

MARCHING 97 ATTENDANCE POLICY: 2026 SEASON

I, _____, realize that my attendance at Marching 97 practices and games is an essential part of membership of this band. Therefore, I will abide by the following Attendance Policy, as outlined by the 2026 Executive Board:

Article I – Definitions

A **tardy** is defined as arriving at the designated pickup location after regular call time (4:25 PM) on a regular practice day OR past the time set by the Drum Major for Saturday morning practice OR remaining in the loft past starttime OR leaving the practice field before the conclusion of announcements. Rehearsal begins at precisely 4:45 PM or 20 minutes past call time. Rehearsal ends at 6:15 PM and will be followed by announcements. A tardy can be excused or unexcused. For a tardy to be excused, a band member must notify the Staff Assistant and receive approval either prior to the call time or retroactively under extenuating circumstances. If this approval does not take place, the tardy is unexcused.

An **absence** is defined as missing any mandatory event altogether OR arriving more than 45 minutes after call time. Absences can be excused or unexcused. Please refer to Article III for more on excused absences.

Band members will be provided a schedule that describes which Marching 97 performances are **mandatory** and **non-mandatory**. The Executive Board may add additional mandatory performances as per the protocol in the Marching 97 Constitution.

Article II – Equivalences

- Two unexcused tardies are equivalent to one unexcused absence, and vice versa.
- Missing a mandatory performance is equivalent to four unexcused tardies.
- Missing Saturday morning practice, but not the game, is equivalent to two unexcused tardies.
- Missing Saturday morning practice and the game is equivalent to six unexcused tardies.
- Missing third-quarter call time is equivalent to one unexcused tardy.
- Uniform infractions (outlined in the Uniform Policy) are equivalent to one unexcused tardy.
- Having unmarked music by the practice set by the Drum Major is equivalent to one unexcused tardy.
- Missing additional mandatory events including, but not limited to, Executive Candidate Speeches and the Band Final, is equivalent to two unexcused tardies.
- Misbehavior at official events (outlined in Article IV) is equivalent to one unexcused tardy.

Article III - Excused Absences and Tardies

For an excused absence from practice, the Staff Assistant must be informed as soon as possible, and the student must receive approval. It is at the discretion of the Staff Assistant to determine what is an

excusable absence, specifically for absences from practice. Excuses may include, but are not limited to, illness, academic obligations, and family emergencies. Band members are not required to petition the Board to miss a practice; the only person who needs notification of the absence is the Staff Assistant.

Band members with a recurring attendance conflict are required to petition the Executive Board and take Music 021 for zero credit.

For an excused absence from an official performance, the student must petition the Executive Board before the performance. The student is expected to notify the Board as soon as they know that they will be unable to attend said performance. Excused absences are determined by the Executive Board on a case-by-case basis. The latest they are able to petition for an excused absence is during the Executive meeting of the same week as the performance. If a member must petition retroactively due to an extenuating circumstance (such as an emergency that occurs after a given week's Executive meeting, but before a game), the petition must occur at the Executive meeting immediately following the absence. Any petition after this date will not be accepted unless there is an extenuating reason to do so, at the discretion of the Executive Board. A simple majority vote is required to approve an absence from a performance. Those with an excused absence from a performance will still be expected to attend all practices before the performance. The Executive Board reserves the right to call a band member into a closed meeting to discuss a situation regarding a concerning number of excused absences due to unforeseen circumstances.

In the event of a band member having an exam during practice time, it is up to the discretion of the Staff Assistant to determine whether or not the band member is required to report to practice following the exam. The band member must notify the Staff Assistant before 11:59 PM the night before the exam. During common hour exams, the Staff Assistant will provide a form to log excused absences that week.

Article IV – Personal Conduct

All members of the Marching 97, whether they are Lehigh Students or not, are expected to act in accordance with the Marching 97 Inclusion and Equity Policy and the University Conduct System as written in the Lehigh University Student Handbook. This includes, but is not limited to, the sections regarding Respect for Others, Respect for Property, Respect for the Lehigh University Community, Respect for Self, and Respect for the Law.

In the stands, band members are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner to both each other and other Lehigh fans. Since the Marching 97's main goal at football games is to support the Lehigh football team, members must remain in the stands and practice good sportsmanship by staying present and engaged.

Band members who are not adhering to these expectations regarding their conduct at football games and practices risk facing tardies, resulting in consequences outlined in Article V.

Article V – Consequences

Consequences will be based on the number of unexcused tardies that a band member has accrued.

- For band members taking Music 021 for credit:
 - For each unexcused tardy (as defined in Article II), the band member's letter grade will decline one standard unit (from A+ to A, A to A-, etc.).
 - At their sixth tardy, in addition to the grade drop, the band member is required to meet with the Executive Board to discuss how their lack of attendance is affecting the band and steps to rectify the problem.
 - At their eighth tardy, the band member is removed from the 97 and will receive an F as their Music 021 grade. Individuals removed from the 97 are forbidden from attending any Marching 97-sanctioned events for the duration of the academic year.
- For band members NOT taking Music 021 for credit:
 - At their Second tardy: Will receive a warning.
 - At their fourth tardy, the band member is required to petition the Executive Board to remain in the band.
 - At their sixth tardy: Pending a vote by the Executive Board, the band member is removed from the 97 and forbidden from attending any Marching 97-sanctioned events for the duration of the academic year.
- For all band members:
 - If the band member accrues two or more absences (four or more tardies), excused or unexcused, from practice or a set of practices pertaining to a specific drill, the band member will have to attend an Executive Meeting to discuss whether or not they will march that drill on the field. However, the band member will still be required to attend the game, tailgates, and all pertinent practices.
 - Any individual expelled for attendance-related reasons may rejoin the Marching 97 for the next season if that student petitions the next Executive Board and is granted permission to rejoin the Marching 97.
 - **Violations of the Lehigh University Code of Conduct:** Violations of the Lehigh University Code of Conduct will be handled on a case-by-case basis in which the individual(s) in violation will have a closed meeting with the Executives and Director. The purpose of this meeting is so that the individual(s) involved can present their viewpoints and for the discussion of a potential consequence that fits the particular scenario.

Article VI - Remediation of Unexcused Absences and Tardies

Band members may have the option to nullify a previous attendance infraction by providing supervised community service to the band. Examples of acceptable community service activities include cleaning the loft, assisting Toots with instrument repairs/cleaning, assisting the Librarian with music printing/organizing, pulling the water cart on game day, or panhandling during tailgating. All

community service must be directly supervised by the Staff Assistant or any other Executive responsive to the service at hand and may not require the band member to miss further rehearsal or performance time.

A band member may not nullify attendance infractions pertaining to official performances unless special permission is given by the Executive Board via a petition. Community service work must be completed within the same semester as the attendance infraction to be nullified. The amount of infractions remediated by a given activity will be up to the discretion of the Staff Assistant. Community service work opportunities are not guaranteed. Band members must ask the Executive Board and/or Staff Assistant to specifically request a nullifying service opportunity before completing eligible service hours. The Executive Board is not obligated to provide a service opportunity.

I agree to abide by the 2026 Marching 97 Attendance Policy.

Sign: _____ Date: _____