, be musical, be impressive.**

2 - Marching band is a unique musically athletic activity. A band member moves as much air in 2 hours of rehearsal as a starting football player does in a game (UC Boulder Aerosol Study, 2019). Every rehearsal will combine physical activity, mental processes, and musical pedagogy designed to improve playing, sound, and marching. It is rigorous and taxing. You cannot expect success and improvement without giving 100% effort. Our rehearsals begin on time and end on time. We will work hard.

3 - Our program is unique in its ability to provide substantial scholarship amounts to each of its members while also not requiring the payment of dues or fees. These scholarships are a reflection of your commitment, musical ability, and the time you dedicate to the program; however, financial need should not be the sole reason for your participation in the band. It is important to remember that you joined a college marching band because of your passion for music—the scholarship is an additional benefit! You have a responsibility to this organization, to each other, and to music.

### **4 - Drugs and Alcohol**

The WAMB is a unique organization. Each member represents themselves, the band, the University of West Alabama, the UWA community, their family, and their home community. The University of West Alabama regulations forbid the consumption, possession, distribution, or use of alcohol or illegal drugs. This also applies to any event involving university organizations. As a result, and as a testament to the reputation of the band, members are held to the highest standards regarding these substances. When wearing band attire, members are representing the organization and should conduct themselves accordingly.

The following rules are in effect every time you are with the WAMB, including all practices, events, performances, and trips:

- The possession and/or consumption of drugs by a student in any place or at any time during any band-related event is not permitted.
- No use of tobacco products is allowed while in uniform or during band-related events (including e-cigarettes, vape pens, etc.).
- No person shall attend any performance or practice while under the influence of alcohol or any other illegal substance.
- Wearing of ANY WAMB attire while consuming drugs/alcohol is prohibited for all members.

Violators will be turned over to University Authorities immediately and may be subject to additional disciplinary action by the Directors of the WAMB. These actions may include dismissal from the organization, forfeiture of scholarship, receipt of a failing grade, and loss of any positions held within the organization.

## **5 - Hazing**

Hazing, intimidation, baiting, harassing, comments of a sexualized nature, and discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. Any student found to have participated in any such activity will be dismissed from the band, have their scholarship revoked, and be given a failing grade. ***In addition, the student will be reported to the University Police and the Vice President of Student Affairs at the University of West Alabama. Any confirmed instance of hazing within the WAMB will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.***

## **6 – Intolerance of Others**

The University encourages a positive educational environment. To that end, the University provides programs and activities to create an environment in which diversity and understanding of other cultures is valued.

Negative actions perceived to be motivated against race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or religious belief are discriminatory. Sanctions will be imposed for any violation of University policy, rule or regulations.

For the sake of the band, individual expressions of political and personal beliefs may not be expressed while representing or participating with the University of West Alabama Bands.

## **7 – Every Day**

Every day is an interview. You are constantly being evaluated based on your punctuality, attendance, work ethic, performance, attitude, etc. All of these things impact our overall performance and appearance. Every day is an interview for drum major, section leader, captain, experience coordinator, Mardi Gras Band, Side Court Pep Band, and any other situations that require the best of the best. ALWAYS be the best.

# Membership in the West Alabama Marching Band

The WAMB is one of the most visible organizations on campus and in the community. We hope that you feel it is an honor and a privilege to be affiliated with this organization. We anticipate that you will enjoy your time as a member of this band and will join us in making it the best organization it can be.

## 1 - Requirements for Membership

You must be enrolled as a student at the University of West Alabama in order to participate in the WAMB.

**You must enroll** in MU 271-01 or MU 271-31 before 9:00 AM on the last day of schedule change. If you are not enrolled in one of these sections, you will not receive a scholarship. Band camp is required for the Fall 2025 semester. Assignments for pregame and the first halftime show will be made during band camp.

## 2 - Auditions and Part Placement Auditions

All prospective students must audition for membership in the WAMB. At band camp the directors will preside over auditions for part placement. Stronger players may be placed on any part designed to improve the band's balance and strength. There is no hierarchy or status significance to one's part placement. Players may be moved to a different part assignment at any time during the season by the directors and section leaders, this is not a punitive action. Auditions for the following season for WAMB Auxiliaries and WAMB Drumline take place in the spring and summer.

## 3 - Re-auditioning

Wind players may be required to re-audition each year. Color guard, Majorettes, and Drumline must re-audition each year in order to renew their membership in the WAMB. Drum Major auditions will occur every year.

## 4 - Alternates

An "alternate" is a person who:

- A. Missed any part of camp and therefore needs time to gain techniques
- B. A person who missed any part of a rehearsal during the week of a show
- C. A person who, by virtue of instrumentation, would imbalance the ensemble

There will be no permanent alternates. No student should remain an alternate for two halftime performances in a row. The only exception to these guidelines will be when a student's personal absences or actions prevent them from effectively executing drill and music on the field.

- If a student misses a Saturday rehearsal **for any reason**, then that student will be an alternate for the entirety of that day.
- If a student misses more than one hour of rehearsal in any one week, **for any reason**, then that student will be an alternate for the next performance.
- All alternates will rehearse by shadowing another band member during the rehearsal week.

**When an alternate is not marching, they must be actively playing and rehearsing with the band. If you are an alternate and are asked to fill a spot, you must immediately and willingly fill that spot. Please note that if you have been made an alternate repeatedly over a period of weeks due to your inability to execute marching and music, your continued membership status in the band will be reviewed.**

## **5 - Illness and Injury**

If persistent illness or injury occurs, the directors reserve the right to remove that student from the ensemble or assign them alternate duty within the organization. This is for the protection of that student's health as well as the integrity of the WAMB as a whole. The student will receive the remainder of their scholarship for that school year if they perform their newly assigned duties satisfactorily.

## **Attendance and Grading**

Punctuality and regularity of attendance at rehearsals and performances are two of the most essential factors in the success of the WAMB. All requests for excuses are to be **left in the UWA Bands office** at least twenty-four hours in advance of the affected rehearsal. If the request is being made due to illness, it must be turned in within twenty-four hours of the student's return.

**The Director and Assistant Director will determine if an absence is to be considered unavoidable and therefore excused.**

Grades for the semester will be based on preparedness, attitude, willingness to take direction, progress, attendance, individual performance effort, rehearsal technique, public performances, off-campus performances (when applicable), and the degree of active participation during rehearsal. All rehearsals and performances are required. Unexcused absences from any rehearsal or performance may result in the student's scholarship being revoked and/or dismissal from the WAMB.

Only students who are properly attired and who have all of their equipment will be considered present. **If you are not properly attired and/or do not have your equipment, it will be counted as an unexcused absence.**

**Airpods/earbuds/headphones/etc. are NOT ALLOWED during rehearsal. Use will result in an unexcused absence.**

## **1 - Absences**

Your attendance affects everyone else in the band. Tuning, balance, and blend change depending on those playing. Please be sure **not** to schedule routine health appointments, job interviews, academic advising appointments, babysitting, car repair, etc. during rehearsal time. An absence is only considered excused if it is due to a school-sponsored trip, the funeral/wedding of an immediate family member, or illness documented by a doctor's excuse. Additionally, **social organization meetings of any type cannot conflict with rehearsal**. This is a UWA Course, and takes precedence over ANY social event. If your social organizations have a problem with that, I am happy to refer them to the Dean of Students who can resolve

their issues.

You may not miss any rehearsal to make up something for another course. MU-271 is a course.

You may not be tardy to, leave early from, or miss any rehearsal because of your social organization(s).

**ALL excused absences require** make-up time for missed rehearsal at the rate of 50% of time missed (e.g. one missed rehearsal of 1.5 hours requires 45 minutes of individual music/choreography practice) to be monitored by a band staff member in Foust.

**Unexcused absences require** make-up time for missed rehearsal at the rate of 100% of time missed (e.g. one missed rehearsal of 1.5 hours requires 1.5 hours of individual music/choreography practice) to be monitored by a band staff member in Foust.

Any rehearsal absence may result in the loss of performance opportunity. Any absence that is not due to a school-sponsored trip, the funeral/wedding of an immediate family member, or illness documented by a doctor's excuse will result in grade and scholarship deduction.

**There are *no* excused conflicts for games.** This includes all postseason performances. Performance is one of the primary purposes of a marching band. Missing a game will result in a scholarship deduction and may result in failure of the course. Emergency situations will be handled on an individual basis by the directors.

In addition to the aforementioned procedures, the procedure for unexcused absences from rehearsals is as follows:

- One absence, the student will meet with the Director and/or Assistant Director to discuss the situation.
- On a second absence, the student's grade will be lowered by a letter grade. The student's scholarship may be reduced.
- On the third absence, the student may be removed from the ensemble. The student may receive a failing grade in the class and will forfeit all scholarship money.

## **2 - Conflicts**

A course conflict with band rehearsal may occur. At the beginning of the semester, students must notify the directors of conflicts that cause a late arrival or early exit from rehearsal, along with documented proof of the conflict (printed class schedule, etc.). Please keep in mind that this places an extra burden on you, and that this may force you to become an alternate for a field performance if you fall behind. A student should not have more than sixty minutes of class conflict with marching band rehearsal per week. ***Every effort should be made to avoid taking courses that conflict with band rehearsal.***



### **3 -Performance absences**

Any missed performance may result in the student being removed from band, receiving a failing grade, and returning all scholarship money.

### **4 - Tardies**

Tardiness of any amount of time less than thirty minutes requires thirty minutes make-up time to be monitored by a band staff member in Foust.

Tardiness of any amount of time more than thirty minutes is considered an unexcused absence. Refer to **1 - Absences** above for procedures.

Three tardies of any amount of time less than thirty minutes are equal to one unexcused absence. Refer to **1 - Absences** above for procedures.

*Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.*

### **5 - Circumstances Beyond Control**

Any unavoidable conflicts with a rehearsal must be cleared in **advance** (at least 24 hrs.) with the directors. This does not guarantee that the absence will be excused. Refer to **1 - Absences** above for procedures.

## **Music Memorization**

The chart below notes what music should be memorized and when. *Each* WAMB member is responsible for memorization. Section Leaders will have the additional responsibility of a competency check prior to their pass-offs, both to be played to a director. Other WAMB members must pass off to their Section Leader. If one is not successful by the deadline, the next attempt must be made to the drum major. If still not successful, a final attempt must be made to the directors.

**Grades and membership status will be affected if satisfactory pass-offs are not completed. Failure to complete satisfactory pass-offs will result in a \$50 scholarship deduction. Each day after without satisfactory pass-off results in an additional \$20 deduction (excluding weekends).**

### Pass-Off Schedule

Who	Music	Deadline (can be completed on or prior to)
Section Leaders	Show 1, Pre-Game, Stand Shorts <u>PLAYABLE-NOT MEMORIZED</u>	<i>August 5th, first day of camp</i>
Section Leaders	Show 1, Pre-Game, Stand Shorts <u>MEMORIZED</u>	<i>Sunday, August 10th</i>
All WAMB	Show 1, Pre-Game, Stand Shorts <u>MEMORIZED</u>	<i>Monday, August 18th - last day of camp</i>
Section Leaders	Show 2 <u>MEMORIZED</u>	<i>September 22</i>
All WAMB	Show 2 <u>MEMORIZED</u>	<i>September 29</i>
Section Leaders	Show 3 <u>PLAYABLE-NOT MEMORIZED</u>	<i>November 3</i>
All WAMB	Show 3 <u>PLAYABLE-NOT MEMORIZED</u>	<i>November 3</i>

**Even after memorization takes place, FlipFolders MUST be available at all times during marching and/or music rehearsals.**

### **Rehearsal Procedures**

#### **1 - General**

Due to a very limited rehearsal schedule, high standards of preparation are essential. It is expected that all members will arrive early enough to be properly warmed up and focused for rehearsal.

This translates to doing this every rehearsal, indoors or out:

1. Arrive 15-20 minutes before the rehearsal time
2. Make sure your instrument works – fixing it in rehearsal is TOO LATE
3. Grab a pencil, oils, mutes (brass), and other peripherals for rehearsal
4. Make sure your FlipFolder and UDB apps are working
  - a. **Keep your phone charged**
  - b. **If you have a portable charger: keep it charged and with you.**
5. Warm up until you are asked to stop by the directors, drum major, or other.

#### **2 - Location**

All rehearsals, unless otherwise indicated, take place in the band room or on the WAMB Rehearsal Field.  
*Never assume that any rehearsal is canceled due to inclement weather. Report to the band room at the usual*

*rehearsal time for further instructions. If you know me, you know the chances of me not communicating everything you need to know via email are slim/none.*

### **3 - Rehearsal Attire and Equipment**

- Wear proper clothing for marching and the current weather conditions. **Tennis shoes are required for band camp and for rehearsal on the field.** Open-toed shoes, flip-flops, sandals, crocs or boots are **not** appropriate footwear (note: staff and faculty who are not marching are not required to wear tennis shoes).
- **Do not wear clothes bearing the logos or names of other colleges and universities. You go to the University of West Alabama! Display your school pride in the school that will be your Alma Mater!**
- If you are not properly attired and/or do not have your equipment, you will be counted as absent.

### **4 - Rehearsal Schedule**

Beginning the first day of classes, the rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- Monday - 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
  - And 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. depending on stadium availability. You will know the schedule for the Monday evening rehearsal at least a week in advance.
- Tuesday - 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday - 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday - mornings before home games, TBA, but usually four hours before kickoff
- All auxiliaries will have a recurring 1.5 hour sectional each week at a specified time. The time will be determined prior to the start of the semester and attendance is mandatory. Absence/Tardiness policies from the "Attendance and Grading" section above apply to sectionals.
- All instrumentalists will have a 1 hour sectional each week. The time will be determined prior to the start of the semester and attendance is mandatory. Absence/Tardiness policies from the "Attendance and Grading" section above apply to sectionals.

## **Performance Routines**

The band's performance schedule is included in this band handbook. It is always subject to change, and you are responsible for all listed events. Band members must attend the entire game unless approved by the Directors. Remember: there are no excused absences for performances.

You are expected to be on time and to participate until the game is over and the band's post game performance is complete. After the game, all uniforms must be properly hung to dry. All band-owned equipment must be properly cleaned and stored. The band room must be left clean for the resumption of classes the following class day.

### **Travel**

The band may travel to away games, parades, exhibitions, and to post-season games. Every effort will be made to communicate these dates as soon as possible. Trips are considered performances, and the same policies apply. You are expected to read the itinerary and be on time for all events and departures. Remember: your actions reflect on you, the band, and the entire university.

# Performance, Appearance, and the Uniform

Each band member will receive a uniform at the beginning of the season. The uniform consists of several pieces, each of which is specifically checked out to you. You must have all parts of your uniform at all performances. If you are missing pieces, contact the Uniform Manager.

**YOU MUST WEAR ALL OR NONE OF YOUR UNIFORM.** We wear the whole uniform, or no uniform at all. This means all snaps, buttons, and zippers are closed and snapped. Do not wander campus on game days in just your bibbers, or with an unbuttoned coat.

In cases of extreme heat, the directors will instruct the entire band to remove their coats completely. If every band member does not have the assigned shirt under their jacket, the entire band will remain in full uniform.

## 1 - Inspection

Before every performance, you are subject to a uniform and instrument inspection by the Directors or band leadership.

Your instrument will also be inspected for cleanliness, proper operation, polish, and playability (reeds will be checked). You must have your lyre and phone clip.

## 2 - Band Uniform Components

- WAMB dri-fit shirt(s)
- WAMB shorts
- Uniform bibber pants (always keep neatly hung on the official WAMB hanger when not being worn)
- Uniform Jacket (always keep neatly hung on the official WAMB hanger when not being worn)
- Uniform shoes/tall black socks
- Shako (hat) or headband (sousaphones)
- WAMB cap
- Uniform Bag
- Phone clip and lyre
- Your instrument

## 3 - Auxiliary Uniform Components

- WAMB dri-fit shirt
- WAMB shorts
- Uniform
- Shoes
- Poles/Flags/Batons
- Poms

## 4 - Uniform Care

The WAMB uniform (including the uniform of auxiliary units), is a source of pride for both our band and the University community at large. The upkeep and care are of the utmost importance. Specific dates and times will be set for turning in uniforms for dry cleaning.

Failure to turn in the uniform for maintenance will result in a hold on your records.

- ***Do not clean or wash the uniform yourself!*** The band will dry-clean your uniform several times per season. Never attempt to alter your uniform yourself.
- The uniform must be hung up on the provided hanger and in the uniform bag when not in use. Be sure the creases of the pants are folded correctly. Place the uniform inside the uniform bag and hang it neatly in the uniform room.
- Any alteration issues should be handled at least two weeks prior to the first game. Do not attempt to hem your own pants or jacket. Please contact the Uniform Manager if any additional alteration needs to be done to your uniform.
- It is your responsibility to take care of your uniform for the season.
- Always keep the shako upright, and do not use it as a basket.
- The vinyl portion and the plastic brim of the shako should be cleaned with a soft cloth and soapy water, or with disinfectant glass cleaner. If you have recently dyed your hair, particularly with a non-permanent brightly-colored dye, please clean the hat thoroughly immediately after wearing to avoid staining.
- Never lie down in your uniform.
- Plumes will be issued and collected before and after each field performance. In case of wet weather, plumes will not be used.

## **5 - Damaged, Missing, Lost, or Stolen Uniform Items**

Occasionally, uniforms become damaged. If your uniform is damaged, take it to the Uniform Manager immediately. If it is determined that the damage was caused deliberately or through negligence, repair/replacement costs will be assessed. Usually, the band will pay for any routine repairs. Uniform issues should be addressed at least three days prior to any performance day (broken zipper, hem undone, etc). You are responsible for making sure you meet inspection requirements.

**If you are missing a uniform component on a performance day, you are responsible for rectifying the situation.** Replacement parts will NOT be issued, and you will not be permitted to perform without your entire uniform.

Losing a piece of your uniform will result in a hold being placed on your account until the missing piece is found. Replacements will not be issued unless absolutely necessary, and only at the discretion of the Directors. If a replacement is approved, the student will be responsible for the cost of the replacement part **before** it is issued.

Any student found to have stolen a uniform component will be dismissed from the band program and will have a hold placed on their student account until the item is returned or replaced. Any student found to have stolen a uniform component when they will not be returning to the band program will have a hold placed on their student account until the item is returned or replaced. Charges may be filed against any person found to have stolen University property.

## 6 - Do's and Don'ts in Uniform

- **Intimate Contact:** Do not participate in displays of affection when in uniform. Hugs are fine, but kissing or other prolonged intimate displays are best kept private.
- **Cleanliness:** Your uniform must have all of its parts and must be clean. This includes *clean* shoes (use shoe polish), long, black socks with no patterns or markings, and the band dri-fit shirt and shorts. Please check the section on uniforms for further details. No-show and low-cut black socks are not acceptable.
- **Sleeves:** Do not roll the sleeves of the uniform for any reason.
- **Band Gloves:** The official band gloves must be worn with the uniform. If at any time you require a new pair of gloves, ask a section leader or student assistant. Keep gloves clean and replace them with new ones if necessary.
- **Hair:** When wearing the shako, **all** hair must be tucked into the shako at all times (inclusive of men and women). Hair that is longer than collar-length must be secured and worn up in the shako. The only appropriate hair management items are black or plain hair-ties, or bands. No other headgear may be worn aside from WAMB cap.
- **Jewelry:** One ring per hand, one earring per ear. All piercings that might otherwise close and cause injury when later reopened must be filled with clear plastic filler jewelry that is approved by the Directors.
- **Earrings and Gauges:** All gauges must be replaced with a clear gauge on gameday. One gauge or earring per ear. Earrings must not extend past the outline of the ear. Directors have final approval of all visible jewelry.
- **Tattoos:** Any tattoo that is visible while in the formal full uniform should be covered with a bandaid or other similar covering.
- **Makeup:** All makeup must be neutral colors and subtle. Avoid bright colors. Appropriate makeup will be at the discretion of the leadership of your section, as well as the Staff and Directors.
- **Face paint:** - Face paint is not permitted unless specifically approved by the Directors for the entire band to wear.
- **Nails:** Students may have their nails painted but it must be either a neutral color, or school spirited (red or white). It cannot be distracting and is up to the discretion of the Section Leaders and Directors.
- **Cold weather accessories (hat, headbands, gloves, etc.):** Gloves must be black. Hats or headbands may be worn provided the shako still looks uniform.
- **Other uniform modifications:** Any and all uniform modifications are prohibited at all times. Do not place pins, buttons, or any other items on the uniform, unless approved by the Directors.

# Student Conduct

## 1 - Image of the West Alabama Marching Band

As a responsible member of the WAMB, a University of West Alabama student contributes to the best of their ability and conforms to the self-discipline which membership implies. Unethical conduct by students shall be subject to disciplinary action.

One person can negate the efforts of thousands of hours by many dedicated individuals to present a fine image of this organization. We are a BAND – a group of persons dedicated to the same purpose. Smoking or any other use of tobacco in uniform, improper dress, lack of cooperation, obscene gestures, and untimely or inappropriate cheering are all examples of unacceptable behavior. **Profanity in uniform or during part of any performance is strictly forbidden.** If you have to ask yourself, “is this okay to do?” – it probably isn’t.

**Anyone who is deemed to have violated this most important of rules may be dismissed from the band and/or forfeit all scholarship money.**

## 2 - Academic Responsibility

A student’s major purpose at the University is to become an educated person. You have the responsibility to attend class on a regular basis, complete all classroom assignments, and conduct yourself in ways that are consistent with acceptable classroom performance. Band members are required to meet all University and college academic requirements, as well as those of the WAMB.

## 3 - Maintaining Adequate Academic Progress and Scholarship Requirements

All students in the WAMB must maintain adequate progress toward their degree, and a cumulative 2.0 GPA to remain academically eligible for their scholarship. The Directors reserve the right to remove band members who are reported to be underachieving in other academic pursuits on campus.

In addition to Midterm grades, members of the WAMB may have a progress report requested of their professors at any point during each semester. This is to help ensure appropriate academic progress and identify students who are at-risk academically and provide strategies for improvement in their courses.

## 4 - How to Succeed

- ***Go to class!*** There is a direct correlation between classroom attendance and academic success. Your class attendance may be one criteria used for assigning final grades. You should inform your professor if you are going to miss a class. **Try to alert your instructors ahead of time. Get your assignments in advance, if possible, and determine when the work is due.**
- **Go to class prepared:** You should have all reading and written assignments completed on time. If you go to class unprepared, it is often difficult to understand the material presented in class.
- **Get to know your Professor:** Introduce yourself to your instructor; if you have any questions relative to your course, meet with your instructor outside of class. Your teacher is interested in your

performance in the classroom and will generally be happy to discuss material related to your course.

- **Make a good impression:** Get to class on time. Entering class late causes a disruption. Do not respond to texts, take calls, or wear earbuds in class. Be respectful: remember “Sir,” “Ma’am,” “thank you,” and “please.” Address instructors or professors by the correct salutation “Doctor” or “Professor.”
- **Be proactive:** If something isn’t going well, try to fix it before it gets too big to control. Remember, you don’t have to fix everything by yourself. If the problem is too big for you, find someone to give you a hand.
- **Time Management:** Plan out what must be accomplished in one semester. On a calendar, list the days when quizzes, essays, and special projects are due. Also, list your performance days, etc., when you will not be able to follow your usual study routine. Find the conflicts. Is there a week when tests and projects are due? Plan ahead; don’t leave the studying until the day of the test. It often helps to make a weekly schedule. List your classes, practices, meetings, study time, rest time, etc. By having a schedule, you can easily see what time is available for studying and what assignments must be completed in the time available.

## 5 - Conflict Resolution

### **DO NOT BRING OUTSIDE PROBLEMS OR CONFLICTS INTO REHEARSAL. DO NOT TAKE REHEARSAL ISSUES OFF THE FIELD.**

Working as a team sometimes means that there will be disagreements and conflicts with others. This is normal. Do not leave the field until you have spoken, face to face, with those involved in the conflict.

Some general guidelines for conflict resolution are:

- Solve non-band issues off the field. These are distractions and compromise any attempts to focus in rehearsal.
- In band, use the chain of command for problems. Your Section Leader should be the first person you contact.
- Try to remain calm. Yelling only makes problems worse.
- **It may be best to just walk away.** Many problems are exacerbated by the normal stress of a rehearsal or performance; once you step away and have a chance to relax, you may realize that it wasn’t such a big deal after all.

## 6 - When You Have a Question

Follow the chain of command. Do not go “over someone’s head” unless you have attempted to work out your question or problem within the chain of command.

- Yourself. Be a leader to yourself first and foremost
- *Any* Section Leader
- Drum Major
- Staff
- Directors

## 7 – Social Media and Electronic Communication

Social media, text messages, status updates, blogs, and other electronic media platforms are not a private diary. They are public declarations that your peers, faculty and staff, and our fans can see. NEVER express



your negative feelings about your band peers, faculty, staff, or the band's policies through these or any other means. Doing so is considered an attack on the WAMB, and it may result in your dismissal from the band, loss of scholarship, as well as additional disciplinary action.

Additionally, aside from the above mentioned posts, you should think twice before making any post on social media. Your posts reflect on this program, whether you like it or not, and the image of this program is paramount to our image and growth. The directors reserve the right to request that inappropriate postings, pictures, and/or videos, which may be construed as harmful to the overall image of the band program and/or university, be removed from the member's site/page.

## 8 - Behavior At Football Games

College Bands are different. You have a responsibility to set the mood of the game. **STAND** with your section and participate in all proceedings, including cheers and choreographed visuals. *Someone* is watching you all the time.

- Do not remove any portion of your uniform during the game unless directed to do so by the Directors.
- **Do not use your cell phone for anything other than the FlipFolder App**
- **Do not have any sort of airpod/earbud/headphone device in your ears**
- Only band members, faculty, staff, and directors pre-approved guests are allowed to sit with the band in the stands. **Your friends and family may not sit or stand in the aisles with the ensemble. If a family member visits you in the stands, you may quickly say hello and let them know that you will be able to talk with them after the game.**
- A short restroom break is understandable. Only two people from the band may leave at the same time - so hurry. Someone else is waiting. Any person abusing this privilege will not be afforded the same at the next performance.
- Do not yell anything to the drum major or the Directors unless there is a medical or other emergency.
- **No food or drink from the concession stands is permitted to be consumed by the band at any time during the game or in uniform.** Water and a snack will be provided in the stands during the game and after halftime.

## 9 - When Not to Play

Never play as an individual or a section without the Directors' consent. Do not play/hack/peck/noodle/whatever on your instrument when walking between rehearsals or performances. Play only in sectionals or with the full band. This is to provide an efficient learning environment, and to give much-needed rest.

## 10 - Tailgating Areas

There will be a time and place for these activities. **Don't go tailgating in uniform without the entire band unless at the discretion of the Directors.**

# Band-Owned Equipment

The University provides the following instruments and equipment for the marching band:

- Piccolos
- Clarinets
- Alto Saxophones
- Tenor Saxophones
- Trumpets
- Mellophones
- Trombones
- Baritones
- Sousaphones
- Percussion equipment
- Color guard equipment
- Phone Clips

## 1 - Proper Instrument and Equipment Care

During marching band camp, you will sign your paperwork for your WAMB instrument.

If there is an issue with your instrument, please write down the issue(s) and put it with your instrument. Then notify the Directors as soon as possible. Damaged instruments need to be returned. A temporary instrument will be checked out to you while your instrument is being repaired.

Ordinary wear and tear is understandable, but large dents and other major repair issues are the responsibility of the student. If the repair shop determines that instrument damage is the fault of the student, then the university will bill that student for the cost of the repair. A hold will be placed on your university account for the amount of the bill until it has been paid. It is in your best interest to pay the repair bill as soon as you are notified. Again, the experts in the repair shop retain the right to determine when inordinate damage is done to an instrument.

Proper instrument and equipment care is a daily obligation. If you wish to take your horn home to practice or memorize music (which is encouraged!), then you may do so. All instruments must be kept clean and in good working condition. Necessary repairs may be possible on-location. If not, instruments will be sent to a professional repairman. No instrument should ever be placed in the dirt.

Instrument cases should NEVER be used to sit on and should be treated with the same care as the instrument.

If you are playing in one of the spring ensembles, you may keep your instrument checked out for the spring semester.

## 2 - Wind Instrument Cleaning Checklist

- All brass slides pulled and emptied of water
- All woodwind instruments swabbed out

- All moisture wiped from instrument surface
- All instruments wiped down with a cloth
- All mouthpieces removed from instruments
- All reeds and ligatures removed from mouthpieces and placed in appropriate container
- All lyres removed from instruments
- Remove any wet cloths and gloves from case
- Nothing stored on top of instrument in case
- Instrument packed properly in case
- Case latched and returned to storage area

### **3 - Instrument Loan Agreement**

1. I have received the instrument described above.
2. The instruments are not to be loaned to or shared with any individual. The instrument is to be used only for University of West Alabama instruction and events.
3. An instrument on loan (and the associated accessories, such as cases, mouthpieces, straps, etc.) is your sole responsibility. You will be responsible for proper care, including but not limited to lubricating valves and slides as needed and taking measures to prevent the instrument's exposure to extreme cold or hot temperature, or exposure to the elements. Use of rubber bands to secure a lyre to the instrument is prohibited.
4. Although normal wear and tear is expected, you agree to take the utmost care to protect the instrument from loss, theft or damage. You agree to be responsible for any and all damage to the instrument. In the event of theft or loss, you agree to be responsible for the replacement value of the instrument.

## **Student Leadership**

### **1 - Experience Coordinators, Section Leaders, Drum Major**

Experience Coordinators are responsible for creating positive, engaging experiences that cultivate a close-knit environment within the entire WAMB membership. Experience coordinators are also responsible for overseeing freshman assimilation. Other duties may include, but are not limited to, planning band camp/season events, assisting directors with the WAMB Banquet, and participating in recruitment events. This role is just as visible as that of Drum Major, so serving as a positive example at all times is required. Experience Coordinator responsibilities report directly to the directors; however, their normal WAMB responsibilities are still the responsibility of their Section Leaders.

Section Leaders are responsible to the Drum Major, and for their assigned sections. Section Leaders should attempt to solve disciplinary problems themselves first, with the Drum Major second, and with the Directors as a last resort. Section leaders will also assist with drill instruction, music interpretation, horn maneuvers/position, etc. Staff and student leaders will take attendance at all rehearsals and performances; those not in attendance or arriving late will be reported. Section Leaders should display a positive attitude and shall promote enthusiasm and spirit within the band.

The Drum Major is responsible for providing leadership on the field during performances and rehearsals. They assist in instruction during band camp and at other points during the season. Drum Major is the liaison between students, student leadership, and directors. When troubleshooting matters, the drum major should be the final point of contact before involving the directors. The drum major also serves as a public figurehead for the WAMB; responsibilities may include interviews, assisting in recruitment events, and other public engagement on behalf of the WAMB student perspective.

If you wish to be considered for a leadership position in the West Alabama Marching Band, please remember that you are auditioning for that position *every day* of your career at West Alabama. Section Leaders and Drum Majors must have at least one year of experience in the WAMB. Any qualifying band member may apply for a leadership position in the band.

**All Student Leadership Members must be available for our High School Summer Band Camps.**

## **2 - Applying to Become Experience Coordinator**

Experience Coordinator applications are available toward the end of the current marching season. In order to apply, fill out and submit an application by the deadline designated by the Director or Assistant Director. Experience Coordinators are determined by the Director of Bands and Assistant Director of Bands.

## **3 - Applying to Become Section Leader**

Section Leader applications are available toward the end of the current marching season. In order to apply, fill out and submit an application by the deadline designated by the Director or Assistant Director. Section Leaders are determined by the Director of Bands and Assistant Director of Bands.

## **4 - Auditioning to Become Drum Major**

Drum Major auditions take place in the fall semester. In order to audition for the Drum Major position, students must submit an application by the deadline. You will receive audition materials to prepare for the audition.

The auditions take place in front of a panel made up of the Directors, band staff, and select student representatives. The panel will select the next season's Drum Major based on conducting ability, communication skills, preparation, effort, and leadership qualities. All members interested in becoming the Drum Major must complete the audition process to be considered.

## **Midseason Evaluations**

Toward the end of September, WAMB members will be asked to fill out an anonymous evaluation form describing the strengths and weaknesses of those on the leadership team. This allows for all members of the WAMB the opportunity to have their thoughts heard, as well as gives the leadership the opportunity to improve.

# Health and Safety

Staying healthy is important. The following sections will clarify and define the rules and procedures that help us to protect the health of our student performers.

## 1 - Student Health Emergencies

All students must submit a health information form to the WAMB, and give their consent for the band to provide assistance when necessary. If a student or staff member becomes ill or unconscious during the course of any Band activity, emergency medical and/or first aid personnel will be summoned. At all times, a copy of each student's health information and consent forms are to be kept on site of the activity, performance, rehearsal, or travel, and these forms will be given to the emergency medical personnel.

## 2 - Heat Safety During Rehearsals and Performances

Heat and humidity are a dangerous combination. Every precaution is taken to protect members of the band from heat fatigue, exhaustion, and heat stroke. During all rehearsals and performances, regular hydration breaks will be given. It is recommended that you hydrate regularly outside of rehearsals, and bring your own water container to rehearsals. At any time, if a student feels faint or requires hydration **simply inform a Director or staff member**. Please use sunblock, large-brimmed hats, polarized sunglasses, and appropriate clothing.

## 3 - Heat Safety in Uniform

Although the uniforms were designed for the local climate, activity in uniform will generate an increased level of heat. At all times, the WAMB staff will monitor the ambient heat and heat index. If dangerous levels of heat are detected, they may have you remove your uniform coats. This decision is to be made by band staff, not by individuals or student leaders. If even higher heat levels occur, band staff may decide to move the band to shade, or to remove the uniforms entirely. If at any football game the heat index is 98 degrees or higher, the option will be evaluated to perform in WAMB dri-fit shirts and shorts instead.

## 4 - Lightning During Rehearsals

Lightning is extremely dangerous to bands in an outdoor setting. During all rehearsals, marching band staff will carefully monitor the skies both visually and electronically for lightning. When lightning strikes within eight miles of rehearsal, the rehearsal will be immediately moved indoors. Students should get to safety as quickly as possible.

## 5 - Lightning During Football Games/Performances

All football games are monitored with an electronic lightning detection system. When that system is alerted, game officials will suspend the game. The band will immediately move to a safe area. It is up to game officials to decide if a game is called off, at which time the WAMB will depart.

## **6 - Hearing and Musculoskeletal Health and Injury Prevention**

Hearing health, as well as injury prevention, is important for everyone, but especially for student musicians. If you have concerns regarding your hearing or injury prevention, please discuss your concerns with your applied professor, area coordinator, ensemble directors, or department chair. Ear plugs will be available to band members at band camp.

## **Band Banquet and Student Recognition**

The WAMB Awards Banquet takes place between November and May. This is an opportunity for band members to reminisce about the season, as well as a time for recognition of sections and individuals in the band. The banquet is a formal event, and business-casual attire is expected. Admission is free for all band members. Each year, awards are presented to various sections and individuals in the band.

## **Mardi Gras Band**

A contingent of the West Alabama Marching Band will perform in Mardi Gras parades during Mardi Gras season if a suitable band can be fielded. There are requirements for inclusion in the Mardi Gras Band.

- 1. Student wants to participate**
- 2. Student has above a 2.0 GPA for the fall semester prior to Mardi Gras**
- 3. Student has above a 2.0 cumulative GPA**
- 4. Student is in physical condition to march parades of up to 8 miles**
- 5. Student can perform all Mardi Gras Band music for memory**
- 6. Director(s) approve of student's participation**

# Fight Song and Alma Mater

## Fight Song

*We will fight, fight, fight  
For the Red and White  
For the Glory of UWA  
We will lend our might  
For the Red and White  
For a cause we know is true.  
We will fight for victory  
We will fight on endlessly  
We will ever stand, every heart, every hand  
For the glory of UWA!*

## Alma Mater (by James D Crawford, 1968)

*All hail to thee, our Alma Mater,  
Sings our loyalty.  
O may you keep us thine forever,  
Minds and spirits free.  
We stand beside thee strong and brave:  
Our gladsome voices sing  
When youth's bright morning fades away,  
Thy praise shall ever ring.*

# University of West Alabama

## Marching Band Handbook Agreement

The information in the band handbook is an integral part of the organization. The listed methods, regulations, procedures, and references allow the highest degree of performance and accountability that is currently enjoyed at the University of West Alabama.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. I, the undersigned, have read the University of West Alabama Band Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. I understand the policies and information contained therein.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. I agree to abide by all rules, regulations, and guidelines prescribed within the Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. I realize that this agreement must be signed in order to establish and maintain an active role in the University of West Alabama Marching Band.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM BY AUGUST 8, 2025**