



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
BLAZIN'
BRIGADE

Welcome Blazers!

Thank you for signing up for the 42nd Season of the Valdosta State University Blazin' Brigade Marching Band!

As a member of Blazin' Brigade, you are invited to share in the *foot-and-a-half* experience which is guaranteed to each member who belongs to our organization. This *foot-and-a-half* of prime real estate on our field belongs to *you* as a reminder of our commitment to music and our appreciation of the tradition upheld by Blazin' Brigade. By joining Blazin' Brigade, you have committed yourself to be a part of one of the deepest held and most valued traditions at Valdosta State University.

BAND CAMP KICKOFF IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 11th. Our members are actively engaged in making positive contributions to Blazin' Brigade and the university community.

Blazin' Brigade is a spirit organization and a university course; the musical demands of our organization are highly valued. We want you to be successful, so we provide opportunities for you to receive instruction from faculty, student leaders, and graduate assistants throughout the season.

If you have additional questions, check out our Facebook page or visit our website at:
<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts/music/blazin-brigade/>

We look forward to having everyone be a part of our team this year; this will be one of the best experiences you will have in your collegiate career!

Go Blazers!

Skye Holmes, DMA
Director of Athletic Bands
Valdosta State University
(229) 333-5809
skholmes@valdosta.edu

IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES

August 7	Leadership Team, Drumline, Guard, and Twirler Move-in Day
August 7-11	Leadership Team, Drumline, Guard, and Twirler Camp
August 11	Early Move In & Blazin' Brigade Orientation Meeting (All members)
August 12	New Member Day (for new members only)
August 12-17	BAND CAMP (All members)
August 19	First Day of Classes (Meet in Whitehead Auditorium)

MEMBERSHIP CHECKLIST

✓ **Fill out the online registration form: <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts/music/blazin-brigade/online-registration.php>**

We collect this information, like your instruments, dietary needs, etc., as a part of running a large band program. *You must fill out the online registration form as soon as possible to make sure you receive all communications!*

✓ **Register for Blazin' Brigade: MUSC 3880 (CRN 80564, 1 credit, MW 4:00-5:50 PM, F 3:00-4:50 PM)**

Since Blazin' Brigade is a university course, everyone must sign up for the class. Additional information is available in the class registration guide later in this packet. Take this information when you see your advisor.

✓ **Purchase additional items you will need:**

Woodwinds and brass will need a flip folder with at least 20 sheets. *Woodwinds:* You DO need to purchase a lyre. *Brass:* You do NOT use lyres. You should be able to purchase these through your local music store.

Percussion will provide your own sticks/mallets and a black, three-ring binder with plastic page protectors.

✓ **Early dorm move-in: Sunday, August 11th, 2024**

When you fill out the online registration form, please check "Yes" if you will be living in a dorm this fall and will need to move in before band camp (most freshman).

Leadership Team, Drumline, Guard, Twirlers will move in on Wednesday, August 7th. These groups will begin camp that afternoon. Unfortunately, we cannot do dorm move-in any earlier than August 7th. If you have having difficulty finding accommodations, please contact Dr. Holmes (skholmes@valdosta.edu) asap. Meals will be on your own. Please check the campus meal options for these days.

ONLINE REGISTRATION GUIDE

Go to <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts/music/blazin-brigade/> to fill out the Online Registration form as soon as possible. This does not register you for MUSC 3880. See the class registration guide below. This will take you approximately 10 minutes to complete if you have the following:

- Your basic contact information (name, phone, etc.)
- Contact information for at least one person you want us to contact in case of emergency
- Additional information on dietary or medical concerns we should know about

If your information changes, you can contact the band office or correct it at Band Camp when you check-in.

CLASS REGISTRATION GUIDE

Blazin' Brigade is a University course and **all members of Blazin' Brigade must register for MUSC 3880**. Speak with your advisor about making sure Blazin' Brigade is on your schedule. If any questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Register as soon as possible! Incoming students will register during summer orientation. **Please attend the earliest orientation session you can;** you will have a better opportunity to take the classes you want/need at the times that are most convenient for you.

COURSE: MUSC 3880

CRN: 80564

1 credit hour – MW 4:00-5:50 PM, F 3:00-4:50 PM

CLASS CONFLICTS

Class conflicts are handled on a case-by-case basis. If the conflicting class is an elective or offered another semester, it does not qualify for you to receive an exemption. Any course that overlaps more than 15 minutes of rehearsal may not qualify for exemption.

Work, Club Events, Greek Life, Vacation, etc., conflicts are not excused absences. *By joining Blazin' Brigade, you have committed yourself to be a part of one of the most valued traditions at Valdosta State University. You will have opportunities not available to other students.*

1. **All class conflicts must be resolved by August 19th, 2024 (first day of classes).** Please e-mail Dr. Holmes directly (skholmes@valdosta.edu).
2. If approved, you will be required to fill out a form with the university to approve your class conflict. Please speak to your advisor to obtain this form.

REQUIRED APARELL

All required apparel will be available for you to order upon arrival for Band Camp. All members need at least one of each item marked "Required," but you may want to order more (we recommend at least two t-shirts and multiple pairs of gloves).

Ordering opens: August 7th, 2024

Last order deadline: August 19th, 2024 at 6:00 PM

These items are available **only from our inventory:**

Item	Woodwinds	Brass	Percussion	Guard	Twirlers
Official t-shirt	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
White spats	Required	Required	Required	N/A	N/A
Official band hat	Required	Required for everyone except sousaphones	Required	N/A	N/A
Official Warm-ups	Optional	Optional	Optional	Required	Required
Water Bottle*	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Draw String Bag*	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required

Some of these items are available on our store, but may be purchased elsewhere:

Item	Woodwinds	Brass	Percussion	Guard	Twirlers
BLACK gloves	Required (fingerless options for woodwinds)	Required	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black athletic shorts	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Black calf-length socks	Required	Required	Required	N/A	N/A
Black marching shoes	Required	Required	Required	N/A	N/A
Dance shoes (as determined by instructor)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Required	Required
Skin-toned base layer for cold weather	N/A	N/A	N/A	Required	Required
Practice Flag and Poms	N/A	N/A	N/A	Required	N/A
Practice Flag Bag	N/A	N/A	N/A	Optional	N/A
Guard/Twirler Costume, Batons, and Bag (Ordered by instructor)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Required	Required
Blazin' Brigade Backpack	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional

Pricing Guide:

Official T-shirt \$25

White Spats \$13

Gloves \$12

Hat \$23

Lady Shorts \$27 (optional)

Men Shorts \$21 (optional)

Drawstring Bag \$12

Water Bottle \$12

Shoes \$36

Flip Folder \$10

Hoody \$43 (optional)

Flag & Pole (guard/twirlers) \$28

Flag Bag (guard/twirlers) \$39 (optional)

Poms (guard/twirlers) – In Guard Packet

All Carry Large Backpack (optional)

Warm-ups (guard/twirlers) \$120

BAND CAMP FALL 2024 SCHEDULE

All events during Band Camp are **required**.

SUNDAY AUGUST 11

Housing will contact you about your move in date and time.

2:00-4:00 PM	Check-in <i>Confirm personal information, instrument check-out, and apparel distribution</i>	Lobby, Fine Arts Building
4:00 PM	Flute, Clarinet & Trumpet part placements <i>Music for part assignment auditions and room assignments will be available at check-in</i>	TBD, Fine Arts Building
5:00 PM	Dinner break	
6:30 PM	All Members Meeting	Whitehead Auditorium

MONDAY AUGUST 12 (NEW MEMBER DAY)

9:00AM-Noon	Rehearsal	Reames Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30-4:30 PM	Rehearsal	TBD

TUESDAY AUGUST 13 (ALL MEMBERS START)

9:00AM-Noon	Rehearsal	Reames Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30-4:30 PM	Rehearsal	TBD

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14

9:00AM-Noon	Rehearsal	Reames Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30-4:30 PM	Rehearsal	TBD

THURSDAY AUGUST 15

9:00AM-Noon	Rehearsal	Reames Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30-4:30 PM	Rehearsal	TBD
4:30 PM.	Dinner break	
7:00 PM CONVOCATION		Whitehead Auditorium

Wear "Sunday Church" attire (khaki pants, collared shirts, dresses/skirts, etc.)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

9:00AM-Noon	Rehearsal	Reames Field
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30-4:30 PM	Rehearsal	TBD
6:30 PM	TRADITIONS NIGHT/PEP RALLY	PE Complex

SATURDAY AUGUST 17

VSO auditions (TBD in afternoon)

9:00 AM-12:00 PM	GAME DAY REHEARSAL	Bazemore-Hyder Stadium
	<i>Wear your band t-shirt and hat, mid-calf length black socks, black shoes, spats, black athletic shorts, and black gloves</i>	

FALL 2024 BLAZIN' BRIGADE SCHEDULE (AS OF MAY 1 2024)

A final schedule will be issued on the first day of class with the course syllabus. Items in **bold** are required for all members.

Date	Event	Notes
August 7-11	Leadership Team, Drumline, Guard & Twirler Camp	Info sent by Instructor
August 11	Early Move In & Orientation Meeting	All members
August 12	New Member Day	Required for new members only
August 12-17	Band Camp	All members, 9:30am-4:30pm
August 16	*Traditions Night Pep Rally	6:00-8:00PM
August 17	Stadium Rehearsal	9:00-11:00AM
August 31	Stadium Rehearsal	9:00-11:00AM
August 31	VSU vs Albany State	TBA
September 14	Stadium Rehearsal	9:00-11:00AM
September 14	VSU vs. Fayetteville State	TBA
September 28	Stadium Rehearsal	9:00-11:00AM
September 28	VSU vs. West Alabama (Band Day)	TBA
October 11	Brantley County Band Day	TBA
October 17	*Homecoming Pep Rally	6:00-9:00PM
October 18 or 19	*Homecoming Parade	TBA (Fri @ 3pm OR Sat AM)
October 19	Stadium Rehearsal	9:00-11:00AM
October 19	VSU vs. Mississippi (Homecoming)	TBA
October 31	Leadership Applications Due	11:59:59 PM
November 2	Stadium Rehearsal	9:00-11:00AM
November 2	VSU vs. Chowan	TBA
November 6-10	Leadership Teaching and Playing Auditions	By appointment and in class
November 9	*Open House	9:00-10:30 AM
November 16	Stadium Rehearsal	9:00-11:00AM
November 16	VSU vs. West Georgia (Senior Night)	7:00PM Kickoff
November 22	*Band Banquet (Powell Hall)	5:00PM
November 23	*NCAA Football Playoff	TBD; Required
November 30	*NCAA Football Playoff	TBD; Required
December 7	*NCAA Football Playoff	TBD; Required
December 14	*NCAA Football Playoff	TBD; Required
December 18-22	*NCAA National Championship (McKinney, TX)	TBD; Required

**All non-home game events are subject to change at this time – Please continue to check the website, e-mail, and Band App frequently for any updates. The Blazin' Brigade Marching Band has no plans to travel to away games this season.*