

**University of Rhode Island**

**RAM MARCHING BAND**

MUS 292

**HANDBOOK**

(RIPTS 1.1-3, 2.1, 2.3-6, 5.1-5, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1-2; BA 2.3, 3.1-3; BM 1.1, 1.3-4, 1.6)

## REQUIREMENTS

The band, including all auxiliary groups, rehearses from **4:00 – 6:00 PM** on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There will also be a rehearsal on game-day Saturdays, the time of which (usually 9:00 a.m.) will be stated by the director on the last rehearsal day of that week. **ATTENDANCE AT ALL REHEARSALS IS REQUIRED.**

### Extra Activities

Throughout the season a few "extra" performances may occur. These activities may be listed on the fall calendar or will be announced in advance. Extra performances may include pep rallies, guest performances, exhibition marching festivals, fund-raising events, away-game performances, and post -season appearances or performances. Some of these performances will be covered on a volunteer basis. Attendance at those events which require a full band, however, are an important part of band membership and are required of all participants.

## FALL MARCHING BAND CAMP

### Information and Attendance

Each season a marching band camp will be held one-week prior to the beginning of classes. **ALL MEMBERS** of the band **must** be present for band camp unless excused by the marching band director. Camp Schedules are available early August and will be mailed to new and returning band members.

**ALL MARCHING BAND MEMBERS** are required to attend fall band camp. Any conflicts or absences **must** be approved in advance by the marching band director. Ample time is given during camp for students to buy books, meet with advisors, and schedule classes. Work is **not** considered an excusable reason for missing marching band camp.

## AUDITIONS

### Playing Auditions

For many sections, playing auditions are held during the band camp for part placement. Auditions will generally be based upon the music that is sent to band members during the summer, but could include other criteria such as sight-reading and scales.

### Color Guard Auditions

Auditions for the color guard are held during the first day of band camp. The number selected for the color guard is determined in cooperation between the color guard instruction staff and the marching band director. Acceptance into the color guard will be based on ability to learn and execute carriage of equipment and choreography.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED OF ALL BAND MEMBERS.** Any absences must be approved **IN ADVANCE** and **only** by the marching band director. An excused absence will be considered only in cases of extreme hardship or illness. Rehearsals and performances are scheduled or announced in advance and band members must make necessary arrangements to be at **ALL** functions.

Each unexcused absence from a **performance** will result in the lowering of the grade by one letter. Two unexcused absences from rehearsals will result in the lowering of one letter grade. Three unexcused rehearsals absences will result in the lowering of two letter grades. Four unexcused rehearsal absences will be construed as a lack of interest in the band and will result in dismissal from the organization and receipt of a failing grade.

If a band member is ill the day of a rehearsal and is unable to participate, it is their responsibility to contact the marching band director as early in the day as possible at **874-2799** or **bcardany@uri.edu**. Messages left with secretaries or other students will not be acceptable. Frequent absences may result in a lowered grade or dismissal from the organization. A doctors' note may be requested.

Students must avoid conflicts with other courses/laboratories during the MUS 291 class time. Unavoidable conflicts with scheduled band rehearsals must be brought to the attention of, and approved by, the marching band director. A student may be allowed to participate and perform in the marching band with one weekly course conflict that cannot be changed or resolved. Two weekly course conflicts will be considered an unacceptable commitment to the band and will not be permitted.

Attendance will be taken at 4:00 pm. As rehearsal time is very limited, tardiness will not be accepted. If a member arrives late to a rehearsal, they must check-in with the drum major or marching band director. No other member of the band staff may excuse a band member from a rehearsal or late arrival. The tardy member will be required to run laps at the end of rehearsal (usually one lap for every five minutes late). Recurring tardiness will result in a lowered grade or dismissal from the organization.

### No - Credit Status

Students enrolled in MUS 291 for "0 credit" are subject to all regulations and policies as those students earning academic credit.

### Grading

Grading for marching band is based upon attendance, participation, and attitude. The failure to appear at four weekly rehearsals or **one** performance are grounds for dismissal from the organization and receipt of a failing grade. All scheduled and/or announced events associated with the URI Marching Band are required functions and are included in this policy.

## **REHEARSAL POLICY**

Rehearsals begin PROMPTLY at 4:00 pm. Band members are expected to be at the rehearsal site with all required materials (music, instruments, and equipment) and prepared to begin rehearsal on time. Attendance is taken by the section leaders who report to the drum majors at 4:01 pm.

Talking must be kept to essential conversation only. When the director or drum major(s) stops the ensemble, band members must stop playing or marching immediately. This is the only way to make efficient use of rehearsal time.

All band members must remain at rehearsal until dismissed by the director.

## **GAME DAY POLICY**

Game day rehearsals are held on the practice field near Meade Stadium or our practice field. Rehearsal begins PROMPTLY at the time announced (typically 9:00 a.m.). Band members are expected to be at the rehearsal site with all required materials (music, instruments, and equipment) and prepared to begin rehearsal on time. A game day rehearsal will not be canceled unless announced in advance by the director.

The uniform is to be worn in its entirety or not at all. A "Pride" T-shirt is part of the uniform and must be worn under the wind and percussion uniforms. The director will authorize removal of the jacket and hat portions of the uniform for performance in the stands under hot conditions. The poncho must be present at the Fine Arts Center prior to performances. The decision to take raincoats or ponchos to the performance will not be made until shortly before departure.

There will be no smoking, drinking or cursing when in uniform or when representing the "Pride of New England" in any fashion.

Sunglasses are acceptable but must comply with the guidelines outlined by the director.

The band sits together in the stands in uniform seating order. Friends, family, or outside personnel are not allowed to sit with the band. Band members may not leave this area without permission from the director.

Band members must return to the stands immediately following a performance and should not purchase concession items or meet with family or friends. FOOD and BEVERAGES should be eaten sparingly and with caution to avoid stains on the uniforms.

Purses, handbags, backpacks, personal hats, and personal coats are not a part of the official uniform and should not be brought to the performance.

Disruptive behavior, in any form, will not be tolerated. In support of the football team, the band will remain at the game for its entirety. Members should be prepared to perform a post-game performance.

## TRIP POLICY

All game day and rehearsal procedures apply when traveling. Attendance will be taken only when the band leaves Kingston. Any student missing the bus will be expected to meet the band at its next rehearsal or performance at their own expense.

Drinking of alcoholic beverages will not be tolerated on any bus (or airplane).

Band members are representatives of the University and the State of Rhode Island when traveling and are expected to act accordingly.

## EQUIPMENT

The university can provide the following marching instruments: sousaphones, percussion instruments, mellophones, tenor saxophones, baritones, and marching trombones. Band members are required to complete an Instrument Issue Form prior to receiving any university instrument. All equipment (including flip folders, music, instruments, uniforms and other materials) remains the property of the University of Rhode Island. The student is responsible for maintaining good care of all equipment and will be held liable for negligent damage to, or loss of, school property. If music is lost, members are expected to borrow music from someone in their section and photocopy their own replacement parts. The due date for return of University materials will be announced well in advance. Late fees and/or replacement fees will be assessed when materials are not returned.

Lockers may be obtained from the Department of Music office beginning the first week of classes. The band room is not a storage area for personal nor school issued instruments and students are responsible for safe storage and handling of all equipment.

## UNIFORMS

### Wind, Brass and Percussion Members

Each instrumental member will be issued:

1 jacket	1 pair of gloves	1 hat
1 pair of pants	1 uniform bag	1 hat plume
	1 poncho	

Each instrumental member must provide:

1 Band T-shirt*	1 pair of <b>black</b> socks	
1 pair of black marching shoes (tennis shoes/sneakers unacceptable)		

### Color Guard Members

Each Color Guard member will be issued:

- 1 uniform
- 1 poncho

Each color guard member must provide:

- 1 Band T-shirt\*

\*T-Shirts will be provided freshman year only (you must purchase if replacement is necessary in subsequent years).

## **UNIFORM CARE**

The present "Pride of New England" Marching Band Uniforms were premiered in 2004. It is the responsibility of each student to care for their own uniform. If you believe that extra dry cleaning is necessary, inform your section leader and arrangements will be made for proper treatment of the uniform (special dry-cleaning treatment is required). You may be responsible for all or part of the cleaning cost for extra cleaning.

### **Pants and Coat**

The uniform should be allowed to air out or dry before being returned to its bag for storage. Uniforms must be hung properly after each use to ensure prolonged use. No alterations to the uniform may be made without permission from the marching band director.

### **Gloves, Hats, Shoes, and Socks**

Hats must be kept dry and should be clean for each game. Shoes must be kept black and polished for each performance. Woodwind, brass and percussion members must wear black socks when in uniform.

### **Color Guard Uniforms**

Sequined uniforms (if applicable) are NOT WASHABLE and must be DRY CLEANED by a qualified and knowledgeable professional. The sequins, if not properly dry cleaned, will fade and/or melt.

### **Dry Cleaning**

All uniforms will be dry cleaned by the university after each season. Band members who wish to have their uniforms dry cleaned during the season should request permission from their section leader who must inform the Band Director.

### **Garment Bags**

Garment bags are meant to hold the uniform ONLY. Shoes or other heavy articles must not be placed in the bottom of the bag.

### **Replacement**

Any uniform damage, negligent abuse, or loss of any items must be sustained by the marching band member. Lost uniform replacement will be billed as follows:

Jacket \$190.00	Gloves \$3.00
Pants \$80.00	Plume \$12.00
Hat \$35.00	Garment Bag \$7.00
Color Guard Uniform \$175.00	Hat Box \$10.00

## **GROOMING**

### **Hair**

Band members must wear their hair "up" inside their hats. A hat should be selected to allow for this. Hair nets should be worn if the hair is not the prescribed length. Members of the color guard not wearing hats will wear their hair as designated by the marching band director.

### **Jewelry**

Visible jewelry, including watches, must not be worn. Rings may be worn under the glove but are not recommended.

### **Cosmetics**

Color Guard members will be provided with the guidelines on acceptable cosmetics is necessary to achieve a professional look to the color guard.

## **UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER**

All Hail to thee Rhode Island  
 We pledge our faith anew  
 While our heroes bring thee honor  
 with our banner of white and blue.  
 In truth we owe her much  
 for she's shown us the way  
 to achieve and be of service to the world.  
 So all hail our Alma Mater  
 Rhode Island our guide whate'er we do.

## **HONORARY BAND ORGANIZATIONS**

The University of Rhode Island Bands sponsor the Theta Upsilon chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi and the Eta Chi chapter of Tau Beta Sigma, the National Honorary Band Fraternity and Sorority. The purpose of these groups is to support the URI Bands, including fund-raising, service, and social activities. Membership is available upon completion of one semester in the URI Bands as selected and recommended by the membership of the chapter and the chapter Sponsor.