
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GATOR BAND

THE SOUND OF THE GATOR NATION

BAND HANDBOOK & SYLLABUS

MUN 1110, 3113, & 6010

FALL 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

The Gator Band seeks to:

Provide the opportunity

for all qualified university students to utilize their musical and marching skills in a group setting at the collegiate level

Set national standards

for the highest quality of performance through entertaining performances

Support the Gators

with relentless energy, regardless of any external circumstance,
"In All Kinds of Weather"

Serve as goodwill ambassadors

for the University of Florida, recognizing that everything we do and say represents literally hundreds of thousands of Floridians and University of Florida Alumni

Provide a positive recreational outlet

within a supportive family environment, wherein all members are encouraged to thrive in all they undertake at the University of Florida and beyond

STAY INFORMED!

Being informed is an intentional act. We expect everyone to take the initiative to stay informed - our success depends on it!

You will receive Gator Band information through the following methods:

- Check your email daily to know your responsibilities
- Band App
- Facebook pages (band and section)
- Announcements in sectionals
- Announcements at the conclusion of rehearsals

There is no excuse for being uninformed. Thanks in advance for doing your part to keep up to date and contributing to the success of the Gator Band!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUN 1110, MUN 3113, and MUN 6010 comprise a performance-based course designed to improve individual marching and playing skills, to develop sight-reading skills, to improve the individual's grasp of the essential elements of music and to assist the student in the personal and professional growth and development necessary for successful post-baccalaureate life. Additionally, this course will provide weekly live performance opportunities. It is the focus of this course to make these performances represent the highest level of artistic and aesthetic experience. Further, it is the goal of the Gator Band to provide entertaining halftime shows, and to provide energy and spirit at all events at which the Gator Band performs. Due to the highly visible nature of these performances, active participation in all rehearsals and performances is mandatory to the success of the ensemble. Any Transient students must be able to produce evidence of current registration status from their primary college upon demand. Failure to do so will result in immediately removal from all activities at UF.

PREREQUISITES: Successful Audition and Permission of Instructor

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

Prompt and regular attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. Any class conflicts must be cleared with the director prior to the start of classes. The determination of unexcused absence will be made at the discretion of the director.

Absences/Late Arrival/Early Departure

- Attendance at rehearsal is taken via UDB app. To be considered present and participating in rehearsal a student **MUST** have a charged cell phone with UDB Pro app installed and any necessary hardware (lyre, phone holder, etc.), gloves (brass), valve oil/reeds/sticks/mallets/equipment, appropriate attire (tennis shoes/socks, shirts at all times - 'tank' tops are acceptable) and be actively engaged.
- A tardy is defined as not being in your spot when rehearsal begins (4:05 p.m. for regular rehearsals). Members who arrive more than 15 minutes late to a rehearsal or leave early from a rehearsal will be considered absent. Members who are more than 5 minutes late to a game day rehearsal may be considered absent and may have their performance assignment changed. Members who arrive late to two (2) game day rehearsals may lose the privilege of being in the Gator Band.
- Two instances of being late equal one absence.
- A student's attendance for the semester can always be viewed in their UDB app.
- An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the lowering of the member's grade and removal from the performance block for the next and/or subsequent performances, depending on the schedule.
- If you are absent from 1 rehearsal during a one-week show, or 2 rehearsals during a two-week show, you may be removed from the performance block.
- Students may not be allowed to attend performances if they have unexcused absences from two rehearsals in one week and/or lose their position for two consecutive performance blocks.
- If extenuating circumstances affect your attendance, you must meet with a director within one week of your absence.

Class/Examination/Professional Conflicts

- University classes/examinations that conflict with rehearsals or performances must be reported at least two weeks prior to the class/examination using a Class Conflict Form, which may be obtained from Canvas. Complete the entire form, upload a copy of the class syllabus to the form, and submit/email to watkins@ufl.edu. While it is not our policy to penalize a student's grade for attending a class/examination, it may be necessary to replace him/her in that week's performance block.

Rain Policy for Rehearsal

- Any changes to normal rehearsal schedule will be communicated via the BAND App.

Post-season Rehearsals and Performances

- This course ends on January 20, 2025. Participation in associated rehearsals and performances for Conference Championships and Bowl Games is a **requirement** in order to receive credit for this course.

Pep Band/Volunteer Events

- Each Gator Band Member must participate in **three** volunteer events during the Fall semester to earn an "A." Pep Band/Volunteer events will be announced and assigned as they become available.
 - Examples of Volunteer Events: Quarterback Club Pep Rallies, Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser, Dining Hall Pep Rally, Campus or Community Events, etc.

Grading Procedure

- 3 unexcused rehearsal absences/partial attendance = maximum semester grade of B
- 4 unexcused rehearsal absences/partial attendance = maximum semester grade of C
- 5 unexcused rehearsal absences/partial attendance = maximum semester grade of D

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

POLICY ON HAZING

The following is excerpted directly from the University of Florida Student Code of Conduct:

- (1) Hazing Policy — Actions or statements which by design or intent amount to intimidation or hazing are prohibited and shall be prevented and adjudicated by the University whenever possible.
- (2) Definition of Hazing — In accordance with Section 1006.63, F.S., "hazing" means any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of the university. Under the statute, "hazing" includes, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student, and any activity which would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student. Any activity as described above upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with a university organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.
- (3) Procedures for Implementation — Any person having knowledge of any activity or statement which may constitute hazing should contact the University office or agency with jurisdiction over the students or organization involved. Such office or agency shall take appropriate University action as necessary to enforce the prohibition. Actions shall be conducted pursuant to the Student Conduct Code, Rules 6C1-4.013 through 6C1-4.026, F.A.C. Penalties for violations of the prohibition shall be administered by the Vice President for Student Affairs through the appropriate University office or agency.
- (4) Penalties — Under Section 1006.63, F.S., the University is authorized to impose the penalties described below for violation of the prohibition, regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off campus, and such penalties shall be in addition to any other penalty to which the student may be subject for violations of the criminal laws of Florida or any other applicable University rule.
 - (a) Penalties for individuals subject to University jurisdiction found guilty of hazing violations include the imposition of fines, the withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with the rules or pending payment of fines, and the imposition of reprimand, probation, suspension, or dismissal.
 - (b) Organizations subject to University jurisdiction which authorize hazing in blatant disregard of these rules may be penalized by revocation of permission for the organization to be registered, to meet on campus and to use campus facilities, and, in the case of fraternities and sororities, the right to exist at the University of Florida.
- (5) Copies of this policy, and rules concerning violations, penalties, and process for enforcement will be distributed to students enrolled in the University and shall be incorporated in the bylaws of every organization operating under the sanction of the University.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Gator Band is one of the most important goodwill ambassadors for the University and is one of the most respected and visible performing groups on campus. Membership in the Gator Band is a privilege and must not be abused. The following guidelines are designed to establish a code of conduct for all members of the Gator Band. Violation of this code may result in the loss of privilege of membership in the Gator Band. **It is neither the intent nor the purpose of this code to list every possible rule infringement. It is assumed that members of the Gator Band are responsible adults and will be treated as such.**

1. University Rules of Conduct are in effect at all times during rehearsal, performance and travel by the Gator Band. The University Student Conduct Code can be found at www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php.
2. Consumption of alcohol and/or drug use is expressly prohibited during all Gator Band rehearsal, travel and performance. Evidence of drug or alcohol use may result in automatic suspension from band activities, possible dismissal from the band, and a failing grade. Any evidence of drug or alcohol use may result in automatic referral to the Dean of Students.
3. Band members should remain in full uniform at all times unless otherwise directed. Alternate uniforms may be designated on specific occasions. Smoking in uniform is prohibited.
4. Individual playing in the halls, on the way to rehearsal or outside busses is not permitted. Instruments should only be played in the band hall, practice rooms, or designated rehearsal sites.
5. When in the stadium, please observe the following guidelines:
 - Remain in assigned stadium seating until instructed to move by directors or drum major(s).
 - Be alert for time outs and other performance opportunities. Our function in the stands is to support our team. ALL should play, and play well. Careless playing and/or ad-libbing in the stands is unacceptable, and may result in change in performance assignment.
 - Cheer WITH the cheerleaders and percussion section. Maintain a high level of support always.
 - Breaks for rest rooms are permissible under the following conditions:
 - Members never leave the stands alone.
 - Leave your shako and instrument with a fellow section member.
 - Remember that we represent the University at all times. Negative comments are not representative of the behavior that is expected from Gator Band members.
 - If we restrict the view of other fans by standing, you may be instructed to remain seated.

6. **Represent your University with pride.** It is your responsibility to maintain our tradition of excellence, and your responsibility to represent the Gator Band and the University of Florida with the highest possible individual standards. **This includes a refrain from posting any electronic images or comments that could be deemed offensive to any other member of the Gator Band, staff, directors, or University of Florida administrators.** Individuals who violate the Code of Conduct may be removed from the performance block or dismissed from the band.

POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

It is the policy of the University of Florida to provide an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. Sexual harassment and sexual misconduct in any form will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to promptly report sexual harassment or sexual misconduct. For more specific information, please see www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/affact/harass and the General Information section of the University Catalog.

FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

MEALS

When necessary and possible within the schedule, meals will be provided to members. Every effort will be made to address dietary concerns of the members (vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, etc.) but it is highly recommended that those with strict dietary issues plan to have food that meets their individual needs. All itineraries will indicate which meals are the students' responsibility and which meals will be provided.

ALTERNATES/CHALLENGES

The University of Florida Gator Band will use the following guidelines as a basis for alternates/challenges throughout the 2024 marching season.

Alternates

The Gator Band alternate system exists to ensure that there are no holes in rehearsals and performances, while providing an opportunity for all members to develop their performance abilities. Additionally, the alternate system allows for the flexibility of students' academic schedules and family responsibilities (i.e. funerals/weddings).

- Alternates will be designated according to music audition scores on the first day of band camp, marching evaluations during band camp, and attendance during band camp.
- In most cases, each section will have at least one alternate to serve as a substitute performer during rehearsals.
- When a member is not present, an alternate should begin learning that spot. In the event of an excused absence, the directors' discretion will be used in deciding who continues in that spot.
- The responsibility of an alternate is significant because he/she must be able to perform the show whenever and wherever a vacancy occurs. Alternates will actively participate in all rehearsals and in all game related activities except for the actual field performance.
- ANY STUDENT MISSING ANY PORTION OF BAND CAMP MAY BE DESIGNATED AN ALTERNATE FOR PREGAME AND THE FIRST SERIES OF PERFORMANCES.
- Alternates should "shadow" section leaders first, then others as assigned by section leaders.

Challenge Criteria/Selection Process

- All alternates will participate in challenges. Failure to do so may result in change in performance assignment.
- Selected members of the performance block will participate in each challenge. Staff members will make selections with input from section leaders.
- Section leader input in the selection process will be submitted to the staff at the conclusion of the Friday rehearsal, during the week prior to a challenge date.
- The Directors and Teaching Assistants will make final challenge participant selections based on the section leader evaluations, along with any additional staff input deemed necessary.
- Members will be selected for challenges based on four primary criteria:
 - Marching fundamentals
 - Playing fundamentals
 - Attendance
 - Attitude & Cooperation
- When someone loses a marching spot:
 - They move to the bottom of the alternate list of their instrument.
 - Alternate order will be determined by audition score, attitude, and attendance.
 - The next person on that instrument will go in their spot.
 - If there is no member on that instrument available, a person of like instrument will go in. (low brass, upper brass, sax, pic/cl)

Challenge List

- The Challenge List will be distributed to the Section Leaders no later than Tuesday prior to the challenges.

Challenge Material

- Challenges will consist of:
 - 32 counts of FM (8 to 5) or Box Drill, while playing a section of the music from the pregame or current halftime, which will be announced with the challenge posting.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGE DATES

Possible alternate challenge dates are listed in the calendar and will be held at the discretion of the Directors.

- **Thursday, September 12th**
- **Thursday, October 3rd**
- **Thursday, November 14th**

Challenge Results

- Results will be sent to Section Leaders and those students who participated in the Challenge prior to the students' change of assignment.
- If someone is marching in a spot in a different section and a spot opens up in their section, that person has the option of taking the spot in his/her section. In this case, the vacated spot goes first to someone on the instrument of that section, and then opens to like instruments.
- When someone is not in a spot because of a pre-approved performance absence:
 - The alternate marches that spot and will regain their original spot on the alternate list order when the original member returns.

Any challenge/alternate scenario not covered in these rules will be decided upon by the Directors with input from the staff and section leaders.

EQUIPMENT

Instrument Issue

The University of Florida provides instruments and equipment (flags, poms, stands, carriers, lyres, etc.) to members of the Gator Band in many sections. Equipment is issued by contract at the beginning of each semester and are checked in at the conclusion of each semester. Students must be officially enrolled in marching band for an instrument or equipment to be issued. Failure to properly check-in any equipment by the designated date will result in a hold being placed on the student's academic record.

Note: Instrument issues will be handled by the Equipment Quartermaster and coordinated through the Equipment Section Leader in each section, with oversight by a Teaching Assistant.

Instrument Repair

Instruments owned by the University of Florida are repaired on an annual schedule to keep up with normal wear and use. Problems with university-owned instruments should be reported in writing to your Equipment Section Leader so that repairs can be made in a timely fashion. Whenever possible, a replacement instrument will be issued during the repair period.

Damage to instruments caused by misuse, abuse, or neglect will be the responsibility of the student to whom the instrument is issued.

**** Each brass player must have synthetic valve oil and wearing gloves anytime they are touching an instrument.**

UNIFORM POLICY

1. The University of Florida Gator Band maintains an exacting style of uniform wear. Members are required to wear the complete uniform while in public. Unless specifically instructed by a director, the wearing of a partial uniform is not permitted. NEVER wear the uniform unless instructed to do so by a director for a performance.
2. Each member of the Gator Band wind and percussion sections will be provided a full uniform consisting of coat, pants, shako and travel attire. Members of the tuba section will be issued a beret in lieu of the shako. Members of the Florida Visual Ensemble and Gorettes will be issued custom uniforms. Members must provide their own white crew length socks (mid-calf) and white band shoes. Each member will be supplied with three t-shirts to be worn for gameday rehearsals and under the uniform, one band polo to be worn when instructed, and a baseball cap to be worn on gamedays.
3. Each member of the Gator Band is required to have a clean, pressed uniform for every performance. Both pairs of pants should always be on the hanger and brought to every performance. **A uniform inspection will be administered by section leaders prior to every public performance to ensure that each member maintains the high standards of the Gator Band.** Failure to pass uniform inspection may result in lowering of your grade and change in performance assignment.
4. Members are not to wear sunglasses during any performance or while marching to and from the stadium unless instructed by the director. Sunglasses may be worn in the stands during football games.
5. Bracelets, wristbands, watches, etc. may not be worn with the uniform. Only clear nail polish can be worn while in uniform or at events.
6. All hair must be pulled up and worn under the hat. No bandanas may be worn in a visible manner. Hair color must be of a natural shade. (no attention-grabbing hair color will be permitted)
7. Tattoos must be covered when wearing any prescribed uniform.
8. Facial hair must be neatly trimmed for performances.
9. Only post earrings (one per ear) may be worn with the uniform. No dangle earrings may be worn with the uniform. No other visible piercing jewelry may be worn with the uniform. Face stickers (previously approved by directors) are the only sticker allowed on a performer. **NO STICKERS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED ON THE UNIFORM.**
10. Make sure any uniform problems are brought to the attention of the section leaders following the Turlington Plaza performance as soon as possible.
11. Members must use the Uniform Condition Google Drive after every performance if they have a uniform issue. It must be completely filled in and submitted for the uniform to receive cleanings or alterations.
11. Each time a member is issued a uniform, they are responsible for its complete return. They will be charged for any missing or damaged parts. The charges are as follows:

Coat	\$450	Pants	\$250	Travel Pants	\$250
Shako	\$150	Travel Jacket	\$250	Baseball Cap	\$25

UNIFORM CARE

1. The uniform, unless on your person, must be hung on a hanger. There should be no instance in which your uniform is crumpled or folded.
2. **Do not store uniform wet.** Hang pants and jacket on separate hangers in a dry place to allow moisture to escape properly.
3. Examine the uniform after each use for stains, etc. and identify location and type of stain if possible to Uniform Staff on delivery of the garment for cleaning.
4. Abnormally stained uniforms must be cleaned as soon as possible after the staining occurs. Report stains to Uniform Staff immediately.
5. Examine uniform after cleaning to determine whether or not the identified stains have been removed. Follow-up on undesirable variances immediately.
6. **Do not attempt to hand clean in any manner. Do not wash the uniform.**
7. Do not allow the uniform to come in contact with:
 - a) antistatic sprays
 - b) water/oil proofer
 - c) spot cleaning chemicals
 - d) any other topical chemicals: perfume, make-up, etc.
8. Do not hand iron for touch up. Professional steam press only.
9. Do not wear the uniform over jeans, coats, or other outer garments. This causes unnecessary stress and strain to the uniform seams, buttons and zippers.
10. Uniforms **must** be turned in for cleaning and collection when instructed. After the first several games, uniforms will be cleaned on a rotation basis, announced by the Uniform Quartermasters. Both pairs of pants must be turned in for every cleaning.
11. Failure to follow the uniform care policies, including scheduled cleanings, may result in lowering of your grade, and change in performance assignment.

Shakos:

1. Keep in dry place to allow sweatband to dry. This prevents mildew and deterioration of the interior.
2. **DO NOT** dry clean, use any spot-cleaning chemicals or bleach on any part of your hat. This will cause a discoloration of your hat and will result in an unprofessional appearance.
3. The shako strap must be worn under the chin (never in mouth).
4. When placing your shako on the ground, do so with the brim of the hat closest to the ground, facing away from you.

Plumes:

Upon issue, plumes are to be handled with extreme care and kept away from moisture.

Gameday Uniform Procedure

- Changing Rooms will open in the MUB at announced times. All personnel will change into and out of uniforms in changing rooms - **NEVER IN PUBLIC.**
- All personal belongings should be stored in lockers (with your personal combination lock) outside of these rooms during the football game.

For any uniform concerns, please contact the Uniform Section Leader in your section.

Gameday Procedure for HOME Games

Prior to Game:

- Saturday Gameday rehearsal will be held at the field at 7:30am, unless otherwise noted by a Director.
 - Drumline/FVE/Gatoettes will likely begin gameday rehearsal prior to announced start time.
- Late arrivals may be considered absent and may lose their position in the performance block for the next performance, and may be removed from that day's performance, at the discretion of the Directors.

- Attire for Saturday morning rehearsal will be designated by Directors:
- Depending on kickoff time, the schedule may be very tight. Plan to have everything you need for gameday **WITH YOU AT REHEARSAL**.
- Changing rooms for Gameday:
 - WOODWINDS - MUB 120
 - DRUMLINE - MUB 146
 - BRASS - MUB 121
 - FVE - MUB 144
 - Gatoettes - MUB 142
- Bring a combination lock to store personal items during game.
- 1.5 hours before kickoff- Uniform changing rooms close. Proceed to Sectional Warm-up/Uniform Inspection (locations to be designated by Section Leaders).
- 1 hour before kickoff- Full Band in (Full Uniform) warm-up IN CONCERT ARCS at the Gator (beside Univ. Auditorium).
- 30 minutes before kickoff- FLAP to stadium for game.

After the game:

- Full Band FLAP to Turlington Plaza for performance
- After Turlington performance, immediately proceed to changing rooms.
 - Retrieve personal items from lockers.
 - Hang uniform properly (coat and pants).

TRAVEL PROCEDURES

The Gator Band travels to all away games as full band or pep band in addition to full band trips in state, SEC Championship games, Bowl games, and special guest performances.

Any student traveling under the auspices of the College is required to have on file a signed **Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement**. Travel is an integral part of participation in the marching band. Without this signed form on file, students cannot travel, thereby making your participation in marching band impossible. This form **MUST** be turned in during the drop/add period, otherwise you will automatically be dropped from marching band.

****Pep Band Travel****

Students will be selected for pep band travel based on 1) music auditions for each trip, and 2) student availability/academic schedule.

1. PER DIEM

- Each member will be provided with food or a stipend for meals while traveling with the Gator Band.
- The per diem sheet must be signed by the individual **in the presence of a staff member** in order to receive the stipend.

2. TRAVEL ATTIRE:

- Directors will determine the exact attire for each trip which will be published in the itinerary (i.e. which shirt/pants/shoes).

3. BUS AND ROOMING LISTS:

- Each student will sign-up for rooms during specified sign-up periods. This applies to all band members on all travel.
- Once the specific bus and room sign-up has closed, additions, deletions and changes from the lists will not be allowed.
- Per diem will not be issued to any student who fails to follow the proper travel registration procedure.

4. BUS TRAVEL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Section leaders will be responsible for attendance, monitoring bus cleanliness, etc.
- On travel days, be on the bus for roll check 15 minutes before scheduled departure time.
- **Per UF Policy: If you miss the bus at the beginning of the trip, you will NOT be allowed to join the band by driving yourself to the trip destination.**
- All uniforms must travel in a garment bag.
- Follow packing instructions. Luggage is generally loaded on one side, instruments on the other side of under-bus storage.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Be considerate of the driver and fellow bus passengers (music, movies, language).
- Do not get off of the bus until one of the Directors instructs you to do so.
- NO student should open or close bay doors.

5. HOTEL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Pack carefully - remember that nothing happens by accident - it is an intentional act! Make sure you have all your stuff!
- Have a great time in the hotel, but not at the expense of others. Remember, hotels are for sleeping.
- Do NOT wander the halls/lobbies/etc in your pajamas or various stages of partial dress.
- Please travel in groups of at least THREE at ALL times; larger groups at night.
- It takes a long time for a group our size to move from point A to B. **Allow extra time** for elevators, crowds, etc. to avoid being late.
- Make sure your entire room is awake and out of bed at the appointed time each day. Take care of each other!!

6. DRIVING YOUR OWN VEHICLE:

- It is HIGHLY DISCOURAGED to drive your own vehicle to away game (i.e. UF vs. UGA)
- Prior to any student using transportation other than that provided by the University, there must be a completed form on file in the Band Office signed by the student and a Director.
- Plan to arrive well in advance of the rehearsal or performance. Parking for personal vehicles is often difficult and expensive, so it is highly recommended that students travel via official university transportation.
- When following the buses, remain behind the last bus at a safe distance.
- Problems arising from the use of personal vehicles will not be considered extenuating circumstances for the purposes of attendance.
- Moving violations, parking citations, or vehicle damage are not the responsibility of the Gator Band, or the University.

7. BOWL GAMES:

All students must be available for bowl game responsibilities through January 20th. These dates are approximate and will be narrowed as early as possible. Students will be expected to meet in Gainesville, FL for bowl game departure. Any student not attending the bowl game will receive a grade of "E for the class.

Support the team ALWAYS. Refrain from taunting or personal attacks. Don't get baited by other fans into saying or doing something foolish. Please let the Directors or staff deal with these people. Absolutely no profanity in uniform. Travel, like participation in the marching band, is a privilege, not a right. ANYONE who abuses that privilege will be subject to disciplinary action.

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma

Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma are honorary service organizations whose sole purpose is to serve the college or university band programs through service projects, fundraisers, social events and other projects as determined by the directors. Both of these organizations are dedicated to serving the band, and do so in numerous ways. The variety of experiences in band and chapter activities makes these organizations a great way to serve the band while building lifelong friendships.

Section Leaders

Our student leadership team is vital to the success of our organization. In addition to leading the section and organizing a wide array of communications and logistical issues, our student leaders work hard to ensure that their respective sections have an enjoyable and rewarding experience in Gator Band. Applications, and interviews for these positions will occur during this semester for the following academic year.

Your audition for a leadership position begins when you start camp!

Drum Majors

The Gator Band Drum Majors are selected via a multi-round process during the Spring Semester.

- Interested parties attend Drum Major technique sessions (TBA throughout Spring Semester). *The more of these you attend, the more your conducting will improve, and the more opportunities you'll give the Directors to see your conducting.*
- Selected participants will be invited to continue to the "2nd round" which will consist of individual conducting auditions and interviews with the Directors.
- Directors select the drum majors for the following season.
- All UF students with at least one semester of Gator Band experience are eligible to audition. Students with one semester of section leadership are usually more prepared to interview and audition.
- Drum Majors should expect to be available during Summer C for recruiting and season preparation.

2024 RULES AND REGULATIONS: FLORIDA VISUAL ENSEMBLE AND GATORETTES

1. You will be responsible for learning and memorizing all show routines. Saturday morning will be a dress rehearsal used for finalizing small details. You must know the show before Saturday morning. If you do not know the routines this will result in your exclusion from the show.
2. **For Gatorettes** – During a performance if you have more than two drops this will result in suspension from the following performance. We all must strive to keep our twirling at a high level of attainment.
3. **For FVE** – During a performance, if your level of performance falls below what is deemed acceptable by the staff, you will be suspended from the following show.
4. **For Gatorettes** – Everyone will participate as a group exercising BEFORE each regularly scheduled practice.
5. You must keep your uniform, props, and equipment in excellent condition throughout the season. If there are any lost or unaccounted for equipment you will be responsible for paying for the replacements. If there are problems with the upkeep of your uniform and equipment, this will result in disciplinary action. If for any reason you do not complete this year, you will also be responsible for the cost of your uniform.
6. The Florida Visual Ensemble and Gatorette Squad may be subject to extra practices when needed. When possible, two day's notice will be given. Conflicts will be dealt with on an individual basis.
7. Any questions, problems or extraordinary situations must be discussed with the section leaders, and then with instructors if necessary, before being brought to the Band Directors. Success is dependent upon communication.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (subject to change)

8/15-21	BAND CAMP
8/22	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES
8/24-25	BAND CAMP / PICTURE DAY
8/31	HOME GAME vs. MIAMI (3:30pm)
9/7	HOME GAME vs. SAMFORD (7:00pm) (HS Band Day)
9/12	ALTERNATE CHALLENGE DATE (6:15pm)
9/14	HOME GAME vs. TAMU (3:30pm) (Family Weekend)
9/15	PERFORMANCE at JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS Game (TBA)
9/20-22	PEP BAND @ MISSISSIPPI STATE
10/3	ALTERNATE CHALLENGE DATE (6:15pm)
10/5	HOME GAME vs. UCF (Time TBD)
10/11-13	PEP BAND @ TENNESSEE (Time TBD)
10/18	HOMECOMING PARADE
10/19	HOME GAME vs. KENTUCKY (Time TBD)
11/2	FULL BAND TO JACKSONVILLE vs. GEORGIA (3:30 EDT)
11/8-9	PEP BAND @ TEXAS
11/14	ALTERNATE CHALLENGE DATE (6:15pm)
11/16	HOME GAME vs. LSU (Time TBD)
11/23	HOME GAME vs. OLE MISS (12:00pm)
11/29	FULL BAND REHEARSAL (6:00p-8:00p)
11/30	FULL BAND TO TALLAHASSEE VS. FSU (Time TBD)
12/7	GAINESVILLE HOLIDAY PARADE (full band) 11:00AM SEC Championship (Atlanta, GA)
12/??-1/??	BOWL TRIP (mandatory) - EXACT TRAVEL DATES TBD
TBA	SPRING ORANGE & BLUE GAME

Gator Band performance responsibilities involve active participation in both Fall and Spring semesters. Students who enroll in marching band in the Fall are asked to honor their commitment to the Gator Band during Spring semester with performances at pep events and other University-affiliated events. This includes, but is not limited to, the *Orange and Blue Game*.