



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**BLAZIN'  
BRIGADE**

Welcome Blazers!

Thank you for signing up for the 42th 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.** 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, 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  
Interim Director of Bands  
Valdosta State University  
(229) 333-5809  
[skholmes@valdosta.edu](mailto:skholmes@valdosta.edu)

## IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES

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<b>August 7</b>	Leadership Team, Drumline, Guard, and Twirler Move-in Day
<b>August 7-11</b>	Leadership Team, Drumline, Guard, and Twirler Camp
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Early Move In &amp; Blazin' Brigade Orientation Meeting (<u>All members</u>)</b>
<b>Aug 12</b>	<b>New Member Day (for new members only)</b>

<b>AUGUST 13-17</b>	<b>BAND CAMP (All members)</b>
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**AUGUST 19** First day of classes

## MEMBERSHIP CHECKLIST

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

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

**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 three-ring binder with plastic page protectors.**

✓ **Early dorm move-in: Sunday, August 11, 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).

Housing will contact you directly with your housing information and specific move-in times.

A Reminder that during all camps, meals are on your own. Please be sure to check the campus dining hall and Student Union hours for details.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION GUIDE

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Go to <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts/music/blazin-brigade/online-registration.php> 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 director 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! A reminder that instrumental music majors (excluding string players) receiving a **Bachelor of Arts** or those who are in the **Music Education Track** are **required** to take marching band for **four** semesters. **This is not negotiable as it is part of the degree requirements approved by NASM for graduation. Any deviation will delay your graduation eligibility and completion date.**

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

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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 does 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 Dr. Holmes 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.

**Ordering opens:** August 7th, 2024 at 9:00 AM

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

These following items must be purchased through VSU Bands:

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
<b>BLACK</b> gloves	Required (fingerless gloves 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 (instructor's choice)	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

Drawstring Bag \$12

Flag & Pole (guard/twirlers) \$28

White Spats \$13

Water Bottle \$12

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

Gloves \$12

Shoes \$36

Poms (guard/twirlers) – In Guard Packet

Hat \$23

Flip Folder \$10

All Carry Large Backpack (optional)

Lady Shorts \$27 (optional)

Hoody \$43 (optional)

Warm-ups (guard/twirlers) \$120

Men Shorts \$21 (optional)

# BAND CAMP FALL 2024 SCHEDULE

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

## 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, flute/piccolo and trumpet, part placements</b> <i>Music for part assignment auditions and room assignments will be available at check-in</i>	<b>TBD, Fine Arts Building</b>
<b>5:00 PM</b>	Dinner break	
<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>All Members Meeting</b>	<b>Sawyer Theater</b>

## MONDAY AUGUST 12 (NEW MEMBER DAY)

<b>9:00AM-Noon</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Lunch break	
<b>1:30-4:30 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Various Locations</b>

## TUESDAY AUGUST 13 (ALL MEMBERS START)

<b>9:00AM-Noon</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Lunch break	
<b>1:30-4:30 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Various Locations</b>

## WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14

<b>9:00AM-Noon</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Lunch break	
<b>1:30-4:30 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Various Locations</b>

## THURSDAY AUGUST 15

<b>9:00AM-Noon</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Lunch break	
<b>1:30-4:30 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Various Locations</b>
<b>4:30 PM</b>	Dinner break	
<b>7:00 PM CONVOCATION</b>		<b>Whitehead Auditorium</b>
	<i>Wear "Sunday Best" attire</i>	

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

<b>9:00AM-Noon</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Reames Field</b>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Lunch break	
<b>1:30-4:30 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>Various Locations</b>
<b>8:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>SPARK Pep Rally</b>	<b>PE Complex</b>

## SATURDAY AUGUST 17

*VSO auditions after rehearsal*

<b>9:00 AM-12:00 PM</b>	<b>GAME DAY REHEARSAL</b>	<b>Bazemore-Hyder Stadium</b>
	<i>Wear your band t-shirt and hat, mid-calf length black socks, black shoes, spats, black athle5c shorts, and black gloves</i>	

# FALL 2024 BLAZIN' BRIGADE SCHEDULE

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
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Early Move In &amp; Orientation Meeting</b>	<b>All members</b>
<b>August 12</b>	<b>New Member Day</b>	<b>Required for new members only</b>
<b>August 12-17</b>	<b>Band Camp</b>	<b>All members, 9:30am-4:30pm</b>
<b>August 16</b>	<b>*SPARK Pep Rally</b>	<b>6:00-8:00PM</b>
<b>August 17</b>	<b>Stadium Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00AM</b>
<b>August 31</b>	<b>Stadium Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00AM</b>
<b>August 31</b>	<b>VSU vs Albany State</b>	<b>7:00PM Kickoff</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>Stadium Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00AM</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>VSU vs. Fayetteville State</b>	<b>7:00PM Kickoff</b>
<b>September 28</b>	<b>Stadium Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00AM</b>
<b>September 28</b>	<b>VSU vs. West Alabama (Band Day)</b>	<b>7:00PM Kickoff</b>
<b>October 17</b>	<b>*Homecoming Pep Rally</b>	<b>6:00-9:00PM</b>
<b>October 18 or 19</b>	<b>*Homecoming Parade</b>	<b>TBA (Fri @ 3pm OR Sat in AM)</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Stadium Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00AM</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>VSU vs. Mississippi (Homecoming)</b>	<b>3:00PM Kickoff</b>
<b>October 25</b>	<b>Brantley County Band Day</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>October 26</b>	<b>Sound of Gold Exhibition</b>	<b>TBA</b>
October 31	Leadership Applications Due	11:59:59 PM
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Stadium Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00AM</b>
<b>November 2</b>	<b>VSU vs. Chowan</b>	<b>3:00PM Kickoff</b>
November 6-10	Leadership Teaching and Playing Auditions	By appointment and in class
<b>November 9</b>	<b>*Open House</b>	<b>9:00-10:30 AM</b>
<b>November 16</b>	<b>Stadium Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00-11:00AM</b>
<b>November 16</b>	<b>VSU vs. West Florida (Senior Night)</b>	<b>7:00PM Kickoff</b>
<b>November 22</b>	<b>*Band Banquet (Powell Hall)</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<b>November 23</b>	<b>*NCAA Football Playoff</b>	<b>TBD; Required</b>
<b>November 30</b>	<b>*NCAA Football Playoff</b>	<b>TBD; Required</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>*NCAA Football Playoff</b>	<b>TBD; Required</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>*NCAA Football Playoff</b>	<b>TBD; Required</b>
<b>December 18-22</b>	<b>*NCAA National Championship (McKinney, TX)</b>	<b>TBD; Required</b>

\*\*\*\*\*All non-home game events are subject to change – Please continue to check the website, e-mail, and Band App for updates\*\*\*