



157 Years of Tradition

**HANDBOOK
2026-2027**

PRIDE OF THE SOUTHLAND

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



One that beareth a torch shadoweth oneself to give light to others

Fall 2026
Music Ensemble 359/559
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3:45 - 5:45
227 Natalie Haslam Music Center
865-974-5031 utband@utk.edu

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A Short History

The University of Tennessee Marching Band, known as the “Pride of the Southland,” has represented The University of Tennessee and the State of Tennessee since its initial organization following the Civil War. What began as a small, all-male band attached to the Military Department on the Knoxville campus has grown to a 415 member university marching band known worldwide for its outstanding musical performance and precision marching. It is also one of the oldest and most prestigious collegiate band programs in the world.

The University of Tennessee Band was first organized as a corps of cadets in 1869. The band’s instrumentation was primarily cornets, and was often headed by a cadet leader. In 1892, Ernest H. Garratt was appointed the band’s first official bandmaster. Two years later, Mr. Garratt was replaced by Charles P. Garratt. At the turn of the century, William A. Knabe took over leadership of the band, and held the position of bandmaster until his death in 1914. It was during this time that in 1902 the band made its first appearance at a football game when UT played Sewanee. UT won 6 to 0! By 1917, the band, wearing WWI style uniforms, had 30 members, and was under the leadership of William Crouch. In 1925, Crouch was replaced by Ernest W. Hall. During Hall’s tenure, the band grew to over 80 members. The 1940’s brought considerable change to the band. Walter Ryba was named the new director, and women musicians marched with the band. The half-time shows became theme oriented and included guest artists. Major Ryba, a former member of the John Philip Sousa Band, served for two decades as UT’s director. It was during this time that Ed Harris, sports reporter for the Knoxville Journal, dubbed the band as the “Pride of the Southland.”

With Ryba’s retirement at the end of 1960, a new era in the band’s history began. For the next three decades, the band, under the direction of Dr. WJ Julian grew in size, prestige, and reputation. The band was moved from ROTC to the College of Education, and during his first year, Dr. Julian designed new uniforms for the band. The look of these uniforms remain a tradition at The University of Tennessee. By 1964, the band had grown to over 140 members. Under Dr. Julian, the band was revolutionized in style and appearance, and known not only for its level of performance, but also as an innovator of the “circle-drill.” In 1972, Dr. Julian introduced a new song to the fans at Neyland Stadium which immediately became the school’s unofficial fight song - “Rocky Top!” Countless traditions were established under Julian’s leadership including the opening of the “T” for the football team at every Pregame ceremony.

In 1997 Dr. Gary Sousa was appointed Director of Bands, followed by Dr. Donald Ryder in 2015. Upon Dr. Ryder’s retirement in 2022 and following a national search, Dr. John Zastoupil was appointed as the Director of Bands with Dr. Michael Stewart promoted to Associate Director of Bands/Director of Marching & Athletic Bands; and, Dr. Fuller Lyon continuing as Assistant Director of Bands/Associate Director of Marching & Athletic Bands. During this new era, the Pride is building a new culture steeped in the great UT traditions while continuing to expand its “in game” experience with 415 members.

The Pride of the Southland Band’s national reputation for excellence is due in part to its countless television appearances in the last fifty years. Besides representing the State of Tennessee in fifteen Presidential inaugurations (a record unmatched by any civilian organization), performances in Ireland and London, the band has appeared at over 50 bowl games including the Rose Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Orange Bowl, Citrus Bowl, Peach Bowl, Sun Bowl, Hall of Fame Bowl and the 1998 National Championship Fiesta Bowl. When The University of Tennessee Marching Band takes the field, the fans, alumni, and student reactions indicate that it is not only the Pride of all Tennesseans, but truly the “Pride of the Southland!”

PRIDE OF THE SOUTHLAND

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



Personnel

• BAND FACULTY •

Dr. John Zastoupil: Director of Bands
Dr. Michael Stewart: Director of Marching & Athletic Bands - Assoc. Director of Bands
Dr. Fuller Lyon: Assoc. Director of Marching & Athletic Bands - Asst. Director of Bands

• SUPPORT STAFF •

Ashley Waller: Band Business Manager
Eli Garcia: Drumline Coordinator
Lindsey Cupp Maples: Majorette Coordinator
CJ McCrory: Colorguard Coordinator
Katie Hill-Perry: Assistant Colorguard Coordinator

• GRADUATE ASSISTANTS •

Jose Angel-Rivas
Jacob Smith
Jonah Klima
Keaton Weber

• Black Suits •

Jordan Cannon
Anna Davis (drumline)
Grace Dobrescu
Margaret Kinzer
Braelyn Lemere (guard)
Ella Pinchok
Ava Wallace

• DRUM MAJOR •

Sydney Flenniken

• ASSISTANT DRUM MAJOR •

Grace Dobrescu

• HEAD MAJORETTE •

Anna Best

• SQUAD LEADERS •

Piccolo
Jordan Maples
Emily Piedot
Mckenzie Stephenson

Clarinet
Andrew Bassett
Absa Dia
Andrei Sabula
Emma Shiffer

Saxophone
Ethan Armada
Jordan Cathelyn
Tristan Cook
Mark Malabanan

Mellophone
Rylie Allen
Lacey Drouet
Grace Estes

Trumpet
Justin Bowers
Brody Carter
Lauren Dodd
Abby Garner
Dylan Sacksteder
Emma Upton

Trombone
Isaac Berry
AJ Duhaime
Asher Rogers
Florence Wissert

Baritone
Mustafa Arkawazi
Levi Gayso

Tuba
Elijah Ailey
Will Burke
Matthew Rowe

Color Guard
Madelyn Bowman
Amber Finch
Zoey Hayes
Gabriela Pieterse

Snare Drum
Elliott Baldwin
Tenor Drum
Hayden Casto
Bass Drum
Alex Luttrell
Cymbals
Jonathan Cate

Feature Twirlers
Ally Carpenter
Audrey Goodin

Head Manager
Ryan Day

• STUDENT STAFF •

Front Office
Elijah Ailey
Rylie Allen

Librarians
Grace Dobrescu
Grace Estes
Giada Sachitano
Emily Piedot

Uniform Room
Maddie Curtis
Grace Doyle
Emily Stewart

Field Crew
Ryan Day
Hunter Franklin
Alex Montoya
Natalie Taylor
Briley Weatherly

Social Media Team
Katie Hanson
Miles Standish

Band Camp

Monday, August 3

- 9:00 AM –
11:00AM ***Check In & Registration (Band Room)***
Leadership, Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes Only
 -Temporary Dorm Check In (Hess Hall)
 -Uniform Pick Up (Leadership & Drumline)
- 11:00 AM Lunch (Rocky Top Dining)
- 1:00 PM Squad Leader Training Session (Band Room)
 Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes (Field / Gym A & D)
- 5:00 PM Dinner (Rocky Top Dining)
- 6:30 PM Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes (Field / Gym A & D)
 9:00 PM Dismissed

*Note: Rocky Top Dining Hall Hours
 7:30 - 9:00am Breakfast
 11:30 - 1:00pm Lunch
 5:00 - 6:30pm Dinner

Tuesday, August 4

**All breakfasts will be served daily at Rocky Top Dining (Everyone eats breakfast!)*

- 9:00 AM Squad Leader Training Session (Band Room)
 Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes (Field / Gym A & D)
- 12:00 PM Lunch (Rocky Top Dining)
 -Drumline/Leadership get uniforms (1:00 pm)
- 2:00 PM Squad Leader Training Session (Band Room)
 Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes (Field / Gym A & D)
- 5:00 PM Dinner – Haslam Music Center (Olive Garden)
 -Drumline new members get fitted
- 6:30 PM Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes (Field / Gym A & D)
 9:00 PM Dismissed

Wednesday, August 5

9:00 AM –	
11:00 AM	<i>Check In & Registration (Band Room)</i> <i>First Year Members: Woodwind & Brass</i> -Temporary Dorm Check In (Hess Hall) -New Member Instrument Check-out Trumpets, Mellophones, Trombones, Baritones, Sousaphones -Rehearsal: Drumline (Field), Guard (Gym D) & Majorettes (Field)
11:00 AM	Lunch (Rocky Top Dining)
1:00 PM	Opening Meeting (Band Room) Leadership, All First Year Members, Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes -Introductions, General Meeting, Policies & Procedures
1:45 PM	Rehearsal: Guard (Gym D) & Majorettes (Field) Full Music Rehearsal (Band Room – Breaks as needed) -Warm Up; Pregame
3:30 PM	Sectional Rehearsal (Warm Up / Tune; Pregame) **A Music Evaluation will be held during every sectional -Review procedure for evaluation of Pregame -Woodwinds / Brass / Drumline – Locations TBA
5:00 PM	Picnic Dinner – Haslam Music Center (Chick-Fil-A) -Woodwind New Member Fitting as needed
6:30 PM	Marching Rehearsal (Field) -Fundamentals in Squads
6:35 PM	Position of Attention / Instrument Carry / Posture
6:40 PM	Horns Up
6:45 PM	Mark Time (low)
6:50 PM	Review
7:00 PM	Break
7:05 PM	FM Glide Step & Halt
7:35 PM	Halt / Kick
7:40 PM	Break
7:45 PM	Backward March 8 to 5
8:00 PM	Direction Change (front to back)
8:05 PM	Direction Change (back to front)
8:10 PM	Flanks
8:20 PM	TTR
8:30 PM	Break
8:35 PM	Drag Turns
8:40 PM	March Review
8:55 PM	Around the Ladder
9:00 PM	Dismiss

Thursday, August 6

9:00 AM	Marching Rehearsal (Practice Field) Leadership, All First Year Members, Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes
9:05 AM	Review FM 8 to 5 (10 min.)
9:15 AM	Flanks / To The Rear (TTR) (10 min.)
9:25 AM	Lateral Slides (10 min.)
9:35 AM	Break and Dismiss to Sections
9:40 AM	Pregame Pod I
10:05 AM	Break
10:10 AM	Pregame Pod II
10:35 AM	Break
10:40 AM	Pregame Pod III
11:05 AM	Break
11:10 AM	Pregame Pod IV
11:35 AM	Around the Ladder (ATL)
12:00 PM	Lunch (Rocky Top Dining) -Brass New Member Fitting as needed (1:00pm)
2:00 PM	Sectional Rehearsal (Pregame)
3:30 PM	Full Music Rehearsal (Band Room) Orange Folder: Warm Ups; Pregame; White Folder 1-10
5:00 PM	Dinner (Rocky Top Dining)
6:30 PM	Marching Rehearsal (Field) (Squads – 8 to 5; Marching Review)
7:00 PM	Break
7:05 PM	Pregame Pod I (Review & Evaluations)
7:20 PM	Pregame Pod II (Review & Evaluations)
7:35 PM	Break
7:40 PM	Pregame Pod III (Review & Evaluations)
7:55 PM	Pregame Pod IV (Review & Evaluations)
8:10 PM	Break
8:15 PM	Marching Evaluations
8:45 PM	Around the Ladder
9:00 PM	Dismiss

Friday, August 7

10:00 AM –	
12:00 PM	<i>Check In & Registration (Band Room)</i> <i>All RETURNING Woodwinds & Brass</i> **Please Note – Any returning members who want to be “re-fitted” for a different uniform may arrive starting at 8:00AM -Temporary Dorm Check In (Hess Hall)
10:00 AM	Marching Rehearsal (Field) Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes, New WW / Brass
10:05 AM	Teach 8x5 Obliques (New Members, Drumline, Color Guard)
10:15 AM	Teach Bow Pregame Sequence
10:25 AM	Break
10:30 AM	Review 8x5, Flanks, TTR, Backward Marching, Transitions, Obliques
10:55 AM	Break
11:00 AM	Review Lateral Slide, Side Steps, Half-Time Step, Bow Sequence
12:00 PM	Lunch (Rocky Top Dining)
2:00 PM	Full Band Meeting (Band Room) -Introductions, Policies & Procedures, etc.
2:45 PM	Full Music Rehearsal Orange Folder: Warm Ups; Pregame
3:30 PM	Sectional Rehearsal (Pregame and Show #1) <i>*Music Memorization Evaluation #1 – Pregame A Pages</i>
5:00 PM	Dinner - Haslam Music Center (Buddy's BBQ)
6:30 PM	NEW MEMBERS: 157 Years of the Pride - Alumni Presentation Uniform Inspection Presentation (Band Room) RETURNING MEMBERS: Marching Rehearsal (Field) -Work in Squads -Review of Basic Fundamentals -NO REHEARSAL: Drumline, Color Guard, Majorettes
7:00 PM	Break
7:05 PM	Pregame Pod I (Review & Evaluations)
7:20 PM	Break
7:25 PM	Pregame Pod II (Review & Evaluations)
7:40 PM	Break
7:45 PM	Pregame Pod III (Review & Evaluations)
8:00 PM	Break
8:05 PM	Pregame Pod IV (Review & Evaluations)
8:20 PM	Break
8:25 PM	Marching Evaluations
9:00 PM	Dismiss

Saturday, August 8

9:00 AM	Full Band Rehearsal (Field-Set Attendance Block)
9:05 AM	Squads – Review Fundamentals (switch Squad Leaders) -Review MT, 8x5, Step Size, Flanks, TTR, BM
9:25 AM	Break
9:30 AM	Pregame Pod I (Review & Evaluations)
9:50 AM	Pregame Pod II (Review & Evaluations)
10:10 AM	Break
10:15 AM	Pregame Pod III (Review & Evaluations)
10:35 AM	Pregame Pod IV (Review & Evaluations)
10:55 AM	Break
11:00 AM	Marching Evaluations (7 min each)
11:30 AM	Lunch - Haslam Music Center (Honey Baked Ham)
1:30 PM	<i>Full Band Meeting - Review how to use UDB & Red Card</i>
2:00 PM	Full Music Rehearsal (Band Room) Guard (Gym D) – Majorettes (Field) Orange Folder: Warm Ups; TN Waltz; Pregame White Folder: 1-15 <i>*Pass Out Pregame Assignments</i>
3:00 PM	<i>Move into permanent dorms by 5:00 PM (this includes returning members). Dinner during break (Rocky Top Dining)</i>
6:30 PM	Full Band Rehearsal
6:35 PM	Teach Concert Set (Review Rocky Top w/singing)
6:50 PM	Squads – Review Parade Fundamentals
7:10 PM	Break
7:15 PM	Review Fundamentals in Squads (switch squad leaders)
7:40 PM	Around the Ladder

Sunday, August 9

10:00 AM	Full Band Rehearsal (Field)
10:05 AM	Marching Rehearsal (Full Band – Field) Begin Teaching Pregame
10:30 AM	Pregame (breaks as needed)
12:00 PM	Lunch (Rocky Top Dining)
2:00 PM	Sectional Rehearsals (Pregame Music & White Folder) <i>*Music Memorization Evaluation #2 – Pregame B Pages</i>
3:30 PM	Guard (Gym D) – Majorettes (Field) Full Music Rehearsal (Band Room) Orange Folder: Warm Ups, Pregame, Show 1 White Folder: 16-28
5:00 PM	Dinner (Rocky Top Dining)
6:30 PM	Marching Rehearsal (Full Band – Field) -Continue teaching Pregame
9:00 PM	Dismiss

Monday, August 10

9:00 AM	Full Band Rehearsal (Field)
9:05 AM	Squads – Review Fundamentals (switch Squad Leaders)
9:30 AM	Continue teaching Pregame (break as needed)
12:00 PM	Lunch - Haslam Music Center (Firehouse)
2:00 PM	Sectional Rehearsals (Pregame Music, Show 1, White Folder) <i>*Music Memorization Evaluation #3 – Pregame C & D Pages</i>
3:30 PM	Guard (Gym D) – Majorettes (Field) Full Music Rehearsal (Band Room) Orange Folder: Warm Ups; Show 1 Rocky Top – Singing; Touchdown/Field Goal Sequences
4:15 PM	Full Band - Review Policies & Procedures
5:00 PM	Dinner (Rocky Top Dining)
6:30 PM	Marching Rehearsal (Full Band – Field)
6:35 PM	Review Pregame (breaks as needed)
9:00 PM	Dismiss

Tuesday, August 11

9:00 AM	Full Band Rehearsal (Field)
9:05 AM	Circle Drill Pod I
9:30 AM	Break
9:35 AM	Circle Drill Pod II
10:00 AM	Break
10:05 AM	Circle Drill Pod III
10:30 AM	Break
10:35 AM	Circle Drill Pod IV
11:00 AM	Break
11:05 AM	Parade Marching -Review guiding, turns, and teach Salute to the Hill Sequence
11:30 AM	Lunch (Rocky Top Dining)
1:15 PM	Pep Band Auditions (Locations TBA)
2:00 PM	Sectional Rehearsals (Pregame Music, Show 1, White Folder) <i>*Music Memorization Evaluation #4 – E & F Pages</i>
3:30 PM	Guard (Gym D) – Majorettes (Field) Full Music Rehearsal (Band Room) Orange Folder: Warm Ups; Alma Mater; Star Spangled Banner; Show #1 White Folder: 29-37
5:00 PM	Dinner (Rocky Top Dining) -Woodwinds Pick Up Uniforms
6:30 PM	Marching Rehearsal (Full Band - Field) -Begin teaching Show 1 (breaks as needed)
9:00 PM	Dismiss

Wednesday, August 12

9:00 AM	Full Band Rehearsal (Field-Set Attendance Block)
9:05 AM	Marching Rehearsal (Full Band - Field) -Show 1 (breaks as needed)
12:00 PM	Lunch (Rocky Top Dining) -Trumpets and Baritones Pick Up Uniforms
2:00 PM	Guard (Gym D) – Majorettes (Field) Full Music Rehearsal (Band Room) Orange Folder: Warm Ups, Show 1; Salute to the Hill Sequence; Spirit of the Hill White Folder: 38-49
3:30 PM	Sectional Rehearsals (Show #2 & White Folder) <i>*Music Memorization Evaluation #5 – Fight Vols Fight & Down the Field</i>
5:00 PM	Dinner (Rocky Top Dining)
6:30 PM	Marching Rehearsal (Full Band – Field) -Teach Salute to the Hill Sequence
8:00 PM	Dismiss for Pool Party

Thursday, August 13

- 9:00 AM Full Band Rehearsal (Field-Set Attendance Block)
- 9:05 AM Squads – Review Fundamentals (switch Squad Leaders)
- 9:30 AM Marching Rehearsal (Full Band - Field) -Show 1 (breaks as needed)
- 12:00 PM Lunch (Rocky Top Dining)
- Trombones Pick Up Uniforms (1:30pm)
- 2:00 PM Guard (Gym D) – Majorettes (Field)
- Full Music Rehearsal (Band Room)
- Orange Folder: Warm Ups; Fanfare & TN Waltz March; Visitor Fight Song; Show #1
- White Folder: 50-58
- 3:30 PM Sectional Rehearsals (Show #2 & White Folder)
- *Music Memorization Evaluation #6 – Star Spangled Banner*
- 5:00 PM Dinner-Haslam Music Center (Buddy's Pasta Bar)
- Mellos & Sousas Pick Up Uniforms
- 6:20 PM Squad Leader Music Checks - Pregame
- 6:30 PM Marching Rehearsal (Full Band – Field)
- Review Pregame & Show 1 (breaks as needed)
- 8:00 PM Review Parade Marching and Salute to the Hill Sequence

Friday, August 14

- 8:45 AM Full Band Reports to Band Room / Uniform Inspection
- Practice Shorts / T Shirt / Short Black Socks / Tennis Shoes / Hat / White Folder
- 9:15 AM March to the Stadium & Salute to the Hill
- Marching Rehearsal (Neyland Stadium-TBA)
- Field Orientation (squads), Review Pregame, Set Stadium Seating
- 11:30 AM Lunch with the Chancellor
- 1:00 PM **First Year Student AYS Program at Student Union Auditorium*
- 1:00-4:00 PM *Large Ensemble Auditions - Clarinets*
- 4:00 PM Band Picnic – UT Intramural Field (Sutherland Avenue)
- 4:00-7:00 PM *Large Ensemble Auditions - Percussion*

Saturday, August 15 - No Pride Rehearsal

- 10:00AM-Noon *Large Ensemble Auditions - Trombones*
- 1:00-3:00 PM *Large Ensemble Auditions - Saxophones*
- 3:30-5:30 PM *Large Ensemble Auditions - Trumpets*

Sunday, August 16 - No Pride Rehearsal

- 9:00-9:30 AM *Large Ensemble Auditions - Bassoons*
- 10:00-11:30 AM *Large Ensemble Auditions - Flutes*
- 12:00-2:00 PM *Large Ensemble Auditions - Horns*
- 2:30-4:00 PM *Large Ensemble Auditions - Euph/Tubas*

Monday, August 17 – Classes Begin

- 3:45 PM Full Band Rehearsal (Field)
- Marching Rehearsal
- Pregame and Show 1 (break as needed)
- 5:45 PM Dismiss

2026-2027 Performance Schedule

All Times and Dates Subject to Change

Calendar

September 5	UT vs Furman (Band Family Weekend)
September 12	UT @ Georgia Tech (Atlanta - Full Band)
September 19	UT vs Kennesaw State
September 26	UT vs Texas
October 3	UT vs Auburn (Alumni Band Day)
October 9-11	UT @ Arkansas (Pep Band)
October 17	UT vs Alabama
October 19 (Monday)	Knox County Exhibition (Farragut HS)
October 23-24 or 24-25	UT @ South Carolina (Pep Band)
November 6	Homecoming Parade
November 7	UT vs Kentucky (Homecoming)
November 14 (TBA)	UT @ Texas A&M (Pep Band)
November 21	UT vs LSU
November 28	UT @ Vanderbilt (Pep Band)
November 30	Recording Session (Full Band-TBA)
December 1	Around the Career Ladder (Optional)
December 5	SEC Championship (Atlanta, GA-Full Band)*
December 27 - January 1	Bowl Game participation (Full Band)*
December 18/19	1st Round Playoffs
Dec 30 or January 1	Playoff Quarterfinals
January 14/15	Playoff Semifinals
January 25	NCAA Championship
April 2027	Orange and White Game (attendance required)

*Our involvement is dependent upon season

Band Camp

Housing

Band members living on campus in University Housing during the Fall Semester are eligible to live on campus during Band Camp. All Squad Leaders, Percussion, Color Guard, and Majorettes requiring Band Camp housing may check into **Hess Hall** on Monday, August 3, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. First year Woodwind and Brass members of the "Pride" requiring Band Camp housing may check into **Hess Hall** on Wednesday, August 5, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Returning upperclass Woodwind and Brass players may check into **Hess Hall** on Friday, August 7, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Any members traveling great distances to Knoxville (4+ hours) may check into the dorms one day prior to registration. Please indicate your early arrival on your Band Camp Registration form.

NOTE: It is likely during Band Camp that you will be assigned a different dorm room from your assigned room for the school year. If this is the case, you will be required to move into your permanent dorm rooms on *Saturday, August 8, beginning at 3:00 PM*. To minimize this move, it is recommended that you only bring to Band Camp those items necessary for Band Camp, and have your family bring the remainder of your belongings on Saturday.

You do **NOT** need to check in at the bandroom when you arrive. You may go straight to the dorm. The University will pay the cost of your Band Camp housing only if you are a member of the "Pride of the Southland" Marching Band and will be living in the dorms during the fall semester. **If at any time you decide to discontinue your membership in band, you must pay the remainder of your camp housing costs.**

Meals

Meals will be provided by the University to help defray the cost of meals during Band Camp. Students must be enrolled in classes at UTK in order to receive meals. You should use your meal-plan "dining dollars" on Saturday and Sunday. Regular meal plans begin Saturday, August 15.

Parking

Parking hangtags for Fall 2026 may be purchased with a credit card on the UT Parking Services website @ <http://web.utk.edu/~pso>, or you may purchase parking hangtags by visiting the Parking Services Office on campus. Based on whether you purchase a commuter hangtag (for those students not living on campus) or non-commuter hangtag (for students living in University Housing), you may park in commuter or non-commuter lots during Band Camp. All vehicles without current parking hangtags will be ticketed.

Parking provisions for home and away football games will be announced during Band Camp.

Late Arrivals to Band Camp

Anyone arriving after the designated scheduled date and time for his/her respective assignment, must submit in writing a request to Dr. Stewart to have the late arrival approved. This request must be received in the band office no later than **July 15**. If approved, you must arrive within 24 hours of the date of conflict. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action as determined by the directors.

DCI Policy: Those participating in DCI must be back by 9:00am on Monday, August 10 to be eligible for a pregame and/or halftime spot.

Class Policies

Auditions

All students must play a music audition for the opportunity to be a member of the “Pride of the Southland” Marching Band. Auditions will take place in the spring/summer. Students are evaluated on Attitude, Music, and Marching prior and during the season. During Band Camp, students’ abilities to march and play will be evaluated by faculty and staff. These evaluations will determine field placement and marching assignments.

Grading Policy

You must be enrolled for a grade in Music Ensemble 359 – “Marching Band” to attend class and perform with this ensemble (See University timetable for proper section number). Your grade in this course is based upon preparation, musical & marching performance, attitude & work ethic, and attendance. The faculty will evaluate each of these attributes to determine your final grade.

Preparation

Your preparation of music and drill maneuvers will be evaluated during both rehearsals and performances. Drill charts and music must be marked and learned before each rehearsal. You are required to have your instrument in proper performance condition (see Instrument Care, p. 19-20), flip folder, music lyre, and all other needed equipment ready at every rehearsal and performance. Dress should be comfortable but conservative for rehearsals. Tennis or running shoes are required footwear for rehearsals. Your uniform, equipment, music, and drill charts should be prepared to the standards stated by the directors. Failure to prepare for a rehearsal or performance will result in a grade reduction of 1/2 letter per infraction. You will also be placed on alternate or work status as determined by the directors (See page 16 for Alternate Policy). Repeat offenses will result in continued grade reduction and disciplinary action as determined by the directors. **The use of cell phones or other electronic communication devices during rehearsals or performances is strictly forbidden.**

Musical & Marching Performance

Your musical and marching performance will be evaluated at each rehearsal and performance. You must always strive for musical and marching excellence. **“Pregame,” “Salute to the Hill,” and the “National Anthem” music must be memorized prior to the beginning of band camp.** Students who fail to commit this music to memory will risk being placed on alternate or non-performance status. Visiting School Fight Songs and Circle Drill will also be memorized during the season through our Music Check Process. Failure to commit this music to memory will result in the loss of 1 letter grade each infraction (which can be appealed with a Graduate Student anytime prior to the next rehearsal).

A required weekly music sectional rehearsal for all woodwind and brass members will be held on Mondays from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the bandroom. A required weekly music sectional rehearsal for all percussionists will be held on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. A required weekly sectional rehearsal for all majorettes will be held on Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and for colorguard on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The performance of music as dictated by the written page is essential to maintaining the performance excellence of the Pride of the Southland Band. Any individual found improvising or playing notes or rhythms not written in the music will be placed on non-performance status (see page 15 for Non-Performance Policy).

Attitude, Work Ethic, Behavior, & Hazing

It is a privilege to be in the Pride, not a right. Students must strive to do their best at all times demonstrating behavior which is constructive, disciplined, focused, and represents the University of Tennessee in a positive manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action as determined by the directors. This can include, but is not limited to, any inappropriate behavior or language (in person or online) that is considered by the directors to be detrimental to other members or the program as a whole. Hazing of any kind, on or off the field, will not be tolerated. As defined by the Student Code of Conduct, hazing is “Any intentional or reckless act, on or off University-controlled property, by one student, acting along or with others, which is directed against any other student, which endangers the mental or physical health, safety, or welfare of that student, or which induces or coerces a student to endanger their mental or physical health, safety, or welfare. Hazing does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization regardless of the student’s willingness to participate.” Violation of any of these policies may result in removal from the band. For more info regarding hazing, visit: <https://hazingprevention.utk.edu/>.

The band program maintains a strict no response policy involving communication with belligerent fans or with any individual outside of the band program. This ensures the safety of each band member as well as protects the integrity of the program and university. **This no response policy also extends to all public verbal, written, and electronic forms of communication regarding the policies, practices, and performances of "The Pride of the Southland" Band. This including all forms of media and social media where you are representing the band. Prior authorization with the director is required for any interview or media presence.** Failure to adhere to these policies may result in failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band.

Any student who is physically, mentally, or emotionally unable to perform may be subject to removal from rehearsals or performances. These situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the final decision being made by the directors.

Attendance

Procedures

As a member of the "Pride," you are expected to arrive on time and attend every rehearsal and performance. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each rehearsal, sectional rehearsal, and performance. If you are not present at the time attendance is taken, you will be marked absent.

In the event of a schedule conflict with University of Tennessee classes, you must complete a course conflict form and turn it in with a copy of your schedule by **Friday, August 14**. These forms will be available at the beginning of Band Camp. Service Stipends will be deposited following the Bowl Game. Those who do not attend the Bowl Game will not receive their service stipends or pep band stipends.

Tardies & Absences

If you have an unexcused **tardy** from a rehearsal, you will be placed on alternate status or work detail for the next game as determined by the directors. If you have an unexcused **absence** from a rehearsal, your grade will be lowered by one full letter, and you will be placed on alternate status or work detail for the next game as determined by the directors. Two late arrivals (tardies) for rehearsal will be considered an unexcused absence. Each student is limited to three excused absences. All successive absences will be considered unexcused. If you have an unexcused tardy from a performance, your grade will be lowered by one full letter, and you will be placed on alternate status or work detail for the next game as determined by the directors. *If you have an unexcused absence from a performance, you will fail the course.* This includes the Bowl Game at the end of the season. *Failure to attend the bowl game will result in failure of the course.* Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band. Consult the schedule in this handbook for the dates of all required performances.

Emergency Absence from Class or Performance

Illness-In the event of an illness, severe enough to cause you to miss rehearsal or a performance, you must call the Band Office (865-974-5031) no later than 12:00 (noon) on the day of your absence. You must do this for every day of your absence. Within one week of your return to class, you must submit an official absence request form (available in the Band Office) with documentation to Dr. Stewart. No other forms of communication will be accepted. The band faculty will evaluate your request. The results of this evaluation will be posted in the band graduate office as to whether the absence has been excused.

Other Emergency Absences - If a personal or immediate family emergency prevents you from attending a rehearsal or performance, you must notify the Band Office immediately (865-974-5031). Within one week of your return to class, you must submit an official absence request form (available in the Band Office) to Dr. Stewart with documentation attached, concerning the nature of the emergency. No other forms of communication will be accepted. The band faculty will evaluate your request. If a request is denied, you will be notified by a graduate student. The only excused absences will be if you are participating in a wedding or a funeral. *ALL excused absences from a performance must be accompanied by supporting documentation (doctor's note, wedding program, funeral program, etc.).*

Non-Emergency Absence from Class or Performance

If you have a personal or family event that was planned prior to the beginning of Band Camp for which you would like to be excused from class or a performance, you must submit your request to have the absence excused to Dr. Stewart, no later than **5:00 p.m., Friday, August 14**. The band faculty will evaluate your request. The results of this evaluation will be posted in the band graduate office as to whether the absence has been excused.

Non-Performance

If you are placed on non-performance status, you will be suspended from performing with the band and your grade will be lowered by two (2) full letters. The period of suspension is determined by the directors. During this time of suspension, the student may not perform nor travel with the band.

Flip Folder and Music

You will be assigned two specifically numbered flip folders (Orange & White) at the first rehearsal. You are responsible for your "Orange and White" folders until you turn them in after the last game of the year. Losing your folder at any time during the season (this includes losing it on the field) will result in a \$20.00 charge per folder.

Except for "Pregame", Circle Drill, "Salute to the Hill", and "National Anthem", band members must use music and a lyre in **all rehearsals and performances**. Lyres may be purchased from any local music store. Piccolos (halftime only), Sousaphones and Percussionists are exceptions to this lyre policy. Faculty and staff will evaluate every student's memorization of the visiting team's fight song and circle drill one week prior to performance. If a student has not memorized their music, they will lose 1/2 letter grade for each infraction and may be placed on "alternate status".

Alternate Policy

Prior to learning Pregame or a halftime show, each student will be evaluated, ranked, and designated as either a principal or alternate marcher. These designations will be based upon the faculty and staff's evaluation of a student's preparation, musical and marching performance, attitude and work ethic, and attendance. Each student designated as a principal marcher will prepare his/her music and drill for a specific marching assignment. Each student designated as an alternate marcher will march beside a principal marcher and prepare his/her music and drill for that specific marching assignment. The re-evaluation and re-designation of principal and alternate marchers will continue throughout the season. **There are no permanent principal marcher designations.**

Performance

Each student's performance responsibility extends beyond the realm of Half Time and Pregame entertainment. In particular, the "Pride's" many traditions include the "March to the Stadium," "Salute to the Hill," "Pregame Spirals," and In-Stand Performance. Each of these traditions carries with it very specific responsibilities for each member of the band. These responsibilities will be outlined for the members of the band during Band Camp. The "Pride" is a vital force in the spirit and atmosphere of UT Football and the UT community! We represent the University, the State of Tennessee, and a 156-year tradition of excellence. Therefore, it is necessary for everyone to understand the role of the "Pride of the Southland Marching" Band in all performance situations, and how important each individual's contribution is to the success of the organization. Students who fail to accept the performance standards of "The Pride of the Southland" Band will be put on non-performance status (see page 15 for Non-Performance Policy). Repeated failures to meet these standards or gross negligence (as determined by the directors) of these standards will result in failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band.

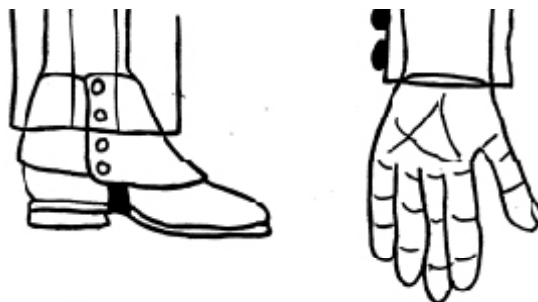
Required Band Member Expenses

Band members are required to have the following equipment and supplies. All purchases will be made with either (Master Card, Visa, or Discover) on-line using the order menu provided via email.

1. Viper Black Marching Shoes (apprx. \$47)
2. White Spats (\$13)
4. White Band Gloves (\$5)
5. Plume (\$45)
6. UT Instrument or Flag Maintenance Fee (\$40)
(Only if using a UT Instrument or Flag)(See page 19 for information)
7. Pride Adidas Travel Warm-Ups (Aprox \$150 total)
 - Shorts (\$32)
 - Pants (\$35)
 - Jacket (\$42)
 - T-Shirt (\$25)
 - Ball Cap (\$16)
8. Tech Fee for UDB app (\$22)

Band Member Appearance

Unless otherwise dictated by a Director, "Pride" members will be in full uniform at all times while in public. Full uniform is dictated as Viper Black Marching Shoes, Spats, Bibbers, UT Band T-Shirt, Coat (fully buttoned), and Citation Cords. Men are to be clean-shaven. When wearing your hat, your hair may not fall over the uniform collar, nor may it touch your eyebrows. If hair ribbons, scrunchies, etc., are used, they must be black in color. When worn, the hat is to be level on the head with the brim even with the eyebrows. The chinstrap is to be securely placed under the chin. All buttons and clasps are to be fastened and collar liners in place. Gloves when not worn must be placed in a uniform pocket, fully hidden. Make sure that the hem of the bibbers falls between the second and third snap of the spats. The snaps on the spats are to be facing out. The hem of the coat sleeve is to be at the base of the palm when the arm is relaxed at the side (see illustration).



Hair color must remain natural. Extreme colors are prohibited. Any form of jewelry including watches, may not be worn when in uniform. This includes earrings and any visible body piercings. Sideburns may not fall below the bottom of the ear. Colored nail polish may not be worn. Faces may not be painted. Tattoos may not be visible. Sunglasses, light sensitive glasses, or transition lenses may not be worn at any time while in uniform (full or travel). Towels, rags and/or other paraphernalia may not be attached to the uniform or instrument. Band members may not smoke while in uniform or in travel uniform. Flip folders, when not in use, should hang from the overlay straps with the white folder on the right and orange folder on the left.

Shoes must be polished. Spats, hats, and gloves must be clean. The uniform and all of its parts must be clean and pressed. Inspections will be conducted before each band performance. Failure to adhere to band member appearance requirements will result in the removal of that individual from the performance (See the attendance policy for the consequences of an unexcused absence from a performance), or being placed on non-performance status for the next performance. Any individual exceptions to these policies will be made at the discretion of the directors.

In accepting the privilege of wearing "The Pride of the Southland" Band Uniform, each student understands that the uniform represents the integrity, excellence, and tradition of the UT Band Program. **The uniform in its parts or entirety may only be worn when dictated by the directors. Any public display (i.e. photograph, video, electronic or digital media, etc.) or electronic posting of this uniform is forbidden.** Failure to meet these standards or gross negligence of the standards will result in failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band.

Dry Cleaning

Uniforms are regularly dry cleaned by Prestige Cleaners. Official announcements will be made regarding when your uniform must be turned-in for cleaning. Failure to turn in the uniform at the announced date and time will result in a \$25 late fee assessment to the student.

Hats & Plumes

Your hat must be cleaned prior to each game. It can be cleaned with Mr. Clean Magic Erasers. No material (i.e. bandanas, etc.) may be worn under your hat.

You are required to purchase a plume during Band Camp. You must at all times maintain the plume in its original condition. If, during the season, the plume becomes worn or damaged, you will be required to purchase a new plume for performances.

Cold Weather Clothing

In excessively cold weather, the Director may allow you to wear a designated UT Band black earband under your hat. These earbands may be purchased from the Uniform Managers. Students may wear black layers under the uniform. Black gloves are also allowed as long as they remain under the white band gloves.

Shoes & Spats

You are required to purchase black Viper (or Drill Master) marching shoes. A company representative will be available during Band Camp to fit you and take your order.

You are required to purchase one pair of white spats during band camp. Spats must be cleaned prior to each game. They can be cleaned with Mr. Clean Magic Erasers. Make sure all grass stains and scuff marks are removed. If your spats becomes worn or damaged, you will be required to purchase a new pair.

Gloves

You must purchase a pair of white UT band gloves. Throughout the season, gloves may be purchased from the Uniform Managers at the Uniform Room.

Raincoats

You will be assigned two "Pride of the Southland Band" raincoats at the time you are fitted for your uniform. In inclement weather, your squad leader will provide you with your assigned coats. It will be your responsibility to return your assigned raincoats at an announced time to your squad leader. Failure to return the assigned coats will result in a student's grades and transcripts being held. The replacement cost of a Pride raincoat is \$80.00 each.

Alterations & Buttons

Bibber and coat length may be altered by the snaps on the inseam only. NO CUTTING is allowed on any part of the uniform. Any alterations to the bibbers or coat, other than adjusting sleeve-length, is forbidden. All buttons must be sewn to the garment. Buttons may not be attached to the garment with the use of safety pins. Alterations to the uniform or its parts, in anyway, are forbidden without the permission of the directors or uniform workers.

Uniform Check-out

New members and transfers will be fitted for uniforms during orientation or during posted hours at Band Camp. Specific hours for all band members for uniform check-out may be found in the Band Camp schedule.

Uniform Check-in

Uniforms will be checked-in following the "Pride of the Southland's" final performance of the 2026-27 season. Any uniform not turned in will result in a charge to the student's account. Each student will be held accountable for the replacement cost of the uniform and parts.

Travel & Storage

Uniforms, when traveling, must be kept on a wooden hanger in your "Pride of the Southland" Garment Bag.

T-shirts

You are required to wear the official 2026-27 "Pride of the Southland" Band T-shirt under your uniform. Each student will be given one T-shirt during uniform check-out. Should you lose your shirt during the season, the replacement cost is \$25.00. These shirts may only be worn by UT "Pride of the Southland" members.

Travel Warm-Up Suits, Shorts & Hats

You must purchase a 2026-27 "Pride of the Southland" Warm-Up Suit and black shorts on-line. All fees will be paid with either (Master Card, Visa, or Discover) You will be required to wear this attire at various times throughout the season. Only Official UT Pride caps may be worn as headwear when dressed in Official Travel Clothes. See Travel Dress Code for specific information.

UT Instrument & Flag Check-Out & Deposit

Instrument & Flag Maintenance Fee

There is a \$40 maintenance fee required to check-out any UT Brass or Woodwind instrument, Marching Percussion, or Flag. This includes both marching and concert instruments. If you are going to use more than one UT instrument during the year, you are required to pay a fee for each instrument. The maintenance fee is used to repair and maintain each instrument/flag in the inventory. Repair costs for each instrument will be recorded. Any and all repair costs that are incurred while the UT equipment is checked-out to the student, beyond the \$40 maintenance fee, will be billed to the student. All marching band members performing on Mellophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Sousaphone, Percussion, and Flags are required to use matching UT instruments and Equipment. No cash or checks will be accepted. All fees will be paid with either (Master Card, Visa, or Discover) on-line.

New Member & Percussion Check-out

All percussionists (including cymbals) and colorguard will check out their instruments/flags on Monday, August 3. New members playing sousaphone, baritone, trombone, trumpet, or mellophone will check out their instruments on Wednesday, August 5 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Band Room. You must have paid the \$40 maintenance fee online to check-out an instrument/flag.

NO FEE, NO INSTRUMENT, NO EXCEPTIONS!

NOTE: The University does not provide any other marching instruments. Mouthpieces for brass instruments must be provided by the student.

Returning Member Instrument Check-out

Returning members playing sousaphone, baritone, trombone, mellophone, or trumpet will check out their instruments on Friday, August 7, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Bandroom. You must have paid the fee of \$40 online to check-out an instrument.

NO FEE, NO INSTRUMENT, NO EXCEPTIONS!

NOTE: The University does not provide any other marching instruments. Mouthpieces for brass instruments must be provided by the student.

Concert Instrument Check-out

Students playing in concert bands and needing a UT instrument (including percussion) may check out their instruments during band camp. You must have paid the fee of \$40 online to check-out an instrument.

Instrument Care

As a member of the "Pride," you are expected to perform on an instrument that is capable of producing and functioning at the highest possible level.

Brass Instruments (Trumpets, Mellophones, Trombones, Baritones, Sousaphones)

Quality/Upkeep - All instruments should be in the highest visual and working quality at all times. This includes: 1) All valves and slides lubricated on a regular basis and in good working order (i.e. -Tuning Slides); 2) All instruments/ mouthpieces free of major dents that could either prohibit maximum performance capabilities and/or present severe cosmetic problems (This includes solder and brace joints); 3) All instruments (except Sousaphone) must have a music lyre attached at all times; 4) All instruments must be properly stored and transported in a protective case; 5) Towels, streamers, rags, and/or other paraphernalia may not be attached to the instrument.

Color & Polish - All Students must use designated University-owned Silver Brass Instruments. All brass instruments need to be polished before EVERY performance.

Instrument Care (cont.)

Woodwind Instruments (Piccolos, Clarinets, Alto and Tenor Saxophones)

Quality/Upkeep - All instruments should be in the highest visual and working quality at all times. This includes: 1) All keys, corks and joints lubricated on a regular basis and in good working order. All pads must be in good performance condition; 2) All instruments/mouthpieces free of major dents or cracks that could either prohibit maximum performance capabilities and/or present severe cosmetic looks (This includes ligatures); 3) All instruments (except Piccolo) must have a music lyre attached at all times. 4) All instruments must be properly stored and transported in a protective case; 5) All reed instrumentalists must have several good working reeds at all times; 6) Towels, streamers, rags, and/or other paraphernalia may not be attached to the instrument. 7) Neck straps for saxophones and/or clarinets must be solid black in color.

Color & Polish - Piccolos: (silver or black finish); Clarinets: (black finish); Saxophones: (Brass Lacquer finish). All instruments (except clarinets) need to be polished before EVERY performance.

Percussion Instruments (Snares, Tenors, Basses, Cymbals)

Quality/Upkeep - All instruments should be in the highest visual and working quality at all times. This includes: 1) All lugs lubricated on a regular basis and in good working order; 2) All instruments/heads free of major dents or cracks that could either prohibit maximum performance capabilities and/or present severe cosmetic looks; 3) All battery instruments must be covered for daily rehearsals; 4) All instruments must be properly stored and transported individually in UT protective case/bags; 5) All battery percussionists must have at least one pair of approved practice sticks/mallets and one pair of approved performance sticks/mallets at all times. Cymbals must have the assigned cymbal straps and pads; 6) Towels, streamers, rags, and/or other paraphernalia may not be attached to the instrument/head; 7) All instruments need to be cleaned and/or polished before EVERY performance.

Drum Heads

Students will only perform on the brand and model of drum head specified by the band faculty. Each student will receive one replacement head per drum during the season. Each additional head will be charged to the student.

Sticks and Mallets

Students will only perform on the brand and model of drum stick/mallet specified by the band faculty. Each battery percussionist will be provided with one set of practice sticks/mallets and one set of performance sticks/mallets. All replacement sticks/mallets will be charged to the student.

Instrument Loading and Unloading

When traveling, each student is responsible for loading and unloading his/her own instrument from the instrument truck. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the student being put on work duty as determined by the directors.

Inclement Weather

If, due to inclement weather, your instrument becomes wet, it is your responsibility to properly dry and care for the instrument and case assigned to you. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the student being put on work duty.

Instrument Storage

UT instruments should be stored in their assigned locker or locker area within the UT Band Instrument Storage Area.

Repairs

Any repairs needed to your UT instrument must be reported immediately to Dr. Stewart or the assigned graduate student. *Students will be held financially responsible for any repairs deemed "unnatural" as well as any lost or stolen instruments.*

Instrument Check-in

Any instrument being checked-in must be cleaned, polished and the case cleaned-out. UT instruments not turned in on the specified date will result in grades and transcripts being held.

Travel

Travel

Band members are expected to perform at all football games, marching band events, and marching band trips as dictated by the season schedule or as announced by the directors. Plan ahead for Thanksgiving as well as a probable bowl trip. You are responsible for following trip schedules and taking responsibility for your luggage, instrument, and uniform. This includes loading and unloading all items from busses or trucks.

All students are expected to ride University-provided transportation. Any exceptions should be submitted, in writing, on an official travel excuse form to Dr. Stewart no later than one week in advance of the event. No other forms of communication will be accepted. **Any member missing the University-provided transportation is responsible for getting to the event on time. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band.** During Band Camp, you will have the opportunity to sign-up for the bus on which you will travel for the semester. Once bus lists are finalized and posted, you may not ride on a different vehicle without approval from the director. **Each student must be seated on his/her assigned bus fifteen (15) minutes prior to each departure.** Attendance will be taken at that time.

During Band Camp, you will also have the opportunity to sign-up for hotel room accommodations. Four students are assigned to each room. While traveling with the band, only those band members assigned to a room may occupy the room. Each student is required to stay in his/her assigned hotel room unless approved by the director. You and your roommates are responsible for any incidental room charges (e.g. movies, room service and phone calls). While staying in a hotel, a "no noise" policy between the hours of 11:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. will be maintained by all band students.

Failure to adhere to bus or hotel assignments will result in the failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band. You have the privilege of traveling with "The Pride of the Southland Band," one of the premier band organizations in the nation. As a student at The University of Tennessee, you are subject to all University rules governing student conduct as outlined in the 2026-2027 UT Student Handbook, *Hilltopics*. You will be held responsible for all aspects of your behavior. Please remember to respect the rights of others in the group and all persons not connected with the group.

Alcohol/Drug Policy

Consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of illegal drugs, or behavior deemed inappropriate by the directors, while associated with the band at any performance, rehearsal or university sponsored/related activity will not be tolerated. No participant, staff member, or representative of the UT Band Program, in transit to or from a UT Band Program function, when staying in accommodations provided by official University means, regardless of age, shall exhibit visible evidence of the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances. Individuals in violation of these policies will be subject to referral to the Dean of Students and failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band.

People will judge you, The University of Tennessee, and "The Pride of the Southland Band" by your actions, both on and off the field. Your behavior and appearance must be exemplary and well beyond what is expected of you as a private individual. The outstanding reputation of "The Pride of the Southland" has taken years to build and can be destroyed by one individual and one unfortunate incident.

Travel Dress Code

While traveling with The "Pride of the Southland Marching Band," please remember that you represent not only the band, but also The University of Tennessee and the State of Tennessee. Therefore, it is very important to maintain a positive image. In order to establish and maintain this image, all students must adhere to Band Member Appearance guidelines as stipulated on page 17 of this handbook. Travel dress code for band members is as follows:

For Travel by Bus (unless in full uniform): All students must wear the "Pride of the Southland" Shirt, Official Travel Cap (if a hat is worn), the official "Pride" Warm-Up Suit or Black Shorts (as dictated by the directors), short black socks, and tennis shoes. Jewelry may not be worn with the exception of a black wrist watch. Any questions should be directed to one of the Director(s).

For Travel by Airplane: All students should wear dress clothes which meet the following criteria: Men-Dress Slacks, Suit or Sport Coat, Shirt, Tie, Dress Shoes and Socks. Women- Dresses or Pants Suits, Dress Shoes. Jewelry may not be worn with the exception of a wrist watch.

Travel (Cont.)

University Disability Statement

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment for all students. If you anticipate or experience a barrier in this course due to a chronic health condition, a learning, hearing, neurological, mental health, vision, physical, or other kind of disability, or a temporary injury, you are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at 865-974-6087 or sds@utk.edu. An SDS Coordinator will meet with you to develop a plan to ensure you have equitable access to this course. If you are already registered with SDS, please contact your instructor to discuss implementing accommodations included in your course access letter.

University Title IX/Reporting Statement

University of Tennessee faculty are committed to supporting our students and upholding gender equity laws as outlined by Title IX. Please be aware that if you choose to confide in a faculty member regarding an issue of sexual harassment (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), sexual exploitation, and retaliation (prohibited conduct) we are obligated to inform the University's Office of Title IX. They can assist you in connecting with all possible resources both on- and off-campus. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, the Student Counseling Center (865-974-2196) and the Student Health Center (865-974-3135) are both confidential resources. For additional resources and information, visit titleix.utk.edu.

Football Pep Bands

There are two performing “Pride of the Southland” Pep Bands during the football season. Membership in each of these bands is through audition. Auditions will be held during band camp (see master schedule for date and times). Members will receive a pep band stipend at the end of the marching season commensurate with the organization to which they are assigned.

Orange Pep Band

The Orange Pep Band performs at assigned pep rallies, all away football game pep rallies, bowl trip pep rallies, and other events as scheduled. Members will receive a stipend of \$150.00.

White Pep Band

The White Pep Band performs for the “Vol Walk” at home games and other events as scheduled. Members will receive a stipend of \$150.00.

Concert Bands

There are three concert bands which rehearse and perform each semester. Auditions for the fall semester will be held throughout band camp. See the Band Camp Schedule for specific instrument audition dates and times. The required audition music will be available to all band members on the UT Band website (www.utbands.com) in mid-July.

Wind Ensemble (Music Ensemble 353)

Wind Ensemble is comprised of the most outstanding wind and percussion students in the music program. The group is dedicated to performing a broad range of music spanning the 16th through 20th centuries. Using the player pool concept, the ensemble performs music ranging from works requiring as few as eight players to as many as sixty. Flexible instrumentation and player rotation provide the members of the ensemble with a variety of responsibilities, challenges, and playing experiences. The Wind Ensemble rehearses Tuesday-Thursday from 2:25 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Symphonic Band (Music Ensemble 352)

Symphonic Band is a 70-piece select ensemble who performs standard works in the wind ensemble/band repertoire. The band is noted for its rich sonorities, and provides students with the opportunity to perform significant works from the 19th and 20th centuries. The Symphonic Band rehearses: Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 12:40 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Concert Band (Music Ensemble 350)

Concert Band is comprised of approximately 60 music and non-music majors and provides its musicians the opportunity to perform a wide variety of quality concert band literature. The Concert Band rehearses: Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 12:40 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

University Band (*Spring Semester Only* - Music Ensemble 344)

The University Band is comprised of approximately 50 music and non-music majors. University Band provides its musicians the opportunity to perform a wide variety of quality concert band literature with a commitment of one rehearsal a week and one concert per semester. The University Band rehearses: Monday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Spring only

Basketball Pep Bands

Schedule

Refer to UT PEP BAND SCHEDULE 2026-2027

Auditions / Membership / Credit

Auditions will be held for all instruments and students will be assigned into one of the following ensembles: 1) Men's Basketball Pep Band; 2) Lady Vols Pep Band; 3) Alternate List. Any member who wishes to perform in the other Pep Band in addition to their assigned ensemble - may do so with the permission of the Director(s). (Stipends will only be awarded for services performed in the assigned ensemble). All members must be enrolled Spring Semester for credit in MUSIC ENSEMBLE 354.

Attendance / Stipends / Grades

All students are required to attend ALL scheduled rehearsals and performances unless excused by one of the directors. All student members of each designated Pep Band will receive a stipend of \$20.00 per game.

Any member who wishes to perform in the other Pep Band in addition to their assigned ensemble - may do so with the permission of the director(s). Any student who performs as a "volunteer" will not receive an additional stipend for that game.

Performances during university breaks will be considered "Holiday Pep Band" performances. The Holiday Pep Band is open to any UT registered student and each student will receive a stipend (\$20.00 per game) for their service. All stipends will be paid at the conclusion of the spring semester.

Pep Band grades are based upon attendance and preparation. An unexcused absence from rehearsal will reduce your grade by one letter per absence. An unexcused absence from a performance will reduce your grade to an "F." Two late arrivals to a rehearsal or performance will be considered an unexcused absence. Any student member who is dismissed for disciplinary actions will automatically forfeit their stipend and will receive a course grade of "F." Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the Pep Band.

Pep Band Members are REQUIRED to report exactly one hour before the scheduled time of the game to the designated warm-up area. Students who are tardy (unexcused) will not receive a stipend for the performance.

Basketball Pep Band Uniform

The Pep Band Uniform will consist of the following:

- a. UT Pep Band Shirt (Will be checked out at first practice)
- b. Black Pants (Style to be dictated by the directors)
- c. Black Shoes, Black Socks, and Black Belt (Style to be dictated by the directors)

Basketball Pep Bands

Basketball Pep Bands (cont.)

Pep Band Member Appearance & Instruments

Unless otherwise dictated by a director, "Pride Pep Band" members will be in full uniform at all times while in public. Full uniform is dictated as Black Pants (style to be dictated by directors); UT Pep Band Shirt; Black Dress Shoes and Long Black Socks; and Black Belt. Pep Band Uniforms are to be clean and pressed at all times.

Hair color must remain natural. Extreme colors are prohibited. Jewelry (including watches) may not be worn when in "Pride Pep Band" uniform. This includes earrings and any visible body piercing. Men are to be **clean-shaven**. Hair should be clean and neatly groomed. Bangs may not touch the eyebrows. Overall hair length and style should represent a professional/business look. Sideburns may not fall below the bottom of the ear. If hair ribbons, scrunchies, etc., are used, they must be black in color. Colored nail polish may not be worn. Faces may not be painted. Tattoos may not be visible. Sunglasses, light sensitive glasses, or transition lenses may not be worn at any time while performing in uniform or traveling with the UT Pep Band. Towels, rags and/or other paraphernalia may not be attached to the uniform or instrument. Band members may not smoke while in uniform or any time they are traveling with the UT Pep Band. Cell phones or any other electronic media may not be used while performing with the UT Pep Bands.

Inspections will be conducted by a Pep Band Director or Graduate Assistant before each pep band performance. Failure to adhere to band member appearance requirements (as determined by the Pep Band Director) will result in the removal of that individual from the performance (See the attendance policy for the consequences of an unexcused absence from a performance), or being placed on non-performance status for the next performance. Any individual exceptions to these policies will be made at the discretion of the Pep Band Director or Graduate Assistant in charge.

In accepting the privilege of wearing The Pride of the Southland Pep Band Uniform, each student understands that the uniform represents the integrity, excellence, and tradition of the UT Band Program. The uniform in its parts or entirety may only be worn when dictated by a director. Any public display (i.e. photograph, video, electronic or digital media, etc.) or electronic posting of this uniform is forbidden without the written permission of the Director of Bands. Failure to meet these standards or gross negligence of these standards will result in failure of the course. Upon failure, a student may not participate in rehearsal, perform, or travel with the band.

Please see page 19 & 20 for instrument useage and care policies.

Basketball Pep Bands (cont.)

Alternate Policy

Pep Band members are expected to perform at all events, performances, and trips as dictated by the season schedule or as announced by the director(s). If any member has a conflict of any kind, they must complete the following steps:

1. Find an alternate replacement of the same instrument / part from either the other pep band or the alternate list.
2. Complete an official "Sub-Contract Form" and return it to the director(s) in advance of the conflict date. Sub-Contract Forms are available in the Band Office. A limit of (2) "sub-contracted" dates per member will be allowed before penalty. All contracts are subject to approval of the Director(s).
3. Loan their Pep Band Shirt and Flip Folder (if needed) to the substitute.

Any member who fails to acquire a substitute will be subject to failure of the course and loss of stipend. If a member has contracted a substitute and the substitute does not attend - the original member will be assessed a penalty fee of \$20.00 and loss of one letter grade. Any substitute that is registered for the course and misses the "contracted" performance will be subject to failure of the course and loss of stipend. It is not the responsibility of the director(s) to find a substitute for your position!

Post-Season Performance Requirements

All Pep Band members are responsible for post-season / tournament performances regardless of which team (Men's and Women's) is participating in post-season play. Rosters will be assigned by the director(s). If a member is unable to perform during a tournament trip due to failure to be prepared (uniform, instrument, music), that member will forfeit their travel per diem for that trip and will follow these guidelines:

Failure to meet SEC/NCAA or other post-season performance requirements as assigned by the Pep Band Director will result in:

1. Failure of the course.
2. Loss of stipend for ENTIRE season.

Any exceptions to the Post-Season Policies must be approved by a director.

Performance/Travel Policy

All Travel Policies of The University of Tennessee "Pride of the Southland" Marching Band are in effect for all members of the UT Pep Bands. (Refer to pages 21-22 in this handbook for clarification.)



PRIDE OF THE SOUTHLAND



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