



## Student Handbook

The mission of Texas Dance Conservatory is to develop versatile, healthy dancers, to contribute to the dance community through professional collaboration and to inspire a passion for artistic excellence.

To this end, students who choose to study with us agree to abide by all policies and procedures included in this handbook, and to follow the instruction of their individual teachers and leadership of the Conservatory. Whether a student has recreational or professional aspirations, the Conservatory is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment in which students can develop their skills and discipline in the art form. In keeping with the philosophy of the Conservatory, students are encouraged to begin with a strong foundation of classical ballet technique and to continue working in this genre throughout their training. Building from this solid foundation, the Conservatory will expand dancers' versatility and provide instruction that is developmentally appropriate for each student.

Regular attendance in classes is paramount to a student's continued success. A student's placement in class levels is dependent upon many factors, including his or her unique skills development and quality of work. Placement is at the discretion of the Conservatory Director in consultation with the student's instructors.

### Instructional Terms

The instructional year is divided into two semester-long terms, fall and spring, which mirror an academic school year. Additionally, master classes and workshops are scheduled periodically throughout the year and in the summer.

For all schedules, please consult the calendar at [www.TexasDanceConservatory.org](http://www.TexasDanceConservatory.org).

## Dress Code

### Hair and Jewelry

- Hair must be worn so that it is pulled back from the face. If it is long enough, it should be secured in a bun for all dance classes.
- Dangling earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings are not permitted in class

### Female

- Creative Movement – pink or black leotard, pink tights, pink ballet shoes
- Ballet – leotard, pink or black convertible tights, pink ballet shoes, ballet skirt (optional)
- Jazz – leotard, black or tan convertible tights, black slip-on jazz shoes, form-fitting shorts (optional)
- Contemporary – leotard, black or tan convertible tights, form-fitting shorts (optional)

### Male

- Creative Movement – white t-shirt, black dance pants or tights, black ballet shoes
- Ballet – solid t-shirt, black tights, black ballet shoes
- Jazz – solid t-shirt, form fitting black pants or tights, black slip-on jazz shoes
- Contemporary – solid t-shirt, form fitting black pants or tights

## **Policies and Procedures**

In an effort to provide a high quality experience for all, Texas Dance Conservatory requires each student and their families to abide by the student handbook. Those who do not follow the policies and procedures may become ineligible to participate in classes or performances, or may be asked to leave the Conservatory.

- Students are expected to demonstrate good behavior that is based upon mutual respect and professionalism towards fellow dancers, instructors and Conservatory leadership.
- Parents should drop off students at the beginning of classes and pick them up as soon as classes are dismissed. Waiting areas are reserved only for students preparing for their next classes.
- Students should carry a dance bag at all times to hold shoes, attire and other needs. Texas Dance Conservatory is not responsible for lost items.
- Dress code is strictly enforced in all classes. No street shoes are allowed on studio floors.
- No chewing gum, snacks or cell phones in class.
- The schedule of classes may change with Conservatory enrollment levels. As classes fill up, more sections and levels may be added.
- Students who arrive 15 minutes or later may not be permitted to participate in class.
- In the case of absence or late arrival, it is the responsibility of students/parents to notify the Conservatory in advance at 817-717-4544 or [sheyne.ferraro@TexasDanceConservatory.org](mailto:sheyne.ferraro@TexasDanceConservatory.org).
- Texas Dance Conservatory must receive notification in writing if a student will no longer attend classes or will be gone for an extended period. Upon three absences without prior notification, a student will be unenrolled and a re-enrollment fee will be required to be reinstated.
- Snacks, food and drink are allowed only in student waiting areas.
- Texas Dance Conservatory observes the same holidays as Fort Worth ISD. In case of inclement weather, notification of cancellations/delays will be sent via email and posted at [www.facebook.com/TexasDanceConservatory](https://www.facebook.com/TexasDanceConservatory).
- Performance attire and costumes are expected to be well-maintained and worn as directed.

## **Performance Opportunities**

### Parent Observation Week

During the last week of the fall semester, parents are invited to sit in and observe technique classes. This will allow them to see the skills their dancers have been mastering in each class.

### Annual Spring Recital

Each technique class will perform in the Conservatory's Annual Spring Recital. These performances provide students the opportunity to demonstrate skills they have mastered during the year, as well as work on their performance techniques. Although rehearsals for these dances will take place during regularly scheduled dance classes, they will not consume the entire class time. This will help to ensure that technical progress is still being made as students prepare for the recital.

Recital fees are included in June's tuition. Letters will be sent in January notifying parents of the amount due for recital costumes. Costume fees are due with February's tuition.