

Idaho State University Bengal Marching Band

Handbook

www.isu.edu/marchingband



Bengal Marching Band

MUSP 1179

Fall 2026

Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12:10-1:50 PM - Classroom: ICCU Dome

Luke Strother, DMA

Office: Fine Arts 211

Office Hours: MWF 9:00-11:30am, 2:30-3:30

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WELCOME TO THE BENGAL MARCHING BAND!

We are excited to have you join our group. The Bengal Marching Band is one of the most dedicated, visible, and energetic organizations at Idaho State University. This ensemble performs at both athletic and community events and is a crucial component of the college experience.

The faculty and staff are here to help you succeed as a student at ISU. Please know that we want you to be successful in the classroom as well as on the field. Good communication skills are necessary, tutoring is available for free to students.

ISU Faculty

Dr. Eddie Ludema, Brass

Dr. Shandra Helman, Woodwinds

Dr. Thom Hasenpflug, Percussion

Bengal Band Coaches

Brandon Hansen, Drumline

Kim Schmutzer, Color Guard

Band is for Everyone Only

This band is for absolutely everyone. All types of people with all ranges of ability are most welcome here. To that end, we hold a ZERO TOLERANCE policy towards any sort of disparaging, intimidating, belittling, aggressive, or otherwise abusive words or actions directed at another band member in and outside of rehearsal. If you violate this policy, you will be out of the program, you will lose your scholarship, and in severe situations, you will no longer be welcome as a student at this institution. Be kind!

Bengal Band Camp

- **Bengal Marching Band Camp** is the week before school begins. The camp is MANDATORY for all students. During this week, we develop both visual and musical skills, learn the Pre-Game Show, and start our first halftime show. A schedule will be posted on the website.
- **New Student Orientation:** We make accommodations for freshmen to participate in the important New Student Orientation activities.
- **Housing & Food:** Dorms will open early for all marching band students, and some meals are provided during camp times.
- **Performances** begin right away. March Through the Arch is the Friday before school starts and Welcome Back Orange and Black is the first day of classes. Game and Performance schedule is posted on the website.

Ensemble Policies

- At all times conduct yourself with courtesy and respect.
- Be present and on time to all rehearsals, warmed up and ready to play.
- Phones may be used as a tool (e.g. FlipFolder) but should not be used as a distraction.
- Take care of your personal needs (bathroom breaks) before and after rehearsal.
- Show music must be completely memorized by assigned dates.
- Keep your instrument in good working order.
- Demonstrate a cooperative, cheerful attitude when working with peers in ensembles.
- Cooperate fully with instructors, drum majors, and student staff.
- Please bring the following required equipment to every rehearsal: instrument, charged smart phone, refillable water bottle, closed toed shoes (no boots).

Performances

- On game days there is a two hour rehearsal typically 5 or 6 hours before kickoff (no uniforms).
- Call time is typically one hour before kickoff (in uniform).
- The only things you should have in the stands are your instrument, phone, and water bottle. All other items (garment bags, shako boxes, personal items) should be stored either in your car or the band storage room.
- When in uniform, your performance has begun. Be professional at all times.
- Only band members are allowed in the band section. Sit with your section.
- The band cheers for the team during the whole game. All cheers must be appropriate. Profanity in the stands is not allowed, and band members must exhibit class at all times.
- After our halftime performance and before the third quarter is an excellent time to use the restroom and refill your water.
- While in uniform, please do not eat or drink (water is okay).

Drinking Alcohol (or other drugs resulting in intoxication) during rehearsals or performances will result in dismissal from the band, and University action.

Unwelcome sexual advances, inappropriate behavior, or other verbal or physical conduct constitute harassment and will not be tolerated. Will result in disciplinary action by the university.

Students will be treated as adults, unless behavior indicates otherwise. The band depends on good behavior for increased opportunities to travel, perform, or represent ISU at major events.

Uniforms

You are responsible for the care and maintenance of your uniform. Uniforms should be hung in a closet after performances, not packed into a backpack. These uniforms are in great shape, please hang properly so they look as good as new all season.

Uniforms will be checked out to students in August, and will be returned in November.

If uniform parts are lost or damaged, you will be responsible for replacement costs

Coat - \$220	Bag/Hanger - \$25
Bibbers - \$130	Shako Box - \$20
Gauntlets - \$65	Guard Tunic - \$80
Shako - \$60	Guard Pants - \$40

Uniform Regulations

- Wear full uniform at all times. You will be told when it is permissible to remove parts.
- Nothing may be added to uniform without permission.
- Shakos must always be pointed forward.
- Hair must go inside shako (off of the collar) for parades and performances.
- Plumes will be distributed by Uniform Lead prior to performances.
- You must provide and wear black socks with your uniform. No other color is acceptable.
- If you own appropriate (and clean) black marching band shoes, you do not need to purchase a new pair.
- Your official band t-shirt should be worn under the uniform during performances. If jackets come off, everyone will still be in uniform.

Travel Policy

When the band travels, you are expected to adhere to all appropriate general policies, as you are representing both the Bengal Marching Band and Idaho State University.

All normal travel is free for all Bengal Marching Band Students. Per diem may be issued to each student for meals.

Students of legal age are allowed by law to consume alcohol as an adult, but only in appropriate designated areas, such as restaurants. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in hotel hallways or any inappropriate public place. Smoking, vaping, or consuming alcohol on the bus is strictly forbidden. Public displays of intoxication will not be tolerated, and may result in loss of travel privileges or dismissal from the band.

The easiest way to cancel all future travel opportunities is to not follow the rules.

Instrument Policies

- All instruments must be maintained and in good playing condition.
- Cleaning materials are available in the instrument room. Please clean bells and equipment before performances.
- Keep insides of instruments clean.
- Treat ISU equipment as if it were your own. You will be charged for damage above normal wear and tear.
- Use of percussion instruments determined by Drumline Coach

Check Out

Instruments will be checked out based on need and availability. If you need a school owned instrument, please make sure the director knows. ISU owns all marching specific instruments such as sousaphones, mellophones, marching baritones, and drumline. Students will need to provide reeds and cleaning supplies.

Check In

At the end of the season, all university owned instruments must be returned to ISU. Please make sure the instrument is clean and in good working condition. Make sure all equipment (lyres, mouthpieces, etc.) are returned. Instruments are returned after the last football or basketball game.

Music

All music and drill is uploaded to the FlipFolder app. This necessitates bringing a charged phone to every rehearsal and performance. Recordings and drill animations will be shared from the ISU Google Drive.

Grading Policy

ISU ensembles perform their best when everyone attends all rehearsals. Your final grade will be a culmination of attendance, punctuality, and effort at rehearsals (game day rehearsals included), and events. All performance dates will be posted on the Marching Band website.

- **Punctuality** - Do not be late. On time is late, early is on time, late is unacceptable. Out of courtesy, rehearsals will never run late, please return that favor by being on time to every rehearsal and performance. In the event of an academic reason for lateness (field trip, lab, etc.), please communicate ahead of time. After four times being late, there will be a 5% deduction to your final grade for each additional late arrival.
- **Attendances** - Absences are excused only by doctor's note or email from another ISU faculty member. Please communicate with the Director and your Section Leader via email ahead of any absence. Unexcused absences involve work conflicts, parent requests, or non-academic conflicts (such as a club meeting). After three unexcused absences your grade will be affected. There will be a 5% deduction on the fourth missed rehearsal and a further 10% deduction on each absence after.
- **Performances** - Every performance is absolutely required, we need all of us to perform our best! Please plan ahead, maintain and use your calendar well, and be a reliable human. As with everything else, please communicate any absence ahead of time. Any missed performance will result in a 15% deduction to your final grade.

Grading

A: 94-100% A-: 90-93%
B+: 87-89% B: 83-86% B-: 80-82%
C+: 77-79% C: 73-76% C-: 70-72%
D: 60-69%
F: 59% and below

Stretching Routine

Injuries can be avoided by staying fit, healthy eating habits, and stretching before physical activity. The only one of these that can be addressed in rehearsal is stretching.

- *Tension Release* - Tighten all muscle groups and hold. Relax all muscle groups as you exhale.
- *Truck Twist* - Twist torso to left and right, first with arms out to the side, then above your head.
- *Bend and Breathe* - Bend at the waist and reach to the floor. Take several full breaths.
- *Atlas* - With arms above head, simultaneously push up with arms and down through legs.
- *Wrist Grab* - Grab wrist behind back and pull while leaning head and torso the other way.
- *Elbow Grab* - Grab elbow behind head and pull while bending torso the same way.
- *Whole Body* - Interlace fingers behind back and pull down, then back, then up while bending.
- *Standing Quad* - Stand on one foot and pull heel to butt. Switch feet.
- *Hamstring* - Push one heel forward with toe up and bend forward at waist. Switch feet.
- *Calf* - Pull one foot back with foot flat. Bend other knee forward. Switch feet.
- *Figure-Four Hip* - Sitting, cross one ankle behind other knee and twist torso. Switch feet.

Institutional Syllabus Statements

Idaho Code 67-5909D

Idaho Code 67-5909D was passed by the State of Idaho Legislature during the 2025 legislative session. This law places certain requirements and restrictions on state sponsored institutions of higher education as it relates to activities, instruction, and support services that may intersect with what the law refers to as “diversity, equity, and inclusion.” The university has worked to meet its legal requirements under this law, including seeking lawful exemptions for academic programming that would otherwise be subject to the restrictions created under 67-5909D. If you have any concerns about the content of this course and its relationship to the concepts identified by this law, you are responsible for meeting with the Office of Academic Advising (askanadvisor@isu.edu) to raise those concerns prior to the close of the add/drop period and discuss the possibility of other appropriate enrollment options. By maintaining your enrollment in this class beyond the add/drop period you are acknowledging your choice to engage in the full educational experience outlined in the syllabus, which may include assignments, discussion, readings, grading, etc., related to concepts identified under this law.

Academic Freedom and Responsibility

In carrying out its educational mission, Idaho State University is committed to adhering to the values articulated in Idaho State Board of Education Policy III.B. Membership in the academic community imposes on administrators, faculty members, other institutional employees, and students an obligation to respect the dignity of others, to acknowledge the right of others to express differing opinions, and to foster and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and free expression on and off the campus of an institution.

Academic Integrity

It is important that students submit their own, original (never previously used) work throughout the class. Submitting previously used work and/or work that is not your own original work is considered a violation in academic integrity. Academic Integrity is something that all students should know about and take measures to uphold - it ensures the value of your degree. The credibility of the university as a whole is diminished if academic integrity is not upheld.

Types of Violations

There are four types of academic dishonesty: (1) Plagiarism; (2) Fabrication; (3) Cheating; and (4) Aiding and Abetting Dishonesty.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism, in effect, means “stealing.” The American College Dictionary defines it as “copying or imitating the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author and passing off the same as one’s original work.” Students are required to give proper credit to all sources of information, whether in their written materials or in oral presentations.

Fabrication: Fabrication includes making up sources or information, omitting sources, distorting sources or information, and misrepresenting sources or information.

Cheating: Cheating includes but is not limited to the following:

- using forbidden items during a test or exam (phones, files, books, notes, etc.)
- obtaining tests from previous classes
- collaborating with another on individual assignments when you are expected to work alone
- using another's assignment, ideas, or sources
- using your own previously submitted work from another class
- obstructing or changing grades received

- submitting assignments that you did not write (as with contract cheating or AI-generated material). Note: relying on generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms to create or edit work that is then submitted for an assignment when an Instructor has expressly prohibited use of such AI platforms constitutes a violation of academic integrity. If an Instructor allows students to use generative AI platforms, that policy should be made explicit for the assignment or course

Aiding and Abetting Dishonesty. Helping another plagiarize, fabricate, or cheat is academically dishonest. Failing to report any of these instances violates the Code of Academic Dishonesty.

Rarely does anyone set out to violate standards of academic integrity; plagiarism and cheating usually occur because students are in a hurry and take some short cuts to submit the required assignment. The best remedies to ensure academic integrity are thus to keep up with the class and to ask questions along the way. It is important that you know that intentionality ("I didn't know" or "I didn't mean it") is not a valid excuse for violating standards of academic integrity. Penalties for violating Academic Integrity may include receiving an "F" on the assignment, an "F" in the course, and notification of the Registrar. Multiple instances of Academic Dishonesty at ISU may result in suspension or expulsion. You should thus talk with your instructor before submitting your work if you have any questions about your use of sources or other information.

ISU Book Bundle (isu.edu/bookbundle)

Upon registering for classes each semester, all Idaho State University students are automatically enrolled in the ISU Book Bundle, the university's official textbook and course material delivery program. The ISU Book Bundle ensures students have their required course materials on or before the first day of class. Through the ISU Book Bundle, physical books are conveniently packaged and provided to students on a rental basis. Digital materials are delivered directly through Moodle (beginning Fall 2025, Canvas). All students have the opportunity to opt out of the program each semester. Costs for all required course materials will be added to your tuition and fees.

To opt out: follow the website link above. The dates to select your Fall course material pick-up location or opt out are August 8 - September 12. There will be no refunds after the end of the opt-out period.

Reasonable Accommodations

ISU is committed to providing an accessible learning environment for students with documented disabilities. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation, please contact Disability Services to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting accommodations.

Students are encouraged to register with Disability Services as soon as they begin this course, or in the timeliest manner possible, as accommodations are not provided retroactively. More information can be found on the [Disability Services website](#).

Hours: 8:00 – 5:00, Monday through Friday

Phone: (208) 282-3599

Fax: (208) 282-4617

Email: disabilityservices@isu.edu

Location: Rendezvous Complex, Room 125 (Pocatello Campus) ISU also offers Services in [Idaho Falls, Meridian, and Twin Falls](#)