



CHIARTS DANCE OVERVIEW AND AUDITION GUIDE



This guide is designed to help you prepare for the Dance conservatory auditions and for considering ChiArts as an option for your high school. ChiArts is a wonderfully creative and educational environment, and we take our work seriously.

DECIDING IF CHIARTS DANCE IS RIGHT FOR YOU

What can I expect from ChiArts Dance?

Our programs are modeled on college-level Conservatory programs and tailored for high school students. It is a rigorous training program that is taught by professionals in their fields who have high standards of excellence and a commitment to training the next generation of artists. Classroom instruction is supplemented by a variety of performance opportunities in which training is put into practice. Whether or not a student chooses to ultimately pursue a career in the arts, the curriculum will provide a wide variety of learning opportunities and experiences that can benefit them throughout their lives and in whatever field they choose to pursue.

What does ChiArts Dance expect from me?

The school day at ChiArts is from 8 am to 5 pm and includes some evening rehearsals and events. Students must have stamina and focus throughout the entire day and must be committed to both academic and arts education. Students are expected to arrive to each Dance class on time, fully prepared to work with all of their materials and dedicated to their craft and community. Students should be open to practicing sustained focus, taking risks, and providing a safe learning environment for others. Your attendance affects the work of your peers as well as yourself. So you must stay healthy, be organized and have your work completed and bring a positive and supportive attitude to every class, every day.

How do I decide which program(s) to audition for?

You can audition for two ChiArts programs. Select the one(s) that you have the most passion for. Once enrolled, transferring to another program at ChiArts is difficult if not impossible. So give serious consideration which program is going to be your first and second choice.

What is the difference between ChiArts and other high schools?

By coming to ChiArts, you receive fifteen (15) hours per week of free, intensive arts training. What we do, we do well. However, we are not all things to all people. We are different from some traditional high schools in that we do not offer as wide a range of activities as others may. For instance, we do not have a football team or a cheerleading squad or a drill team. Students need to think hard about the type of high school experience that they want. If you do come to ChiArts, you must readily accept that you will get a tremendous amount with regard to the arts but it means that there will not be some things that other high schools have.



AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHIARTS DANCE

First Round Auditions

1. One-minute dance solo, any style
2. 45-minute dance class
3. Interview

Callbacks

90-minute dance class. no preparation necessary

Audition Preparation

As with all auditions, your primary responsibility is to be as prepared as possible. Start your preparation NOW. Be confident and believe in yourself! Every time that you audition, the people watching you are on your side and want you to do your best. Be passionate and unafraid to take creative risks.

- Your dance solo should demonstrate the best of your abilities. Do remember, this is an audition for high school. Solos need to be school-appropriate.
- The student must bring music for the solo on CD, MP3 player, smartphone, or tablet. Be sure to download the music file because YouTube videos will not work on CPS wi-fi.
- All solos are timed.
- Wear dance appropriate clothing: No baggy clothes or jewelry. Tights and leotard or form-fitting exercise wear are preferred. Footwear includes dance shoes or bare feet.
- Be on time for your audition.
- Be prepared to talk to the adjudicators.
- Be prepared to work hard and try new things.

Dance Audition Process

Only students who have submitted a complete application and have met the minimum requirements will be granted an audition for admission to the ChiArts Dance Program. Please visit the application pages on chiarts.org for more information.

Students of all abilities may audition for admission into the Dance Program. ChiArts recognizes the need to provide opportunities for students who have high levels of experience and/or training in dance and students who have not had prior training, but demonstrate a strong natural ability and a desire to learn.

In order to place students in a beginning, intermediate, or advanced level, applicants called back must complete the arts experience form sent out by Admissions, or that will be available on the callback audition day, that describes any prior dance training or experience. It is important for students to be thorough and accurate when submitting this information.

Dance: FAQ

Should students with very little dance experience apply?

Yes, ChiArts encourages students of all levels to apply.

If a student has many years of dance training, should s/he apply?

Yes, students will be challenged no matter the experience they have had prior to attending ChiArts.

May students bring costumes or props to their audition?

Costumes or props (including chairs) are not allowed.

DANCE PROGRAM

Overview and Outcomes

The Dance Program integrates the ChiArts Core Values into rigorous study of the foundations of Dance. The Dance Conservatory is designed to give dancers a strong foundation in classical ballet, modern dance techniques and exposure to a variety of dance styles that will be beneficial for their journey to the professional stage. Our Scholar-artists receive professional training from top-notch faculty who are globally recognized teachers, performers, and choreographers.

The overall goal of the program is to establish a solid foundation with which students can begin to progressively develop their skills as a professional dancer. The Dance Conservatory is committed to providing a high level of instruction and experiences that will prepare students to study dance at the college level or enter a professional dance training program.

Rooted in the power and passion of excellence, the Dance Conservatory strives to create a healthy, safe environment to learn with no judgment using movement as the catalyst to creativity with complete freedom to express and embrace who young dancers are as individuals. With a curriculum that puts students at the center of learning, students will be able to walk their own road and make their own conclusions based on the knowledge given. Together we will explore strategies that meet their needs and investigate what those needs are. It is a group effort amongst teachers, parents, administrators, and the community coming together for the complete growth of each student. “Real learning happens when the learner is empowered to actively engage with real-world content and to make their own connections and construct their own meaning.”



Dance Department Scope & Sequence

Freshmen

Classical Ballet Technique (Novice, A, B, C, D, E, F)
Men's Technique
Body Conditioning/Pointe Prep
Horton Technique (A)
Tap
Intro. to Dance

Sophomores

Classical Ballet Technique (Novice, A, B, C, D, E, F)
Men's Technique
Conditioning (B)
Contemporary Jazz
Contemporary Modern
Horton Technique (B)
Graham Technique (A)
Intro to Yoga
Dance Injury and Prevention

Juniors

Classical Ballet Technique (Novice, A, B, C, D, E, F)
Men's Technique
Spanish/African Dance
Horton Technique (C)
Graham Technique (B)
Hip Hop
Music Theory for Dancers
Personal/Professional Development

Seniors

Classical Ballet Technique (Novice, A, B, C, D, E, F)
Men's Technique
Senior Horton
Senior Graham
Senior Repertoire
Senior Seminar



Dance Department Course Descriptions

Classical Ballet Technique Novice

Ballet Technique Novice is an introductory course to the fundamentals of classical ballet. Students will develop basic vocabulary and understanding of proper alignment. Emphasis is placed on finding and utilizing the turn out muscles, articulating through the legs and feet and building strength and tone. Clarity of movement and music are stressed.

Classical Ballet Technique A

Ballet Technique A is a continuation and progression from the previous level, Novice Ballet. Students will further develop skills in classical ballet technique with an emphasis on strengthening the body, increasing flexibility, and building upon movement vocabulary. Emphasis will focus on structural alignment, clarity of movement, musicality, and self-correction. Particular importance will be placed on developing classical line and connection of movement through the repetition of fundamental exercises and the introduction of enchainments. Students will be required to complete occasional journal assignments.

Classical Ballet Technique B

Classical Ballet Technique B is a continuation and progression of Ballet A. Students will begin to be introduced to more movement vocabulary and longer combinations. Emphasis will be on building endurance, building strength, and moving at quicker tempos.

Classical Ballet Technique C

Ballet Technique C is a continuation and progression of Ballet B using Contemporary nuances as the foundation of the movement quality. Students will develop and increase vocabulary while striving to improve strength, flexibility, and understanding of movement. Proper alignment, musicality, and clarity of execution are emphasized. Students will begin to pick up movement quickly and increase stamina to complete longer exercises without stopping.

Classical Ballet Technique D

Classical Ballet Technique D is a continuation and progression of Ballet C. In addition to the development of strength, flexibility, understanding of movement, proper alignment, musicality, and clarity of execution. At this level, the class is designed to challenge the dancer in preparation for the possible advancement to Ballet E or F.

Classical Ballet Technique E

Classical Ballet E is a continuation and progression of Ballet D. It is assumed at this level that students have acquired, and practiced work covered in previous levels. Students will refine vocabulary while striving to increase strength, flexibility, coordination, and artistry within their movement. Proper alignment, musicality and clarity of execution are emphasized. Students are expected to pick up movement quickly, dance with speed and definition while exhibiting control. At this level, corrections should be applied and retained rapidly. Ladies will be expected to take class on pointe at least two time per week.

Classical Ballet Technique F

Classical Ballet Technique F is the highest level of ballet technique at ChiArts and is a continuation and progression of Ballet E. It is assumed at this level that students have acquired, and practiced work

covered in previous levels. Students will refine vocabulary while striving to increase strength, flexibility, coordination, and artistry within their movement. Proper alignment, musicality and clarity of execution are emphasized. Students are expected to pick up movement quickly, dance with speed and definition while exhibiting control. At this level, corrections should be applied and retained rapidly. Ladies will be expected to take class on pointe at least two times per week. Ballet F is designed to help develop the skills needed in order for a student to pursue dance post-graduation.

Beginning Pointe (after-school)

Beginning Pointe focuses on building strength, clarity, and pointe vocabulary. Students will be introduced to basic fundamental principles, including a variety of piques, relevés and pirouettes. Emphasis will be placed on proper alignment of feet and legs through strengthening the body, working correctly through the shoe, increasing flexibility for proper execution, and balance.

Intermediate/Advanced Pointe (as part of Ballet D – F, also offered after-school)

Intermediate/Advanced Pointe is a continuation and progression of skills learned in Beginning Pointe. Students will continue to work on strength and articulation with increasingly difficult steps. Emphasis will be placed on quality, clarity, and ease of movement.

Men's Technique

This course is designed specifically for male dancers and emphasizes developing additional strength and agility for classical ballet. Focal points include multiple pirouettes, increased elevation, increased vocabulary for jumps including specialized grand allegro, and traveling through space.

Horton Technique A

At the Novice level, students are introduced to the basics of the Horton Technique. Focal points include spinal articulation, line, energy, shape and rhythm. Alignment and correct form are studied along with the movement vocabulary of the Horton Technique.

Horton Technique B

Students are introduced to intermediate level studies, fortifications and preludes from the Horton Technique. Focal points include contraction and release, movement dynamics, coordination and clarity of movement and more subtle musicality.

Horton Technique C

Horton Technique C incorporates everything learned in A & B. At this level a focus on movement phrases and artistic expression is emphasized and practiced.

Senior Horton

Senior Horton is a prep class for the next level of training after high school. The fundamentals of Horton are refreshed in order to prepare the dancers for college and pre-professional level auditions.

Graham Technique A

The main objective of this course is to introduce the students to the fundamental principles, practices, aesthetics and vocabulary of the Martha Graham modern dance technique. The technique is a system of movement based on the principles of contraction, release and spiral. Graham technique heightens awareness of the body and its relationship to space by stressing the use of weight in movement patterns. It builds physical strength, teaches dancers to move from the center and furthers their understanding of

alignment. The study of Graham technique requires discipline, patience and commitment to a consistent personal practice in order to build the strong foundation needed for well-rounded dance training.

Graham Technique B

Graham B is a continuation of Graham A. The main objective of this course is the continuation of the fundamental principles, practices, aesthetics and vocabulary of the Martha Graham modern dance technique. The technique is a system of movement based on the principles of contraction, release and spiral. Graham technique heightens awareness of the body and its relationship to space by stressing the use of weight in movement patterns. It builds physical strength, teaches dancers to move from the center and furthers their understanding of alignment. The study of Graham technique requires discipline, patience and commitment to a consistent personal practice in order to build the strong foundation needed for well-rounded dance training.

Senior Graham

Senior Graham is a prep class for the next level of training after high school. The fundamentals of the Graham technique are refreshed in order to prepare the dancers for college and pre-professional level auditions.

Contemporary Modern

Contemporary Modern provides an opportunity for students to further explore and challenge themselves artistically, technically, and creatively. Choreography and class components become increasingly complex and different movement qualities are used to give students experience in contemporary work. Focus is given to the quality and intention of the movement and the course will emphasize detailed work. This course is designed to complement previous training to produce a well-rounded dancer.

Contemporary Jazz

Contemporary Jazz has a foundation in jazz technique and stylization of movement. We then move to see how jazz is used in contemporary dance. It involves a lot of detailed work, asking the dancers to investigate themselves in order to become artists. The quality and intention of movement become more the focus of the class. The dancers push past traditional boundaries and vocabulary. The material worked through is highly textured, dynamic and graphic. Dance composition and creativity is addressed with specific task driven assignments. One to two new works are created with the input of everyone in the room, and direction from the instructor.

Spanish/African Dance

This one-semester course introduces students to a variety of balletic folk dances inspired by traditional dances from various countries. Students will be introduced to a range of musical and dance structures and sequences. Focus will be on style, rhythm, and changing spatial formations.

Body Conditioning/Pointe Prep

Body Conditioning/Pointe Prep is designed to help students build the strength, endurance and flexibility needed for dance. Emphasis is placed on alignment and correct usage of the body. Students will develop an awareness of different muscle groups and work towards utilizing them effectively and efficiently.

Senior Repertoire

This senior level class is focused on preparing students for the professional performing environment. Students will work with choreographers in solo, duet, and group work that both increase their technical

execution of performance work and also enhance their artistic performance of the choreography. Students will prepare for auditions, rehearse choreography, and learn basic tools for dance composition.

Intro to Dance

This course is an opportunity for students to explore the world of dance through a different means of study. In Intro to Dance, students will delve further into vocabulary and terminology, examine historical correlations and contexts for dance, and research the development of the art form throughout time, both nationally and globally.

Dance Injury and Prevention

This course focuses on preparing dancers to care for and maintain healthy bodies during their dance training. Students will examine anatomy as it relates to dance and develop an awareness of proper alignment and usage of the body. Injury prevention and identification methods along with strategies to balance the physical demands of dance will be studied.

Music Theory for Dancers

Music Theory for Dancers introduces students to music fundamentals. Focus is placed on how these concepts relate to dance and performance. Students may explore structure, rhythm, notation, form and other elements of music. This course meets for one semester.

Personal/Professional Development

This development course empowers students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and politically by using cultural referents to support student construction of knowledge, skills, and attitudes. This course leverages students' lived experiences, backgrounds, and knowledge to authentically engage students in meaningful learning. As young dancers are learning movement, they will simultaneously investigate who they are as young people. The class will also focus on the development of a dancer's professional career. Topics of study include preparation for auditions, resumes, bios, headshots, and performance. Students may also research dance companies and employment opportunities, both nationally and internationally. This course is designed to expose students to additional components necessary to pursue a professional career as well as alternative careers in the field of dance and beyond.

Senior Seminar

Senior Seminar is a course designed specifically for seniors in the Dance Department. Building upon Professional Development I, this year long class is intended to help prepare students for the requirements of senior year and beyond. Connecting to the work in Senior Repertory, units address aspects of the dance world outside of the technical training the students are receiving and allows them to explore additional ways to be involved in the arts. Senior Seminar also supplements the students' dance training through regular strength and stamina training. The course addresses not only the physical abilities needed for dance, but also the health and fitness tools needed to sustain overall wellness in their art form. Students will engage in topics and assignments designed to help them better understand opportunities in the arts and to better understand and articulate their personal goals and intentions.

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE & SEQUENCE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE