**2020-2021 Season**

08

**Fall**

****

**UMBC Down and Dirty Dawg Band**

Event Center

1000 Hilltop Circle

Baltimore, MD 21250
Phone: TBD | pepband@umbc.edu | drumline@umbc.edu

https://pepband.umbc.edu | https://www.facebook.com/umbcpepband

Band Handbook

UMBC Down and Dirty Dawg Band

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# Introduction

## Welcome

Greetings,
It is my pleasure to welcome you to the UMBC Down and Dirty Dawg Band & Drumline!  You are about to join an ensemble full of talented, spirited, and dedicated musicians with a love of making music.

The band was officially formed in 1998 with a group of 12 musicians (before that time, the band had been an ad hoc student group).  Since 1998, the band has performed at hundreds of events throughout the east coast.  We have performed on WJZ's *Morning Edition*, *Good Morning America,* and NBC's *Today Show*.

The drumline was officially formed in 2009 as an ad hoc student group with 3 members, Eddy Mosenkis, Cody Kenlak, and Will Gass. Since 2009, the drumline has performed at hundreds of events throughout the east coast. We have performed on ESPN2, MASN, and various other outlets.

Both groups have received mentions from ESPN's Tony Kornheiser and Kyle Whelliston, as well as being featured in many blogs and newspapers (including the *ESPN Insider* blog, *The Washington Post*, *Binghamton University Basketball Blog*, *The Hartford Courant*, and *The Retriever Weekly*).

I was a trumpet player in the band for over a dozen years throughout both undergraduate and graduate studies.  Being a member of the band had a profound impact on my college experience.  I was exposed to the true spirit of UMBC, became good friends with many members, earned money through the stipend program, fulfilled graduation requirements through course credit, and became a better musician by being exposed to a variety of musical styles and countless performing opportunities. It is my goal to make sure each member has an equally fulfilling experience.

To making music and making a difference,



Costas Likakis – Pep Band Director

Jasmine Stanley – Student Director

Sean Jordan – Student Director

Brian Scherzo – Student Director

Dylan Hamme – Senior Drum Captain

Reese Beyers – Junior Drum Captain

## Preface

As performing ensembles, the Down and Dirty Dawg Band & Drumline (DDDB & DDDD respectively) are essentially group endeavors.  We cannot be successful without full participation from all of our members.  Balancing academic, personal, work, and other commitments can be challenging. The purpose of this handbook is to give a detailed overview of the season, while defining what is expected from each member of the ensemble. Unless otherwise specified, all policies in this handbook apply to band and drumline members.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Down and Dirty Dawg Band & Drumline is to support the UMBC athletic department and promote school spirit and community at athletic events and other school functions through music.

# Leadership

The band and drumline cannot function at their best without the help of student leadership.  Each year, members of the band and drumline have the opportunity to audition and/or interview for the following leadership positions.

## Student Director

The student director is responsible for assisting the band director in ensemble operations.  This includes, but is not limited to…

* Band room and music organization
* Inventorying equipment
* Member recruitment
* Updating STAMP and our public facing website
* Taking photos and videos of the band
* Helping coordinate band events
* Conducting the band when needed
* Sending out event reminders

## Drum Captain

The drum captain is responsible for assisting the band director in drumline operations.  When multiple drum captains are selected, one captain will be designated as the “Senior” captain while the other captain will be the “Junior” captain. The Junior Captain will assist the Senior Captain. Drum Captain responsibilities include, but are not limited to…

* Leading drumline rehearsals
* Maintenance of percussion equipment
* Band room and music organization
* Member recruitment
* Writing drill
* Sending out event reminders

## Eligibility

In order to be considered for a student leadership position, the following prerequisites must be met…

* Must be a UMBC Student
* Be able to make all rehearsals and 90% of performances
* Be a student for both Fall and Spring semesters
* Maintain a 2.25 cumulative GPA or better
* Have completed at least 24 credits at UMBC
* Be in good academic standing
* Been a member of the band or drumline for at least one season
* Existing leadership and conducting experience are encouraged

## Leadership Auditions

Auditions for student leadership positions take place during the second half of the spring semester. Students will be required to write a paper, demonstrate conducting abilities, and be interviewed. Information about student leadership auditions will be e-mailed to the band during the spring semester.

# Rehearsals

The band traditionally rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 – 10:00PM beginning the first week of school (end of August) through the last week in October.  The drumline follows the same rehearsal schedule as the band, with additional rehearsals as scheduled by the drum captain (Sunday’s 7-9:30PM). Due to restrictions in place to maintain the health and safety of the UMBC community during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is not feasible for fall 2020. Please stay tuned for what’s to come once the decision has been made for basketball season.

When it is once again safe to gather and perform and a rehearsal and performance are scheduled during the same week, rehearsals will typically be cancelled. Please visit pepband.umbc.edu and click on “Events” to see the most up to date calendar. **Note: Students interested in joining band should not sign up for a fall class which conflicts with the 8:00-10:00pm time slot.**

**Attendance to rehearsals is mandatory for all members, regardless of their status (paid or non-paid member)**. If half of the band does not show up, we cannot have an effective rehearsal. In order to be flexible with school and work schedules, band members may miss a maximum of 2 rehearsals and drumline members may miss a maximum of 4 rehearsals. Band camp is considered a mandatory rehearsal. At the discretion of the Director, members who fail to meet the rehearsal attendance requirement may be removed from the ensemble and unable to perform and travel with the band for the season.

There is no dedicated rehearsal space at the RAC large enough to accommodate the band and drumline.  Because of this, rehearsal for the band will typically take place in the same seating area we play during games in the Event Center. The drumline will rehearse either on the court, in the hallway or outside the main entrance of the Event Center.  Unfortunately, it is possible for practices to be interrupted with distractions from Event Center employees, as UMBC does not own the building itself.  Members should do their best to concentrate on rehearsal.

Due to the limited amount of time, rehearsals will mainly focus on the three memorized pieces (UMBC Riser, National Anthem, and Our UMBC) and new material for the season.  Charts and cadences that we play often will be rehearsed briefly.  New members will learn these pieces through individual practice and by sight-reading at our first few events.  When at rehearsal, please adhere to the following rules…

* Be setup, tuned, and ready to play when rehearsal begins
* Do not talk or play while the conductor/captain is speaking
* Stop immediately after a cutoff and listen attentively for instructions
* Please keep your cell phones on vibrate. Do not talk or text unless urgent.
* Help setup and cleanup.
* Don’t forget to sign in!

# Practice

The band currently has over 150 charts in the books.  The drumline has many of those charts, in addition to dozens of cadences and exercises.  Some charts are currently archived to keep the binders from breaking apart.  Our repertoire consists of a variety of musical styles, including marching band/drum corps arrangements, jazz big band arrangements, holiday music, and patriotic marches.

When it comes to practicing, members should initially focus on the three memorized pieces (UMBC Riser, National Anthem, and Our UMBC) and the audition pieces.  As the season progresses, the director will send out an e-mail to the ensemble with the final list of songs we will play throughout the year.  The amount of music can be overwhelming.  Please follow these tips to help you practice the music!

* Warm-up
* If you know it, don’t practice it
* Isolate trouble sections and work on them at a slow tempo; work your way up to the proper tempo
* Never practice a section faster than you can perform it
* Use a metronome!

Remember, most of the music is available in digital format on STAMP. **Do not take band binders home with you unless you receive permission from the director!**

# Schedule

It is the responsibility of each band member to check our rehearsal and performance schedule. The schedule is available online at <https://pepband.umbc.edu/events> or in STAMP. Below is a summary of our season.

*NOTE: Everything through October is canceled due to the pandemic, and after is still up in the air.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Month | Schedule |
| June | 4th of July Parade Rehearsal(s) |
| July | 4th of July Parades (Catonsville/Arbutus) |
| August | Drumline Auditions w/ RehearsalBand CampConvocation Parade (TBD)Women’s Soccer Home OpenerSchool and Rehearsals BeginMen’s Soccer Home Opener |
| September | Catonsville Arts & Crafts FestivalVolleyball Game |
| October | Homecoming ParadeHomecoming BonfireRetriever RallySoccer GameHockey Game |
| November | Basketball Games Begin |
| December | End of Fall Semester |
| January | Winter Games |
| February | Spring Semester Begins |
| March | Basketball Tournament |
| April | Lacrosse GamesNew Student Day |
| May | Award CeremonyStudent Leadership Auditions |

# Travel/Tournament

Traditionally, the band and drumline would accompany the Men’s and Women's basketball teams to the America East Conference tournament.  Due to budget constraints, we will only be traveling to the conference final in mid-March if the team reaches it and is not hosting. UMBC Athletics pays for hotel rooms (3 to a room), travel expenses, and pays members a per diem of $25 a day for food and beverage.  In the event that one or both of the teams wins the conference and/or makes it to the NCAA, the band will continue to travel in the same manner.

When traveling to the tournaments, there are strict conference rules that must be followed. Additionally, there is a spirit group limit of 24 members and 1 director.  In light of these limitations, several factors will be taken into consideration with regard to who will be attending the tournament.   Instrumentation needs and attendance will determine the remaining students selected.

Tournament sign up will take place in February.  Members are encouraged to visit AmericaEast.com and put the tournament dates on their calendar.  Request off from work now and be sure to inform professors of the conflict.  The director will provide a note (to give to professors) for any band member who requests it.

# Audition

The band and drumline have a reputation of being top musical groups in the America East Conference.  Being recognized by local, regional, and national media, it is our goal to continue to strive for excellence.  Musical selections for the auditions consist of songs that we play often, as well as new music that we want to master.  Members who put the time in to learn these pieces and perform them well will be rewarded with a stipend for each game.

Auditions are held in 15-minute time slots. This year we must do virtual/recorded auditions. Requirements vary depending on the instrument played. All audition music will be posted on STAMP. For more information, please read the section below that applies to your instrument.

## Woodwinds and Brass Players (except Tuba)

Auditions are optional for woodwinds and brass players. That said, those who pass their audition will be eligible for a stipend for each event played throughout the season. Auditions for these players will be submitted to leadership by Friday October 9, 2020, with all new employee paperwork being turned in within a week of receiving it. Those who miss the paperwork deadline will NOT get paid!

*Perform the following charts from Memory*

* 0 – Our UMBC
* 1 – UMBC Riser
* 1 – National Anthem

*Perform randomly selected portions of the following charts with the music*

* 11 – Sing Sing Sing
* 46 – Vehicle
* 54 – Ease on Down the Road
* 80 – The Chicken

## Tuba Players

In an effort to increase our low-brass presence, Tuba players are not required to audition this year and are automatically eligible for a stipend. The band can support a maximum of 3 tuba players. In the event that we exceed that number, audition spots may be reinstated at the discretion of the Director.

## Guitars/Bass Guitars

Auditions are required for both Guitar and Bass Guitar players. Audition requirements are the same as Woodwinds and Brass Players.

## Drumset

Traditionally, auditions are required for drumset players and will take place during a designated rehearsal in September. The DDDB has one primary drumset player and one or more alternates. Leadership will pick the primary drumset player based on auditions, and the rest will be considered alternates and must also pass the drumline audition for their stipend. All drumset hopefuls must learn the part “by ear” without access to sheet music. Audition requirements for Drumset players are as follows…

*Perform the following charts from Memory*

* 11 – Sing Sing Sing
* 46 – Vehicle
* 54 – Ease on Down the Road
* 65 – Copacabana
* 80 – The Chicken
* 87 – Fire

## Drumline

Auditions are required for all members of the drumline. Auditions are held during the summer (August), following a pre-audition rehearsal. By the end of August, the drumline is formed based on members who pass their audition. If there are any open spots on the drumline, auditions will be held again at the beginning of September. By the middle of September, the drumline roster will be finalized for the year.

Audition requirements for the drumline are as follows…

*Perform the following charts from Memory*

* 0 – Our UMBC
* 1 – UMBC Riser
* 1 – National Anthem

*Perform the following charts with the music, though preferably from Memory*

* Drum Cadence – Mad Man Maddox
* Drum Cadence – Ocelot
* Warm-Up – BD1-2013 / Eights
* Warm-Up – BD1-2013 / Triplet-Diddle

*Sight Reading*

# Stipends/Payroll

Students who pass the audition and make the required amount of rehearsals are eligible to receive a stipend for each game they attend.  Stipend amounts vary per year (depending on the budget) and depend on the type of event (rehearsal, pep rally, fall/spring game, or winter game).  Dollar amounts per point are determined at the end of the season, and vary based on the budget, number of members, and days of travel. On average, members are paid between $3.00 to $3.50 per point. In order for a member to receive a stipend, they must pass the audition and earn a minimum of 75 points (equivalent to about 75% of non-winter games).  Members who do not make 75% of games will forfeit their stipend for the season.

For the 2019-2020 season, the average stipend was $495.14. The highest paid stipend was $792.00. The lowest paid stipend was $304.00.

For the 2018-2019 season, the average stipend was $498.68. The highest paid stipend was $713.00. The lowest paid stipend was $288.75.

We do not currently have numbers for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, or 2017-2018 seasons.

For the 2014-2015 season, the average stipend was $448.71. The highest paid stipend was $708.50. The lowest paid stipend was $167.38.

For the 2013-2014 season, the average stipend was $374.28.  The highest paid stipend was $542.50.  The lowest paid stipend was $127.10.

Point Values

* 1 Point – Rehearsals
* 3 Points – Pep Rally/Short Gigs
* 5 Points – Non-Winter Games
* 7 Points – Winter Games and High Profile events

Deductions

* -1 Point – Late for Rehearsal/Pep Rally or Invalid RSVP Response\*
* -2 Points – Late for Game (downbeat) or Invalid RSVP Response\*
* -4 Points – Late for Game (halftime)
* -Full Value – “No Show”\*\*

\*An Invalid RSVP Response occurs when a member doesn’t RSVP or RSVP’s to an event as “Not Attending” but shows up regardless.
\*\*A “No Show” occurs when a member does not RSVP to an event as “Not Attending” and does not show up. Not only will the user not earn points for the event, but points will be deducted from their stipend.

It is easy to avoid most big deductions, you just need to remember to RSVP in STAMP at least 48 hours prior to the event.  Lateness deductions are non-discriminatory.  If you will be late to an event for any reason (class conflict, etc.), you will be unable to avoid point deductions (but you will still get credit for attending the game).  Members are responsible for signing in for rehearsals and games as soon as they arrive.  Attendance information is updated immediately and available for viewing in STAMP.  If the member notices any point errors or bad deductions, they must contact leadership ASAP so it can be fixed.

All band members who are eligible for a stipend will be added to UMBC Athletics Payroll as salaried employees of the State of Maryland.  New members will need to fill out a payroll packet and provide valid forms of identification (a social security card is required by UMBC in addition to any other forms of ID).  Band members who are on payroll in another department at UMBC will only need to fill out a single form.  This paperwork MUST be done by the end of the first week in October or the individual will NOT receive a stipend.

# Attendance

Members must make every effort to attend all rehearsals and events.  Being in a music ensemble is a group effort.  If everyone shows up, our sound will be big and all parts will be covered.  If members don’t show up, it limits the songs we can play, affects our sound, and can be devastating to the morale of the group.  Pep band is a lot more fun when we sound our best!

There are many reasons why a student won’t make it to a rehearsal or performance…

* Family/Religious Holiday
* Academic
* Athletic
* Transportation
* Winter Game, living out of state
* Other Activities

Since we are all adults, members are trusted to make as many events as possible and avoid missing rehearsals.  Regardless if an absence is considered excused or not, members must make all but 2 rehearsals (4 for drumline) and 75% of games in order to remain a member of the ensemble.

This year, we will use STAMP to track attendance. In the Events section is our calendar of events that are going on for the current school year, and RSVPs are **required** prior to all rehearsals and events. Both email and text reminders will be sent, so please make sure to have all appropriate contact information entered into STAMP.

Any last minute changes in RSVP status require at least 48 hours written e-mail notice to pepband@umbc.edu or drumline@umbc.edu.

Remember…

“To be early is to be on time”
“To be on time is to be late”
“To be late is to be dead”

# UMBC Affiliation

Members of the UMBC Pep Band are considered employees of the UMBC Athletic Department.  We are not considered student athletes, and thus are not eligible for things like early registration. While the UMBC Pep Band is a musical ensemble, we are not funded or affiliated with the UMBC Music Department.  Our ensemble is open to both music and non-music majors, and many of our members participate in other music ensembles, such as the UMBC Wind Ensemble.  You can learn more about UMBC Music on their website, music.umbc.edu.

Even though we are not affiliated with the Music department, no other ensemble at this school provides the amount of performance and travel opportunities that we do.

# Communication

There are many different ways that we communicate with band members.  With the size of the group, it can be hard to keep track of everyone.  While verbal communication from members about upcoming practice and performances is appreciated, we must insist that members also provide this information in writing.  Pep Band members should e-mail pepband@umbc.edu and drumline members should e-mail drumline@umbc.edu.  These e-mail addresses go directly to the band director and student leaders.

Remember…

“If it isn’t in writing, it isn’t true!”

## STAMP

All band members are added to STAMP.  STAMP is used for...

* Keeping up-to-date rosters
* Tracking audition signups and status
* Logging attendance and stipend amounts
* Storing select digital copies of audio and sheet music
* Sending out event and RSVP reminders
* Mailing lists and communication

To access STAMP, visit https://pepband.umbc.edu and click the “STAMP” tab. Use the username and password provided to you when your STAMP account was created to login – hopefully you’ve changed your default password.

If you do not have a STAMP account, please e-mail pepband@umbc.edu or drumline@umbc.edu with your UMBC username. When using the site, please remember that digital copies of audio and sheet music are for use of the UMBC Pep Band and Drumline only.

## Public Facing Website

Our public facing website is located at <https://pepband.umbc.edu>.  This website contains...

* Audition requirements
* Frequently asked questions
* Pictures/Videos
* Events Calendar (Rehearsal and Game schedules)

Members can link our events calendar to their Google Calendar by clicking on the “Events” tab and clicking the button, “Sync with Google Calendar”.

## E-Mail Lists

Members and prospective recruits of the DDDB are to use pepband@umbc.edu to connect with the director and student leaders.

Members and prospective recruits of the DDDD are to use drumline@umbc.edu to connect with the director and student leaders.

All other mass mailings are done through STAMP itself, so it is imperative to keep contact information – email and phone number – as up-to-date as possible for all members.

## Social Media

Follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/UMBCPepBand, Instagram and Twitter @umbcpepband, and Snapchat @umbcdddb. The drumline has their own Instagram and Twitter @umbcdrumline. We will post status updates, pictures, and videos to these accounts.  Feel free to contribute material throughout the year.  At the end of the season, we will create a slideshow from the posts.

## Text Messaging

Text messaging will be used to notify band members of upcoming events.  If you do not want to receive text message notifications, please notify the director.

## Google Forms

Throughout the year, we will use Google Forms to request information from the band and drumline, and said forms will be distributed via STAMP email and/or text. Please respond to such requests by the requested RSVP date!

# Uniform

Members must adhere to the pep band uniform policy. During rehearsals, students should wear comfortable clothes.  During performances, students should wear the pep band Under-Armour t-shirt and long blue or black jeans.  For safety reasons, closed toed shoes are also required for all rehearsals and performances.  Students who do not follow this attire will be considered “absent” from the rehearsal or performance.

Each band member will be assigned one Under-Armour t-shirt at no cost. At the conclusion of the season, the member may keep the uniform to use in future years. If a member quits the ensemble or does not make 75% of the required games, they are required to wash and return their shirt in like-new condition.  Those who do not return their shirt will be charged $20 on their student account, and will not be eligible to register for classes until the uniform fee has been paid.

# Facilities and Equipment

## Band Room

Due to the RAC renovations last year, all of our stuff was moved to the Event Center. Due to the constant need to move in and out of the media storage room because of other events throughout the fall, it was imperative that equipment was kept organized. With the late fall move to the storage room in the basement of the EC, we have a more consistent space to keep things. Please help keep the storage space clean and put things back in their designated locations. Under no circumstance should any member use a piece of equipment that does not belong to them, unless they have received permission from the equipment owner.

Due to the limited amount of storage space, non-UMBC owned instruments must be carefully monitored by the owner. During the move to the Event Center, a bass amp and several drumline heads were lost, and since UMBC cannot be held responsible for personal equipment, replacements are forced to come out of the band’s budget.  Moving forward, if personal equipment is damaged or stolen while left in the band room, the owner will be responsible for replacing it.  If in doubt, please take non-UMBC owned instruments home.

## Event Center

Please respect the Event Center!  The storage space should be left clean and as organized as possible.  If there are non-band-or-drumline items stored with our stuff, **do not touch them**.  Please make sure all music, stands, and instruments are locked in the storage space and not left in the hallway.

## UMBC owned instruments

The majority of members must provide the instrument that they will be playing in the band.  Percussion and low-brass players may be able to utilize a limited supply of instruments owned by the school.  Students using UMBC owned instruments typically will provide their own hardware (drumsticks, mallets, or mouth pieces) and are responsible for the safety and operation of the instrument.

The majority of equipment available for student use is in working condition, but there will soon come a time when they may need to be replaced.  Students must fill out an equipment loan contract, which makes them responsible for the condition of the equipment.  At the end of the season, students will be responsible for any repairs due to neglect.  Failure to return the loaned instrument or pay to fix damages may result in withholding of grades and or deductions from the student’s stipend.

# Sportsmanship

Students are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of UMBC when in public and to demonstrate good sportsmanship.  Rude, sexist, or racial remarks as well as profanity will not be tolerated.  Failure to comply with this will result in dismissal from the ensemble. Band members should strive to establish a culture that is spirited, exciting, motivating, and memorable for students, family, friends, fans, and alumni.  This ensemble will comply with America East and NCAA conference rules.

# Seating in the Stands

Due to seating arrangements in the Event Center, the section we play in is reserved for band and drumline members only. Family, friends, and significant others are welcome to hear the band from a different section.

# Award Ceremony

Our annual award ceremony is held each year in May and is run by student volunteers with guidance from the band director.  The ceremony is a great way to celebrate our accomplishments for the year.  The format of the event includes food/drink, slideshow, video, and awards.

The band, student directors, and the band director determine the recipients of each award. Descriptions of some of the awards are below…

* Every student who attends at least 75% of games will receive a superlative certificate.
* All seniors will receive a plaque.
* Additional plaques/trophies include...
	+ Student Director Award
	+ Rookie of the Year
	+ Mentor of the Year
	+ Jari Jr. / Directors Award
	+ Nicole Macey / Unsung Hero Award
	+ Most Spirited Award

Traditionally, we will honor a special guest and present them with a plaque, including a photo of the band.  Past guests include former provosts, coaches, and instructors.

# Band & Drumline Forums

Each year, all members of the band and drumline are invited to an open forum to discuss the season.  Members suggest changes to this handbook and discuss positives and negatives of the season. Additional feedback regarding the ensemble is welcome throughout the year via e-mail to pepband@umbc.edu or drumline@umbc.edu .

# Acknowledgement

Please acknowledge that you have read this handbook by visiting <https://forms.gle/jizv18gBwfFeVoBG7>.