

Dance Department Statement of Philosophy

SPCPA's Dance Department offers students a rigorous, versatile training geared toward the serious aspiring dance artist. Students are guided in their education by working artists who help them realize their potential technically, artistically and intellectually. The Conservatory's training is modeled on college-level BFA dance programs, and as such, successful graduates of the Conservatory's Dance Department transition easily into arts programs at post-secondary institutions. Dance students prescribe to a practice of self-discipline and artistry, and maintain the highest respect for themselves, their peers, their instructors and their art.

Curriculum

The Department's curriculum is designed to create versatile dancers by giving students ballet and modern-based dance training, with peripheral classes in jazz, hip hop and repertory. Students will also take Dance Studies each year, which will include dance history, dance writing, anatomy, nutrition and dance composition, allowing students to develop a scholarly and articulate understanding of dance and its role in culture and society. World Dance forms studied will include Pilates, tap, Afro Modern and character, allowing students to develop a global understanding of dance. Each semester students will take ballet and modern two times each per week. Two supplementary creative, improvisational, body-awareness or world dance classes will round out the weekly schedule. The connection between dance and music and their respective histories will be stressed, with live accompaniment in modern, ballet and other forms.

Dance Classroom Etiquette

Dance Students are expected to maintain the highest standard of behavior. Please follow the following rules while in dance classes:

1. It is customary that arriving on time to a dance class is considered late. Do all you can to arrive two minutes early so you can change clothes and stretch to prepare for the beginning of class.
2. Be sure to have the appropriate clothing for class. See "DRESS CODE" for more information.
3. Spread out on the dance floor or barre so you have enough room and are not crowding others. Never lean on the barre or sit down in class.
4. Never speak while your teacher is speaking. Do not speak between or during movement combinations. Use this time to review the movement or stretch. When asked a question, feel free to raise your hand to answer. Watch the teacher carefully to be sure you can notice all of the details in the movement. It is customary to mark the movement: watch and do the movement with lower energy. Ask questions if you have them by raising your hand to be called upon. Your teacher wants to be sure you know the movement and feel good about it.
5. When other groups are dancing, watch respectfully and learn what you can from watching your peers.
6. Be an active learner by experimenting with the movement and making eye contact with the teacher. Learn my doing: if your teacher is moving, you should be moving too.

- Practice movements on the sides quietly; do your best to limit distractions while other dancers are moving.
7. Only stand in the front of the room if you know the movement combinations or the instructor asks you.
 8. Use care and control to avoid collisions with other dancers; learn and know your space and other's space. Know your body and respect its limits. Inform your teacher of any injuries.
 9. Do your best to use the restroom before or after class.
 10. Address your teachers the way they ask to be addressed.
 11. Do not videotape or take photos of choreography in class. Your teacher's movement is their property and will be treated as such.

Placement Policy

Dance students at SPCPA will be placed into a track based on their technical, artistic and creative needs, as well as the needs of each class and the program as a whole. Academic scheduling needs will also be factored into placement. The Director of Dance, in coordination with members of the dance faculty, will make decisions about placement. Placement is carefully considered and is crucial to the health, safety and growth of dance students, not to mention their abilities to graduate academically.

New SPCPA students will take part in a placement audition before school starts. Students will demonstrate their abilities in ballet, modern, jazz and hip hop.

Returning SPCPA students will be placed based on the prior year's work in class, technical level during juries, behavior and maturity. Professionalism, artistry and academic standing will factor in to placement decisions.

If students have questions about placement decisions, they should contact the Dance Director at bergeronm@spcpa.org.

Dress Code

SPCPA dance students are expected to present themselves in respectful and appropriate ways. It is very important for dance instructors to see how students' bodies move in order to facilitate the best training possible. If students do not adhere to the following dress code, they will not receive one of their daily five points, and their grades in class will be jeopardized. Please keep in mind that students will be working and sweating in class; they should dress appropriately and be sure to wear deodorant and shower regularly. Instructors reserve the right to request that students change clothes.

For all classes:

- wear your hair off your neck and not in your face
- do not wear or spray strong-smelling perfumes or colognes in the Wilkins studios or locker rooms
- do not wear booty shorts, unless you are wearing tights under them
- do not wear dangly earrings or necklaces
- do not wear bracelets
- do not expose your midriff or wear low-cut leotards or shirts
- do not chew gum
- do not wear jeggings

- Ballet- Women-black or colored leotard, solid-color tights with or without feet, ballet shoes, hair in a clean bun with bangs off of face
Men-plain black or white T Shirt, black tights or tight shorts that come to just above the knee or longer, ballet shoes, dance belt
- Modern- close-fitting shirts and pants made for dance, kneepads are recommended, bare feet
- Jazz- Women-Black or colored leotard, camisole or close-fitting shirt made for dance, dance pants, jazz shoes or bare feet
Men-close-fitting shirt, dance pants, jazz shoes or bare feet
- Pilates- leotards, tights, close-fitting shirts and pants
- Hip Hop- tennis shoes that have not been worn on the street, loose-fitting clothes, long pants, kneepads are recommended
- Tap- clothing made for dance that you can move in and allow the instructor to see your feet, tap shoes
- African Based Movement - close-fitting shirts and pants made for dance, shorts are acceptable, bare feet

These items can be purchased at a number of resources, including the following:

Target (tennis shoes, pants and shirts)

Step 'N Stretch <http://www.stepnstretch.com/>

Discount Dance Supply <http://www.discountdance.com/index.php>

Dance Distributors <http://www.dancedistributors.com/>

Dancing Fair <http://www.dancingfair.com/>

Savers (pants and shirts)

Grand Jete <http://www.grandjete.com/>

Downtown Salvation Army, which has a Target surplus section

Be sure to ask if they offer a discount for SPCPA students.

Please see the Dance Director if you need financial help to acquire these items. The dance program also has a large supply of gently used shoes, which will be available at orientation.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be in class, on time, on a regular basis. If students miss class and are excused, they can make up class by referencing the "How to make up dance class" section on Moodle. Please email your make-ups directly to your teacher or hand in a typed copy within two weeks of your absence. ASSIGNMENTS TURNED IN AFTER THIS TWO-WEEK PERIOD WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If your make-up follows the stated guidelines and is well written, you will receive 5 out of 5 Daily Five points for the class you missed. All make-ups will be graded and returned to students. According to school policy, **10 excused or unexcused absences result in a NC for the class.** Please see the Student Handbook Ten Absence Rule for more information.

These assignments cannot be replicated for each class. Please be sure to indicate your name, the date of the class(es) you missed and the name of the class(es) you missed. As with any written or moved assignment, plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Students cannot make up unexcused absences.

Students who have been excused due to Arts Approved Absences will not be docked points.

Grading

Students receive a grade in each of their dance classes that reflects in their GPA. The Dance Program does everything it can to ensure that grades are given in an objective manner, although dance is a form that does lend itself to some amount of subjectivity. Rubrics (grading guidelines) will be provided for each assignment. Students will be graded in the following manner in dance classes:

75% Daily Five: Students have the opportunity to earn 5 points per class. One point for being on time, one point for being properly dressed with hair tied back and up to three points for respectful, engaged behavior. Examples of behavior that take behavior points away include talking at inappropriate times, cell phone use, leaving the room without teacher permission, using inappropriate language, not engaging fully in the class and disengaged body language.

25% Progress: Students will be graded on the amount of improvement they have accomplished over the course of the semester. Students will not be compared to other students for this grade.

If you would like to see your grade at any time or have any questions about your grade, please set up a time to speak with your teacher respectfully.

Injury Policy

It is a priority for the SPCPA Dance Program that dancers learn to take good care of their bodies and that they are proactive when injuries occur.

Dancers are expected to:

- Be vigilant regarding injuries
- Inform your teachers at the onset of an injury
- Work with your teacher to modify movement in class
- Follow instructions from their trainers, doctors, and faculty
- If you must sit out, you **must** bring a note from a doctor
- If you must sit out, please take notes on the class using the Note Template (required). These notes will give you 2 of your Daily Five Points. To make up the additional 3 Daily Five Points, please complete a make-up. **YOU MUST COMPLETE BOTH THE NOTE TEMPLATE AND MAKE-UP TO RECEIVE YOUR FULL DAILY FIVE FOR AN OBSERVATION.**

Please see the “How to make up dance class” section on Moodle. Please email your make-ups directly to your teacher or hand in a typed copy within two weeks of the class you observed. **ASSIGNMENTS TURNED IN AFTER THIS TWO-WEEK PERIOD WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** If your make-up follows the stated guidelines and is well-written, you will receive the full 5 out of 5 Daily Five points for the class you missed. If you complete the Note Template only, you will

receive 2 of the 5 Daily Five Points. All make-ups will be graded and returned to students. These assignments cannot be replicated for another class. Please be sure to indicate your name, the date of the class(es) you observed and the name of the class(es) you observed.

If a student is in physical therapy for an injury, she/he may use part of class to do physical therapy exercises.

Wilkins Studios Rules

Dance students are expected to abide by the following rules in respect to the studio and common spaces in Wilkins.

1. Water in a bottle is the only drink allowed in the studios. No energy drinks, no colored sports drinks or sodas please. Students can be excused one at a time with a pass to use the restroom or get a drink during class. Students will get approval from their teachers before they leave.
2. There is no food, eating or gum allowed in the dance studios.
3. Students will pick up after themselves in the studios, including clothing, papers and writing utensils. Students will respect the studio space by not defacing the floor or walls or wearing street shoes on the dance floor. Students are responsible for cleaning up spills.
4. Students will leave the iPod connector cables in each studio.
5. Students will arrive to class on time. If they are late, they will get a late pass from the Attendance Clerk and then go to class. Once in class, they can get the pass to go to the restroom to change.
6. Cell phones are not to be visible during class. Once class has begun, phones must be silenced and securely inside students' bags. Visible phones will be confiscated until the end of the day.
7. Students will not move the pianos.
8. Students will pick up after themselves at lunch, including wiping down the tables, picking up trash and pushing chairs in.

Lunchtime Studio Use

Students are allowed to use the studios during lunch as long as there is a teacher present to supervise and no food is in the studio at any time.

Predicted Extended Arts Absences

Please see Brian Grandson, SPCPA's Artistic Director. We accommodate absences due to arts performance opportunities. Please keep in mind that there is paperwork that must be completed and approved **before** your absences begin.

J Term

For 13 days in January every year, academics go on hiatus, and students are immersed in rehearsals for an arts performance project. These rehearsals culminate in one or two performances. J-Term replicates the professional experience and engages students in the artistic energy of various professional rehearsal and performance venues.

J-Term is a part of SPCPA training. It is required as part of the school year and earns a full credit for successful participation. Grades are Pass/No Credit. There are no academic classes during J-Term.

This year, J-Term begins on January 3. The Dance Performances will be January 20 and 21 at the Cowles Center. Rehearsals take place within the usual school day (8 AM-4 PM) but may be 4-8 hours long depending on the project. Some projects have a rehearsal schedule requiring students to participate as they are needed, or “as called.” These “as called” rehearsal schedules will be distributed to families at some point after students have been cast.

J-Term casting will happen in the fall, mid-semester. In preparation for this--information will be distributed in arts classes a week prior to J-Term “auditions”.

Call Board

Students MUST check the callboard every day in order to stay up to date with dance program events. If you have questions, check the callboard first! It is located in the Wilkins Commons.

Juries

SPCPA Dance Students must participate in Juries each spring. Juries give students the opportunity to show all the dance teachers and an outside expert all they have learned over the course of the year. Juries also help the dance teachers and directors evaluate the success of the program in order to continue work on improving it. Dancers will learn a short movement phrase in each of their classes and will show this in small groups in front of a panel made up of teachers and an outside expert. Students should also be prepared to learn and perform a different movement phrase on the spot. The panel will score each student on a variety of categories, including placement, alignment, style and technique. It is important that students do their best during juries even though they will not be graded on them; teachers will use the results to help place students for the next year. Students will also get feedback on their performance in juries in a conference with a teacher.

Who Do I Talk To?

Please talk to your teacher with questions about:

- Your grade
- What to wear for class
- What to call your teacher
- How to make up classes

Please talk to the Dance Director with questions about:

- Placement
- Juries
- Scheduling
- Clothing scholarships

Dance Article Summary: Step by Step

By Dustin Haug

1 - Choose an article that you find interesting. Do NOT choose a review of a performance.

This can be from an online source such as The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/arts/dance/index.html>) or Dance Magazine (<http://www.dancemagazine.com/>). You can also read actual magazines and newspapers - physical things printed on real paper that you can hold in your hands! Local publications often have art sections that frequently highlight dance happenings.

2 - Read the article.

I suggest that you print off anything you read online so you can make notes. I like to highlight important or interesting elements as I read. This helps me sort important information when I go back later to write my summary. To be clear, you should read the whole article, not just parts, not just skimming.

3 - Write a first draft of your summary.

Start with the main idea. If you had to describe this article in one sentence, what would you say? This one-sentence main idea should be the start of your summary. Follow this opening sentence with supporting statements. Don't copy sentences straight from the article. You should paraphrase and put things in your own words instead. I encourage you to not only include facts from the article, but also to sprinkle in some of your own opinions and reactions to what you are reading in the article. Write about the whole article, not just one part.

4 - Read and edit your first draft.

You must read your summary after writing it. As you read, ask yourself if it makes sense. Do the words flow together well? Are there any spelling or punctuation errors? Have you said everything you want to say? Get someone else (mom, dad, grandpa, grandma, friends, brothers, sisters, etc.) to read over it too. Often someone else will see an error you will miss. Fix and change anything you need after the read through.

5 - Publish a final draft.

I prefer that you type and print out your reviews. If that is not possible, you may turn in a neatly written final copy. Your review should be about half a page if typed or close to a full page if written by hand. If it's too short, you haven't covered everything. If it's too long, you've given too much detail or opinion. Turn in your final copy to the Wilkins desk clerk with the following heading:

Name	Ex: Dustin Haug
Date you were absent	Absent on Monday, March 22 nd , 2010
Title of article	"Movements in Jazz, With Pollock and Coltrane"
The source and the publication date	www.nytimes.com – March 2 nd , 2010
Class you are making up the absence for	Modern 1
Your summary...	This article was about.....