



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**BLAZIN'  
BRIGADE**

March 1, 2019

Friends,

Welcome to the **36TH 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. *You will have opportunities not available to other students.*

**BAND CAMP KICKOFF IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 11.** We do not limit the number of students we accept into the program. 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, first check our website at <http://blazinbrigade.org>. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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

Go Blazers!

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## IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES

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- April 27** Guard and Blazettes Auditions  
*More information at [blazinbrigade.org](http://blazinbrigade.org)*
- June 20-22** Blazer Marching Academy  
*More information at [blazinbrigade.org](http://blazinbrigade.org)*
- June 22** Drumline and Front Ensemble Auditions  
*More information at [blazinbrigade.org](http://blazinbrigade.org)*
- July 10** Priority deadline to order required team gear for arrival by Band Camp
- August 1** Final deadline to order required team gear for arrival by first performance
- August 10** Drumline, front ensemble, guard, and Blazettes rehearsals begin

<b>AUGUST 11-17</b>	<b>BAND CAMP</b>
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**AUGUST 19** First day of classes

## MEMBERSHIP CHECKLIST

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- ✓ **Fill out the online registration form: <http://register.blazinbrigade.org>**

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. If you have questions, please contact the band office immediately!

- ✓ **Purchase additional items you will need: <http://apparel.blazinbrigade.org>**

Woodwinds and brass will need to furnish your own lyre and flip folder with at least 20 sheets. *Brass: we do not use flip folders or lyres that mount onto our instruments.* 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 11, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM**

When you fill out the online registration form, you will let us know if you are moving in early. Drumline, front ensemble, guard, and Blazettes will need to find accommodations to arrive early in Valdosta for your required rehearsals that begin Saturday, August 10. Staff and drum majors begin on Thursday, August 8; section leaders on Friday, August 9. Unfortunately, we cannot do dorm move-in any earlier than August 11. Breakfast will be provided by VSU Bands beginning Saturday, August 10, through the start of regular dining services. Lunch and dinner are your responsibility.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION GUIDE

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Go to <http://register.blazinbrigade.org> 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 15 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

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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.

Work/job, club, Greek, etc., conflicts are not acceptable. *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. The class conflict form will be sent out during band camp and is due on Friday, August 16, at 5:00 PM. You will need to provide:
  - Class title, course number, CRN, meeting dates and times
  - Reason for the conflict
2. If approved, you may be required to fill out a form with the university to approve your class conflict.

## DRUMLINE, FRONT ENSEMBLE, GUARD, BLAZETTES, LEADERSHIP

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Leadership meetings start **Friday, August 9**. Rehearsals for drumline, front ensemble, guard, and Blazettes begin on **Saturday, August 10**. Separate schedules will be sent via email.

## REQUIRED APPAREL

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After many requests from students, required apparel will be available for you to order online. This online resource will allow you to order as many band t-shirts, gloves, spats, etc., as you want. The band does not make a profit on the items you order; we try to keep costs as reasonable as possible.

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). Not all items have to be purchased through the gear website. *Note: some items are required during band camp week (t-shirt, spats, ball cap, black shorts, black calf-length socks, black shoes).*

**Website:** <http://apparel.blazinbrigade.org>

**Ordering opens:** April 1, 8:00 AM; you will not receive your order until Band Camp

**Priority deadline:** July 10, 11:59 PM, to have your items arrive by Band Camp

**Last order deadline:** August 1, 11:59 PM, to have your items arrive before the first home game

Items ordered by the priority deadline and the last order deadline will be shipped to the Band House and delivered to you at rehearsal or you will be notified it is ready for pick-up. You will still be able to order after August 1, but it will be very expensive to cover single-item screen printing, embroidery, and shipping costs.

These items are available **only on our store:**

Item	Woodwinds	Brass	Percussion	Guard/Blazettes
Official t-shirt (\$20)	Required	Required	Required	Required
White spats (\$10)	Required	Required	Required	
Official band hat (\$20.50)	Required	Required for trumpets, mellophones, trombones, baritones	Required	
Black headband (\$6)				Required
Official jacket/pants (\$45/\$35)				Required; returners may use last year's

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

Item	Woodwinds	Brass	Percussion	Guard/Blazettes
White long-wristed cotton gloves	Required (piccolos and clarinets order fingerless gloves)	Required		
Black athletic shorts	Required	Required	Required	Required
Black calf-length socks	Required	Required	Required	
Black marching shoes	Required	Required	Required	
Black dance/guard shoes				Required
Skin-toned base layer for cold weather				Required

# BAND CAMP SCHEDULE

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All events during Band Camp are required. Drumline, front ensemble, guard, and Blazettes will have separate schedules for August 10-11. Leadership will have separate schedules for August 9-11.

## SUNDAY AUGUST 11

*Dorms are open for move-in beginning at 9:00 AM. Dining services open.*

<b>2:00-4:00 PM</b>	<b>Check-in</b> <i>Confirm personal information, instrument check-out, and apparel distribution</i>	<b>Lobby, Fine Arts Building</b>
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Clarinet, trumpet, trombone auditions</b> <i>Music for part assignment auditions is available at <a href="http://blazinbrigade.org">http://blazinbrigade.org</a>; specific room assignments will be available at check-in</i>	<b>2nd Floor, Fine Arts Building</b>
5:00 PM	Dinner break	
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Returners Meeting</b>	<b>Whitehead Auditorium</b>
<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>All Members Meeting</b>	<b>Whitehead Auditorium</b>
<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>Music Rehearsal</b>	<b>Whitehead Auditorium</b>

## MONDAY AUGUST 12

<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Fine Arts Building</b>
4:30 PM	Dinner break	
<b>6:30-9:00 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>

## TUESDAY AUGUST 13

<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Fine Arts Building</b>
4:30 PM	Dinner break	
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CONVOCATION</b> <i>Wear "Sunday Church" attire (khaki pants, collared shirts, dresses/skirts, etc.)</i>	<b>Whitehead Auditorium</b>

## WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14

<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
1:30 PM	New students meet with Dean Pearce <i>All others have the afternoon off to buy books, find classrooms, follow-up on financial aid, etc.</i>	<b>Whitehead Auditorium</b>
<b>6:30-9:00 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>

## THURSDAY AUGUST 15

*All-campus dorm move-in. Do not park in Oak Street parking lot today.*

<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Fine Arts Building</b>
4:30 PM	Dinner break	
<b>6:30-9:00 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
12:00 PM	Lunch break	
<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Fine Arts Building</b>
4:30 PM	Dinner break	
<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>SECTION NIGHT</b>	

## SATURDAY AUGUST 17

*VSO auditions*

<b>9:00 AM-12:00 PM</b>	<b>GAME DAY REHEARSAL</b> <i>Wear your band t-shirt and hat, mid-calf length black socks, black shoes, spats, black athletic shorts, and white gloves</i>	<b>Bazemore-Hyder Stadium</b>
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# FALL 2019 BLAZIN' BRIGADE SCHEDULE

A final schedule will be issued on the first day of class. Required events are in **bold**.

Subscribe to the full VSU Bands calendar on your phone: <http://calendar.blazinbrigade.org>

Date	Event	Notes
June 20-22	Blazer Marching Academy	More information at <a href="http://blazinbrigade.org">http://blazinbrigade.org</a>
June 22	Drumline and front ensemble auditions	More information at <a href="http://blazinbrigade.org">http://blazinbrigade.org</a>
August 8	Staff and drum major meetings	Required for staff and drum majors
August 9-10	Leadership Camp	Required for leadership and staff
August 10	Percussion, guard, Blazettes rehearsals begin	Required for percussion, guard, Blazettes
<b>August 11-17</b>	<b>Band Camp</b>	<b>See separate schedule</b>
<b>August 21</b>	<b>Student Night Football Scrimmage</b>	<b>6:00 PM (date may change)</b>
August 23	Valwood vs. Bowden	7:00 PM
August 30	Valwood vs. Frederica	7:00 PM
<b>August 31</b>	<b>Meet the Blazers</b>	<b>10:00 AM (estimated; date may change)</b>
<b>September 7</b>	<b>VSU @ Albany State</b>	<b>Away trip (Albany, GA)</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>Stadium rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00 AM</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>VSU vs. Old Dominion</b>	<b>Home game</b>
<b>September 21</b>	<b>Stadium rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00 AM</b>
<b>September 19</b>	<b>VSU vs. West Alabama (Game Day Experience)</b>	<b>Home game</b>
September 20	Valwood vs. Heritage	7:00 PM
<b>September 24</b>	<b>Southern Open Marching Exhibition (Bazemore-Hyder Stadium)</b>	<b>Estimated 8:00 PM call time</b>
September 27	Valwood vs. Miami Christian (Homecoming)	7:00 PM
<b>September 28</b>	<b>VSU @ Shorter</b>	<b>Away trip (tentative; Rome, GA)</b>
October 4	Valwood vs. Tiftarea	7:00 PM
<b>October 5</b>	<b>Stadium rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00 AM or 1:00-3:00 PM</b>
<b>October 5</b>	<b>VSU vs. Mississippi College (Band Day)</b>	<b>Home game</b>
<b>October 17</b>	<b>Homecoming Pep Rally</b>	<b>Estimated 6:00 PM call time</b>
October 18	Valwood vs. Southland	7:00 PM
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Homecoming Parade</b>	<b>Estimated 10:00 AM call time</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>VSU vs. Florida Tech (Homecoming)</b>	<b>Home game</b>
October 25	Valwood vs. Loganville Christian	7:00 PM
November 1	Drum major, leadership, staff, social media team applications due	11:59:59 PM
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Exhibition Performance (Wayne County High School)</b>	<b>Away trip (Jesup, GA)</b>
November 4-8	Drum major, leadership, staff playing auditions	Outside of rehearsal by appointment
<b>November 9</b>	<b>Open House</b>	<b>9:00-10:30 AM</b>
<b>November 9</b>	<b>VSU vs. University of West Florida (Senior Recognition)</b>	<b>Home game</b>
November 11-14	Drum major, leadership interviews	By invitation
<b>November 15-17</b>	<b>VSU vs. University of West Georgia</b>	<b>Away trip (Carrollton, GA)</b>
November 18-22	Drum major, leadership music teaching auditions	By invitation
<b>November 22</b>	<b>Band Banquet</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>November 23</b>	<b>NCAA Football Playoff</b>	<b>Required</b>
November 25-26	Staff, social media team interviews	Outside of rehearsal by appointment
<b>November 30</b>	<b>NCAA Football Playoff</b>	<b>Required</b>
December 2-6	Drum major conducting auditions and second round interviews	By invitation
<b>December 7</b>	<b>NCAA Football Playoff</b>	<b>Required</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>NCAA Football Playoff</b>	<b>Required</b>
<b>December 19-22</b>	<b>NCAA National Championship (McKinney, TX)</b>	<b>Required</b>

Updated March 25, 2019