***Dance***

PHILOSOPHY

The Pinellas County Center for the Arts Dance Program seeks to identify and train both the young artist who is professionally oriented and the young artist who has the potential to dance but may never have had the opportunity to study in a professional setting. The program helps the student to develop an in-depth appreciation of the arts and the physical and mental discipline essential to a successful career in any field.

GENERAL GOALS

All courses and departmental activities are designed to accomplish the following goals:

* To develop artist and creative potential through a sequentially-developed

curriculum in both technical and theatrical dance courses.

* To provide performance opportunities at the appropriate level.
* To increase an appreciation of dance as an art form.
* To broaden an understanding of physiologically sound movement principles.
* To maintain a standard of excellence.
* To instill a sense of ethics and professionalism.
* To initiate community involvement through volunteer service and performances.

Procedures and Guidelines

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Dance classroom etiquette is an important part of a dancer’s training. Proper etiquette contributes to a safe and productive learning environment for all students and are important preparation for the professional world. Students are evaluated in each class expected on the following guidelines:

1. All dancers are expected to follow the rules outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
2. Dancers are expected to be on time for classes, rehearsals and performances. Upon arrival dancers warm-up for each activity.
3. Correct attire and color, hair, footwear and supplies should accompany the dancer into the studio.
4. If you are late, follow the guidelines given by your instructor that may require you to sit on the floor, observe and take notes.
5. A journal, notebook, or portfolio should accompany each student to each class.
6. Do not leave the studio without the teacher’s permission. If you need to leave early for appointments etc., follow Gibbs early dismissal procedures. If you become ill or injured during class, you should communicate with the teacher prior to leaving the studio.
7. No cell phones, gum, candy, food, jewelry or liquids (other than water) in the studio. No yelling, chasing or inappropriate and unsafe behavior in the studio.
8. Do not wear street shoes on the studio floor. No sitting or leaning on Barres, walls or mirrors. Muscles relax and cool down quickly, causing the body to be susceptible to injury.
9. Do not open exterior doors or windows. No extra people in the studio during class or rehearsal.
10. Speak with the teacher about recent or recurring illnesses, injuries, or physical concerns.
11. Use professional behavior with teachers, guest artist, other adults and peers.
12. It is an expected courtesy in the arts, that dancers applaud the teacher at the end of each class and thank the teacher and any live musicians that are present.
13. Respect the person space of other dancers. Do not touch another dancer’s property without their immediate permission.
14. Dancers must focus on material taught in class and applying the correction/concepts from previous classes. Corrections are essential to improvement in all dance classes. Dancers should acknowledge the correction with a positive attitude. Even if you are not the one receiving the correction, apply the information given. Often the context will call for the dancer to repeat the movement in an attempt to apply the correction. If you do not understand the correction, ask for further clarification.
15. No talking during class or disrespectful behavior, which includes inattentiveness, rudeness and non-constructive criticism towards any teacher, student or guest artist.
16. Be responsible for missed class content.
17. Any studio or classroom should be dealt with in the following manner:
* Conference with your teacher
* Conference with the Dance Chair
* If necessary, a conference with your teacher, Dance Chair and PCCA Administrator

 *NOTE: The Dance Department holds an “open door” policy. Please allow us to help you with*

*any problems that could hinder your progress as a dance major. Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers using Portal, emails or by scheduling appointments if you want*

*a conference with a dance faculty member.*

1. Students must respect privacy and copyright laws and must not post any PCCA Dance department pictures or video/DVD of events or classes on the Internet, social media websites (i.e. Facebook), or YouTube, Tumblr, Vine. Faculty/Guest Choreographers works must not be rehearsed or reconstructed without the consent of the Rehearsal Director and/or choreographer.

CLASS PARTICIPATION POLICY

The physical demands of studying dance while learning correct technique and performance skills require the student’s highest level of commitment and discipline. Commitment means taking daily class and discipline includes taking care of the body by eating healthily, resting sufficiently, understanding the demands on the body and addressing injuries immediately. Dancers seeking to steadily improve must train intensely in order to gain the strength needed to be able to shift their concentration to their artistic development.

* Students are tardy 5 minutes after the tardy bell (five minutes are given for changing into required dance attire) and absent after 10 minutes of class. 3 Tardies = 1 Absence.
* All absences result in the loss of a daily grade. An excused absence may be made up by an out of class dance/movement 30 min. activity and a 1-page written paper. For make-up grade, papers are evaluated on content/quality. Submission follows the PCSB policy.
* After an absence students bring a note to obtain an excused absence on their attendance record. The note must be submitted to the PCCA Attendance Clerk (Building 1).
* Students must have a note that includes parent/guardian phone number, or the parents must email the teacher directly **on the same day** of a non-participation in any dance class. Students who have an injury or illness that persists beyond four calendar days must have a note from a medical physician. All students are responsible for the work missed whether the student is absent, tardy, or due to non-participation.
* Students will not be allowed to make-up work during dance class for an academic class missed due to an absence unless the student was on a field trip or performance for the dance department; the decision is left to the discretion of each dance teacher.
* If at anytime during a class, rehearsal, performance on/off campus or a field trip activity a student believes that he/she may have sustained an injury, he/she should notify a dance faculty member. Immediate first aid procedures will be implemented and a parent will be notified. An “Accident Report” will be filed with the PCCA Office. For this reason, it is important that parents notify the dance department of any changes in contact information.
* In the event that you are injured and cannot participate in class, you are required to:
1. Submit a medical diagnosis and treatment to the teacher/Dance Department.
2. Update the teacher/Dance Department on your medical treatment, in writing.

If you are ambulatory, you are required to observe class (see Class Observation below). If your injury still allows you to participate in class, but with modified movement, you are required to notify the teacher prior to each class. The dance faculty can help you modify movement and determine the proper course of action for each class. The student, parent, teacher and your medical professional can work together for your return to class and prevention of chronic injuries..

*NOTE: The Dance Department is committed to working with students who have a strong desire to remain in the department while rehabilitating from injury, surgery or personal issues.*

CLASS OBSERVATION PAPERS

Class observation papers are written when a student is tardy or injured and cannot participate. Observation papers do not make up for missed physical participation. Students are expected to observe and write all class exercises, instructions and observations made during the entire class. Students are expected to turn (dated) papers in to the instructors at the end of class daily. Papers are evaluated for content and quality. Papers should be kept in the journal/portfolio for each teacher(s) class(es).

NON-PARTICIPATION POLICY (LONG-TERM)

Students with long-term injuries and/or rehabilitation times that require more than one week of non-participation or students who have excessive absences will be given a research written assignment appropriate to the number of days missed for skills grades and must turn in a daily assignment for daily participation grades. Students must ask for the make-up assignment.

When returning to class after an injury, students will be asked to bring a doctor’s release and will return to technique class gradually until they are strong enough to return fully. It is imperative that the student work closely with the teacher in guiding this process.

If the injury is chronic and keeps the student from participation over an extended period of time (30 days or more) the teacher, Department Chair will determine an alternative resolution that may include extended research project in related areas of the enrolled courses. Alternative work does not equate for the physical requirements of the dance department.

*NOTE: Some conditions may necessitate an injured student leaving the Dance Department.*

LOCKER ROOM ETIQUETTE

It is the expectation and responsibility of each student to lock all personal items in his/her locker in the dressing room. Do not bring large amounts of money, debit/credit cards, valuable jewelry, phones, cameras, iPads or computers into the dance classrooms. Please report any theft or misconduct (bullying, fighting, etc.) to the dance faculty, PCCA Administrator and campus security officers immediately.

1. Locker rooms open at 6:55 a.m. daily. All dancers will receive a locker with seniors having first choice.
2. All dancers need a school combination lock**.** The locker number and combination must be on file with the Dance Faculty.
3. All of a student’s belonging must be locked in your locker at all times. Due to the shared environment of the locker rooms in Building 8, dancers are required to keep their personal belongings including textbooks, clothing, lunch bags, and … in a locked locker.

NOTE: PCCA is not liable for stolen property.

1. No eating or drinking (with the exception of water in a closed container). No glass containers of any type – perfumes, powders or lotion – in the locker room area.
2. No unsupervised loitering in the locker room during lunch, class or after school. (See Disciplinary procedures).
3. No dancer should enter or exit through the Emergency Exit of each locker room.
4. No dancer is permitted in the locker room of the opposite sex.
5. Dancers must respect the privacy and needs of other students when preparing for class. Please refrain from yelling, idle gossip, parties, or negative criticism while in the locker room.
6. Keep an extra set of dance clothes in you locker, in case you forget clothing or for emergency purposes.

DISMISSAL EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to clear Building 8 by 2:30 PM unless they are scheduled for an afternoon rehearsal. Students scheduled for a rehearsal must sign in with the teacher in charge. When a rehearsal ends, the designated area for student pick up is at the front of Gibbs High School: Grande Theater (in the front of the school near the 34th Street Parking Lot).

**REMINDER**: The Dance Department requires all dance students to have a signed “Parent and Student Consent Form” on file in the PCCA office regarding adherence to the departments procedures and guidelines.

DRESS CODE

The Dance Department requires that all students be dressed properly for all classes with the appropriate clothes, shoes and hairstyles; no outerwear will be allowed in class (ie. T-shirts, leg warmers, sweat pants etc.).

**Female Dance Attire:**

Leotard (color determined by class level) (ballet)

Pink or white tights,

Pink or white ballet slippers, and Pointe shoes (at the teacher’s discretion).

Black leotard (modern)

Black convertible tights or a black unitard

**Performance Attire:**

Jazz Pants – Black

Boy Cut Short – Black

Black circular skirt over their class leotard

Black Capezio Junior Footlight character shoes.

PCCA Tee Shirt required for Hosted Events, PCCA Recruitment Tours, College Visits, Festivals, and

Workshops.

*NOTE: Undergarments such as a bra or panty lines MUST NOT BE VISIBLE, purchase the appropriate dancewear that will accommodate any support garments.*

**Male Dance Attire:**

White leotard or white T-Shirt

Black tights

Dance belt black or flesh toned

White socks and white ballet slippers

Black leotard black footless or convertible tights or a black unitard

**Performance Attire:**

White tights and black ballet slippers for performances.

Black jazz shoes or character shoes.

**Hairstyles:**

 For boys and girls, hair must be pulled away from the face and off of the neck or cervical spine and securely fastened in ALL classes.

**Fire Drills:**

 Drills require dance students to exit Building 8 to a designated area. All doors are locked and students are not allowed in the locker rooms. Students may bring the appropriate cover-ups for this emergency drill.

*NOTE: All dance students must label their personal belongings, making identification easier. Many students have the same brands and sizes of the required attire; this will eliminate confusion and conflict.*

JOURNALS and Portfolio

Journals and Portfolio are an integral part of all dance technique classes. Students are expected to maintain a journal (Ballet) and a portfolio (Modern/Contemporary) on a regular basis to the specific content prescribed by their teacher. Journals and Portfolio are required daily in class and will be graded.

TEXTBOOKS

All students are required to obtain their own copy of ‘Gail Grant’s Technical Manual and Dictionary of Classical Ballet’. It can be ordered through Barnes and Noble, Haslam’s Bookstore, or Borders Bookstore.

All students will be issued a Dance History textbook, ‘On Wings of Joy’ by Trudy Garfunkel. Dance Repertory III - VI will be issued a copy of ‘The Dance Technique of Lester Horton’.

*NOTE: Students are encouraged to purchase or subscribe to ‘Dance Magazine’, ‘Dance Spirit’ and ‘Pointe’ magazines. Both may be checked out from the Dance Department’s library.*

Audition REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE PROCESS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Students in the Dance Department have the opportunity to perform in a variety of shows throughout the school year. Since dance is one of the performing arts, the selection process is accomplished through an audition. Each student in the Dance Department has gone through an audition for acceptance to the school. The audition process for performances may vary depending on the complexity of the work being auditioned. Performance auditions may range from a brief thirty minutes format held in a classroom setting to a formal one that may require a student to return for more than one session referred to as a “call-back” audition. A “call-back” is an elimination process that narrows the field of auditioned students down to a select few.

Auditions and after-school rehearsal are scheduled from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Some rehearsals are extended due to the limited availability of guest choreographers, works that require the same dancers, and limited studio availability. Please refer to the posted Dance Calendar for specific information. One to two weeks before opening night, technical and dress rehearsals will be scheduled in the evening from 3:00 – 7:00 PM. Attendance is mandatory for all performers, understudies and technical crew.

During the audition process, a student is judged on technical ability, performance quality and style, solo and ensemble expertise, ability to assimilate movement material, rhythmic accuracy/musicality, and overall attitude in the audition. In addition, there might be gender and/or partnering requirements for the piece. In most audition cases, there will be only one audition session. Students are evaluated on their progress throughout the audition and performance process. Should a student not be able to fulfill his/her commitment to performing in a choreographic work due to any of the reasons listed, he/she will be replaced. Some of those reasons are:

1. Consistent tardiness
2. Excessive absences
3. Disruption of class, rehearsal and performance resulting in dismissal
4. Disciplinary action for any infraction of PCCA policies
5. Failure to learn the assigned roles in the timeframe allotted for rehearsal
6. Failure to be productive with faculty, students, guests, choreographers and administration
7. Physical injury

*NOTE: The Choreographers and/or the Rehearsal Director decide upon the selection process; all decisions are final unless a dancer is injured or drops out of a work.*

Once casting is finalized, cast lists for each performance work are placed on the Dance Department Call Board. A cast list reflects the role(s) a dancer has been selected for as well as understudy or technical assistance assignments for each student. Each student must initial the cast list and attend the first contract meeting for each choreographer that has cast him/her. It is the student’s responsibility to check the Call Board daily, for rehearsal schedules, changes in rehearsal (date or time), casting changes (due to illness or injury), and scheduled performances (on or off campus). Contracts must be signed by the student and parent and returned to the Rehearsal Director during the first week of rehearsal. Failure to return a signed contract may result in recasting of a student’s role in a performance.

*NOTE: All PCCA students must have a signed parent/guardian permission form on file in the Dance Department. Students who do not have a permission form may not participate in performances, auditions or off-campus activities.*

The Dance Department requires all students attend all auditions and Dance Department performances in order to familiarize themselves with the audition process and to develop the performance skills necessary for college scholarship auditions, summer intensives auditions, and national auditions. Audition attendance and performances are evaluated and entered into the technique course indicated by the student on his/her contract. The Choreographer and/or the Rehearsal Director must approve early dismissal and absences as it relates to auditions, rehearsals, and performances.

Any student that is not cast as a performer will be contracted to be a part of Dance Crew. Dance Crew will complete load-in and strike assignments for Dance Department performances or hosted activities. Crew assignments usually begin two weeks prior to the performance date, continue during the performance and end with strike. Dance Crew attendance and performance are evaluated and entered into the technique course indicated by the student on his/her contract.

All performers, understudies and technical crew are required to write and submit a critical review of the rehearsal process and the resulting performances. Critiques must be received by the Rehearsal Director within one week of the final performance and are a part of the student’s performance evaluation.

Students on probation may be prohibited from to participating in performances, but are required to participate in the audition process as a part of their dance curriculum. At the teacher’s discretion, a student may be invited to attend rehearsals as an understudy.

*NOTE: Video recording of performances is strictly prohibited by anyone other than the PCCA Dance faculty or companies authorized by the Dance Department.*

SUMMER TRAINING

Students are highly encouraged to seek intensive dance training during the summer in order to develop individual goals and improve in weak areas as indicated through the jury evaluation process. The faculty will compile and post a list of available programs and costs. Upon request, individual counseling will be provided.

All students are provided a Summer Study documentation form. Serious pre-professional students can use these forms and the feedback to provide portfolio evidence of consistent training for college admissions, National Dance Honor Society points, and competitive scholarship applications.

Students are also encouraged to apply for PCCA Summer Assistance Scholarships. Applications are available in the spring semester.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH PRIVATE DANCE SCHOOLS

Students who perform with community studios, companies or theatres must provide the director of those groups with a PCCA communication form. Forms are available at the dance department student center. This form is used to communicate the essential PCCA rehearsal and performance, dates and times, which may conflict with an upcoming outside event for the student. The form works best when resolving one specific conflict – use one form per conflict.

1. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate the use of the form.
2. Follow-up communication between the PCCA faculty and the studio director will determine the best solution for the student (s) involved.
3. Student, parent, studio director and PCCA faculty should retain a copy of the form and resolution to follow.

GRADING POLICIES

QUARTER GRADES

Grades are determined in both technique and theory classes by skill and knowledge of the subject, participation in class, oral and written assignments, and adherence to dress and discipline expectations. The following formula is a general guideline for dance classes:

 Daily Assignments/Participation/Effort 60

 Skills Test/Vocabulary 20

 Journal/Portfolio/Improvement/Composition/Crew 20

Students must maintain a minimum grade of “B” for the quarter in each of their dance classes. If their grade falls below this they will be placed on probation.

SEMESTER GRADES

During the 2nd and 4th quarters, each dance student will be expected to perform a Jury Examination. This exam evaluates the dancer’s technical and performance skill development for the semester/ year and determines the student’s status in PCCA (See “SEMESTER JURIES” in section A). The exam is presented before the entire dance faculty and consists of two parts:

Part I – A set technique class 80%

 A student and/or class set performance work in

 solo or small ensemble formats

Part II - PCCA Extended Hours 20%

If a student is absent, injured or missed their jury examination, it is the student’s responsibility to schedule a time for the exam to take place. In some cases, where a student has been injured and rehabilitating previous to the exam date, and it is clear that the student will not be able to physically perform, the student will be given an alternative jury exam format. Failure to complete the jury exam will result in automatic dismissal from the program.

FEES

In addition to our curriculum, there are many outstanding opportunities and services we like to provide for our students. Unfortunately, the PCCA Dance Department cannot fund them all. We have arranged for some expenses to be covered by grants, donations from service organizations and by companies providing the services. However, we must charge a student fee to cover the additional costs. All fees must be paid in cash or by checks made out to Gibbs High School/PCCA Dance Department. Be sure your student receives and retains a receipt for each fee paid.

* **School Insurance** – All PCCA students are required to purchase school insurance. No student is allowed to participate in after school activities such as rehearsals or auditions without having a copy of the current year’s insurance card in their Dance file. Pinellas County Schools requires students to acquire insurance from *Academic Insurance Solutions* at http://aisstudentinsurance.com/pcsb-2013
* **Costume Fee** – A $20.00 costume fee will be assessed for each student who participates in a performance. This fee covers the cleaning and maintenance of the costumes. It is payable with the completed contract.
* **Instructional Material Fee** – A one-time $15 (See Instructional Material Fee)
* **Audition, Master Class and Workshop Fees** – All students are required to attend a minimum of three auditions for summer dance intensives. National Auditions for professional summer programs and regional/state summer study programs charge a $15-$20 audition fee. The Dance Department hosts auditions that insure that our students meet this yearly requirement. Students can also attend auditions off-campus for credit. College auditions fees are included to the college application process. Students must register online to attend these auditions. Some of our hosted events include: THE AILEY SCHOOL, Alonzo King’s LINES Discovery Project and Audition, Boston Conservatory Audition, Florida Dance Theater, and the Florida Dance Performance Assessment.
* **Out of Town Trips** – PCCA Dance Department faculty and students have been invited to participate in Festivals, Conferences and Competitions. Many of these invitations necessitate out of town trips that provide professional and educational enrichment for our students. The dance department has traveled to Philadelphia and Miami for the National High School Dance Festival and to New York for Youth America Grand Prix Competition. The PCCA F.A.N. Club and The Pinellas Education Foundation have contributed to past travel expenses. The Dance Department Dance Club organizes fundraising events to help raise money to defray costs of airfare, hotel and fees, but students are responsible for making up the difference. The cost of the accompanying dance faculty and chaperones may also be earned through fundraising, for without them these trips would not be possible. There are several forms involving the travel arrangements and costs, discipline requirements, and medical releases that students must complete in order for them to travel. **Strict adherence to all policies of the PCSB is required on all sanctioned trips in the Dance Department.**
* **Competitions** – Walker Rising Star, Young ARTS – High School Arts STARS Scholarship, Youth America Grand Prix, and the Columba Bush’s Arts for Life Scholarship Competition are **optional** national and state scholarship competitions. Theses competitions offer scholarships from $3000 - $10, 000 in prizes. Some require pre-adjudication through submission of a two-minute technical warm-up and a two-minute sol performance DVD or upload. The information for these programs will be presented to students to determine their interest. The Dance Department is available for filming coaching of students for a professional representation of PCCA and their final recorded products. Students are financially responsible for all fees associated with the registration for each competition.

EXTENDED HOURS

All PCCA dance students must obtain 60 hours of extended hour experience per semester. It is mandatory that half of the hours (30) be obtained through in-department activities. An in-department activity may be defined as: dancing in any PCCA Dance Department production; performing in PCCA Recruitment Tour, college and community performance (a department activity); participation in auditions, workshops, festivals and projects which represent the PCCA Dance Department; participation in PCCA Dance Department Auditions as class demonstrator or pre-production crew; participation in Dance Department production crew (laying the dance floor, studio set up, ushering, box office, music engineering, publicity and costume crew); viewing a PCCA Dance Department production.

Extended hours insure that:

1. Dancer students participate
2. Dance students are active volunteers
3. Dance students are active participants

The three types of extended hours activities that Dancers can log include:

1. In-department activities
2. Out-of-department activities
3. Volunteer hours – performing arts related

As a student accumulates hours, it is their responsibility to document the hours and turn them in to the designated Dance faculty. For each extended hours activity, students will fill out an Extended Hours Form (name, dates, activities and specified proof). Completed forms and the physical proof, such as the program, ticket stubs, parent or faculty signatures and critiques, must be maintained in the student’s Dance Repertory I-IV Portfolio until Jury Examinations (a specific submission date is assigned). Completion of extended hours requirements will be evaluated 20% of the end of semester jury examination. Students receive a rubric to calculate the final grade for their extended hours submission. **It is the student’s responsibility to plan ahead when it comes to attending events for their extended hours.** PCCA calendars are available in the front office and online.

Students are required to complete, a minimum, of two Extended Hours activities that will count toward their class grade in Dance Repertory I-IV each quarter. Completion of extended hours requirements will be evaluated as 20% of the end-of-semester jury examination. Failure to complete or document the extended day requirement will result in automatic probation.

*NOTE: Please see the published PCCA Calendar for exact dates.*

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION – DANCE

COURSE OF STUDY

All PCCA dance majors, if starting in their freshman year, must take a minimum of twelve credits of coursework in the Dance Department. The twelve hours will include selections from the following classes based on level placement:

* + Ballet I, II, III, & IV
	+ Dance Choreography and Performance I & II
	+ Dance History and Aesthetics I & II
	+ Dance Kinesiology and Somatics I
	+ Dance Repertory I, II, III, IV
	+ Dance Seminar and Career Prep
	+ Dance Techniques I, II, III, & IV
	+ Research I, II, & III
	+ World Dance

STATUS IN PROGRAM

The jury is the most comprehensive evaluation of the dance major during the year. Juries are held at the end of each semester. They emphasize the orderly sequence of material taught in the major technique and academic dance classes.

Each student must be able to demonstrate individually exercises from ballet, modern, technique, and ethnic classes with evidence of a thorough understanding. Preparation for evaluation is mandatory. The results of the jury will be the basis or partial basis for the semester grade. Evaluation requirements are as follows:

LOWER DIVISION

**Freshman and Sophomore:**

Semester I and Semester II

*The student will:*

* Perform prepared combinations and / or a variation predetermined by the major instructor.
* *NOTE: Performance requirements for each evaluation are based on current level placement*
* Present technical and historical knowledge both verbally and written as defined by semester course work.
* Present written technical and historical knowledge through the journal as defined by semester course work.
* At the end of the sophomore year, all students will be evaluated for continuation in the program and acceptance into upper level classes. This evaluation will be based upon a cumulative 9th and 10th grade juries.

UPPER DIVISION

**Junior:**

Semester I and Semester II

*The student will:*

* Perform prepared combinations and / or a variation predetermined by the major instructor.
* *NOTE: (Performance requirements for each evaluation are based on current level placement)*
* Present technical and historical knowledge defined by semester course work
* Present written technical and historical knowledge through the journal as defined by semester course work.

**Senior:**

Semester I

*The student will:*

 Perform prepared combinations and / or a variation predetermined by the major instructor

 *NOTE: (Performance requirements for each evaluation are based on current level placement)*

 Present technical and historical knowledge defined by semester course work

 Present a Ballet Solo and a Modern Solo

Semester II

*The student will:*

 Present a Senior Project in the senior year. Performance-oriented projects will be open to the public. Research projects will be presented in lecture form for the entire Dance Department. Students must be able to articulate information regarding dance history/theory and college preparation. They must also be able to intelligently discuss current issues and developing trends of the dance world.

SENIOR PROJECT

By means of a Senior Project, the student will demonstrate his/her acquired knowledge and skill in dance. The student’s senior project must focus on an area that he/she has previously studied at PCCA (for example: Ballet, Modern/Contemporary, Choreography or a combination of these formats). The choice of material for senior projects must follow the guidelines for appropriateness of subject matter.

PROCESS

1. Each senior dance major must submit a typed proposal stating his/her project format and objectives. The proposal must be submitted by the end of the second week of school for approval. The project advisor will review the proposal and approve it, or require that revisions be completed. Re-submission is required until approval is given. Final approval must be achieved by the end of the first quarter. Failure to do so will be considered non-participation in the senior project requirement (see general guidelines…*Magnet Program Certificate of Completion*), and will prevent the student from receiving a PCCA Certificate. Even seniors who are not in Dance Repertory IV or Dance Choreography Performance I or II must do a Senior Project and follow these guidelines. Each proposal must address the following:
2. A clearly stated educational objective (“The student will…”)
3. The format for the overall project
4. Performance
5. Choreography
6. Reconstruction
7. Technical and casting requirements, which must follow these guidelines:
* No outside performers or adults
* Lights up at the top of the show and down at the end only.
* Scenery must be minimal and approved by the Senior Project Director
* Props and set pieces must be loaded out the day after the performance.
* Prop list must be submitted at the time of proposal.
* Costumes are provided only by the student. A costume list must be provided by the second week of rehearsal.
* Music must be submitted with proposal and approved.
1. The reason(s) the student picked the project he/she will complete an Artist’s Statement.
2. Support documentation for approval of the senior project format:
* **Performance** – style of dance; proposed choreographers; format: solo, small ensemble or large ensemble; proposed length for each work; dvd of works or excerpts; solo or ensemble choreography,
* **Choreography** – minimum of two minutes of work showing the initial chorographer’s intent; visual diagram of composition development; format: solo, small ensemble or large ensemble; proposed length for each work;
* **Reconstruction** – a copy of the work; choreographer’s approval; contract agreements; and funds needed. *NOTE: To be approved, this must be a work that you are confident in the style and have previously performed or that you have been involved in the rehearsal process.*

 *NOTE: A senior project is usually 15 – 20 minutes. There is not a specific time limit to a*

 *senior choreographer’s work. The Senior Project Director and the individual*

 *senior will look at the proposal and agree on the amount of material supporting*

 *the senior’s skill development in dance.*

1. A full description of the student’s duties and responsibilities, with deadlines, a planning log or calendar, research methods, DVD documentation, and self-evaluations.

*NOTE: Any deviation from the above can be approved only through the Senior Project Director.*

1. A list of criteria on which the student expects to be evaluated.
2. Requested date of the performance – picked from the scheduled Senior Project dates. It is understood that the senior may not get his/her first choice of date.
3. Requested performance venue. If the project performance will occur in an alternative site. (Remember you are proposing for your Senior Project Director’s feedback on why the proposed venue is or is not approved).
4. List any other special considerations specific to your senior’s project that may not have been previously mentioned.
5. Once approved parents will receive a Parent Notification of Senior Project Progress Report from the Senior Project Director.
6. Once approved, senior dancers must schedule an individual conference with the Senior Project Director for individual directions, specific to their project. Using the PCCA Senior Project Checklist – Dance, senior dancers must record the feedback received and obtain the required signatures after each meeting. The checklist uses a minimum of four assessments during the length of the project; however, a senior student is encouraged to schedule meetings with the Senior Project Director as needed.
7. Once all projects are approved with signatures from the student and the dance faculty, the Senior Project Director will group projects and a date will be assigned for the performances. These dates will be announced in Dance Choreography Performance I class and posted by the Senior Project Director on the call board. Each senior will then be responsible for working toward and meeting the assigned performance deadline. The PCCA Senior Project Checklist – DANCE must be utilized throughout the project. The Senior Projects Director will give out the checklist.

*NOTE: Any project that is approved by the Dance Department should be appropriate for public presentation. The Dance Department reserves the right to restrict the performance of any material of a mature nature to a closed studio performance only (possibly the student’s adjudicators).*

1. Immediately after proposals have been approved, senior students will plan and propose an audition date and cast their individual projects. One copy of the cast list must be posted on the call board and one copy must be given to the Senior Projects Director. Student dancers must abide by the same rules as members of the Dance faculty:
* Cast members must initial the cast list, or be replaced.
* Cast members must complete and sign a Dance Production Contract, which will be strictly adhered to. The signed contracts must be submitted to the Senior Projects Director one week after the rehearsal process begins. Failure to sign a production contract will immediately affect the student performer’s grade.

*NOTE: Parental consent, via the Dance Production Contract, acknowledges awareness of the content of the Senior Project.*

1. No later than six week prior to the performance, each senior dancer must begin full rehearsal for his/her project. At this and subsequent rehearsals, the student must take attendance. This attendance record must be turned in weekly with the senior’s portfolio (see below). At the first rehearsal, a rehearsal schedule must be generated to the cast members and the Senior Project Director. The rehearsal schedule must be attached to the student contracts when distributed to the student dances. Changes to the original rehearsal schedule must be updated on the callboard and submitted to the Senior Project Director.
2. Four weeks prior to the performance the student will fill out the Production Requirement Sheets provided by the Senior Project Director, who will then meet with the technical director on the technical requirements for each senior’s project. Technical needs MUST be minimal. A required production meeting will then be scheduled for all seniors and the technical production crew.

*NOTE: All Senior Projects must be digitally recorded for placement into the Dance department archives. Recording is the responsibility of the Senior class.*

*NOTE: Due to copyright issues, some senior project material may not be eligible for recording and distribution. It is the senior dancer’s responsibility to be that they understand and have written documentation of the choreographer’s guidelines. The senior must then insure that the guidelines are implemented.*

1. A Senior Project Portfolio must be submitted to the Senior Project Director four times during the process.

The portfolio assessment dates:

1. 1st Grading Period – Set up, PCCA Checklist, Proposal and Self Evaluation #1
2. 2nd Grading Period – Rehearsal, Research, Hours and Self Evaluation #2
3. Jury Examination – Rehearsal Notes, Production Requirement Sheet, Publicity,

 Hours and Performance of a Preview.

1. Final Submission – Final Evaluation with Dance Faculty

The specific portfolio content will be identified in the Dance Choreography Performance I course.

1. The student is responsible for scheduling his/her own rehearsals. There should be a minimum of six hours a week spent on both group and solo rehearsal for a senior project. These should be noted in the portfolio rehearsal log. Students should schedule rehearsal off campus and arrange for parent supervision. School space is extremely limited and will only be available under the following circumstance:
* If a dance faculty member is already rehearsing another show and is available to supervise the senior project rehearsal as well,
* The Dance department is hosting an audition, workshop or another activity in Building 8 where a dance faculty member is hosting and agrees to supervise the senior project rehearsal. The senior project rehearsal must not interfere with the activity hosted or the participation of another dancer that is required to attend the hosted activity.
* Senior dancers should use the sign up procedures to secure space that meets the above criteria.

*NOTE: If a senior plans ahead, there are numerous Dance department activities where a project rehearsal can take place. These include: PCCA Recruitment Tour rehearsals, Walker Rising Star Competition, PCCA Auditions, College and National Auditions hosted in January, and selected days when students are not required to attend school, PCCA Dance faculty is present.*

The senior holding a rehearsal on campus is expected to conduct him/herself and the rehearsal in a professional manner. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

*NOTE: Other shows will be rehearsing at the same time, so senior dancers must bear in mind that performers, as well as rehearsal space and resources will be limited.*

1. The Senior Project Director will serve as liaison with the technical staff for the technical needs of the Senior Projects. The Technical Director and the Senior Project Director will schedule one (1) technical rehearsal for each set of performance dates of the senior projects. There will be only one (1) technical rehearsal per performance. Therefore, technical requirements of each senior project must be very simple.

*NOTE: The students themselves should never contact the technical staff concerning their senior project.*

1. It is the senior classes’ responsibility to set calls for their cast for the technical rehearsals. Call for the performance may be only one hour beforehand. The senior class or a designated group of seniors is also responsible for publicizing their project.

*NOTE: All expenses incurred while producing the senior project are the responsibility of an individual senior or the senior class as a whole. Supplies, publicity, space rentals and choreographer’s fees should not be billed to the Dance department.*

1. Jury Examinations, for seniors, are used as a preview showing of their senior project and for faculty feedback. Seniors must perform the entire proposed project content. It is acceptable for the material to be in need of more rehearsal and cleaning. The jury examination is used as the 4th assessment listed on the PCCA Senior Project Checklist – DANCE. It monitors a senior’s progress prior to final senior project presentation.
2. Within one week following the performance it is the senior student’s responsibility to schedule a final critique of the performance with the Dance faculty. The senior project experience is not considered complete until this is done (see PCCA Checklist –DANCE). Failure to complete it one week after the performance will result in an unsatisfactory rating on the project. He/she must have all finalized portfolio content available at the critique (see Senior Project Portfolio).

*NOTE: Senior must include the DVD recording and Final Presentation content.*

1. Criteria for evaluation include, but are not limited to: Technical Skills; Performance Skills;

Interpretation of the choreographic work; Dynamic variation in musicality/phrasing; Commitment and Focus; Ensemble Awareness; Portfolio Content; and Planning, Rehearsal and Production duties.

The student will be assigned a grade for his/her senior project. The grade will go into the Dance Choreography Performance I class and a portion of the grade will go into the Dance Repertory IV and Ballet class. A grade of A, B or C is a satisfactory rating and means that the student has passed his/her Senior Project.

Should the student rate an unsatisfactory (a grade of D or F) on the senior project, it is their responsibility to rewrite and submit their senior project proposal within one week of the critique as specified by the faculty. The student must then repeat the process or the portion of the process indicated by the faculty, and schedule a second, possibly private, viewing for the adjudicators no later than May 1st.

*NOTE: PCCA Certificates will only be awarded to those seniors who complete their project with a satisfactory rating.*