

Student Evaluation

Retention and Progress in Studio Courses

Once a student is accepted into the program, faculty members will evaluate each student's technical proficiency and will place each student at a technique level consistent with her or his ability. This placement process allows the faculty to place students at a level where they will make the most progress during the year. Most freshmen are placed in Level I Technique (BALLE 2290). Each semester, faculty will evaluate student progress. All students must advance to at least Level III Technique (BALLE 4290) level to graduate with a BFA in Ballet.

Technique Grades and Advancement to a Higher Level

Receiving the minimum passing grade for a technique class does not guarantee advancement from one technique level to the next. Promotion from one level of technique to the next is at the discretion of the faculty. A student who earns between an "A" – "B+" throughout the academic year will automatically advance to the next technique level, unless the student returns to school the following academic year having regressed in their technique or physical ability to meet the demands of the next level. Students earning grades between a "B" – "C-" will be considered for promotion from one level to the next at the discretion of the faculty who collectively considers each student's progress and adaptability and dedicated effort on an individual basis. This policy governs advancement through the first three levels of technique; however, advancement to Level IV Technique, the Department's Pre-Professional level, is by faculty vote alone. Students who earn a sub-standard grade in a technique class may be moved to a lower level at the discretion of the faculty.

Student-Faculty Conferences

For First Year Students (Freshmen and Transfers): Early in the semester, instructors will schedule private meetings with students about whom they have concerns. At the end of the semester, conferences will be scheduled so that each student has the opportunity to meet privately with their instructors for Technique, Pointe, and Men's Class.

For Returning Students: No formal student-faculty conferences are required. However, if a student wishes to meet with instructors, they may email them to schedule an appointment.

Ballet Program Grading Policy

While grading in a studio class may at first appear to be entirely subjective, it is actually based on sound concepts and pedagogical principles. Each year faculty re-evaluate and update the grading rubrics used for studio based courses, and then clearly includes these rubrics in each course syllabus.

Faculty will provide a written syllabus for each course at the beginning of each semester and will explain the Ballet Program's expectations and criteria for grading as well as their own individual expectations for the class.

Grade Equivalents as per University Policy

A, A-	Consistently excellent quality of work and superior effort, far exceeding course requirements
B+, B, B-	Good, well done, distinctly above average work and effort, exceeding course requirements
C+, C, C-	Average, moderately well done in work and effort; successfully completing the requirements of the course
D+, D, D-	Below average, insufficient effort and below average quality of work
E	Not an acceptable level of work and effort to receive credit for the course

'Good Standing' in the Program

A ballet major must maintain a C- or above in ALL Ballet courses to be considered "in good standing" (a D+ or lower is a substandard grade). 'Good Standing' signifies that a student is eligible to continue as a major in the Ballet Program and eligible for additional opportunities and scholarships. A ballet major earning a substandard grade will be placed on departmental probation, earning a second substandard grade is cause for dismissal from the program. Earning a sub-standard grade in a technique class will result in the student being moved to a lower level class, unless the faculty believes there are justified extenuating circumstances. This action is designed to help the student succeed in a subsequent semester. Students placed on probation are ineligible for departmental scholarship support for the following semester. Such students may also be ineligible for special opportunities sponsored by the Department (e.g., performances, travel, outreach opportunities, etc.). These decisions will be made by a faculty vote on a case-by-case basis.

On very rare occasions, a substandard grade of D+, D or D- may be counted toward graduation. If a student wishes to have a sub-standard grade count towards graduation, they must make a formal written request to that effect with supporting rationale. Any such written request must be delivered to the Ballet Program Coordinator within four weeks of the official grades posting date or within the first week of any subsequent semester for which the student wishes to register, whichever is first. The Ballet Program Coordinator will then present the request to the faculty, who may require an in-person meeting with the student to discuss the request. DARS will not count any Ballet class grades below a C- towards graduation without a waiver from the Ballet Program Coordinator. No more than two (2) classes with a substandard grade will be counted toward graduation. If a major receives an E in a Ballet course, they must re-take that course for credit and receive a passing grade.

Once a student meets Ballet Program academic standards by completing a subsequent semester with no sub-standard grades in majors' courses, the student will again be eligible for scholarship consideration and return to good standing. Please note that while a student may return to good standing in the Ballet Program, this does not purge the student's record of the first substandard grade and subsequent probation.

Final Exams

The semester does not end until after all scheduled finals have taken place. Often, the faculty use these final exam periods for individual conferences with students. Please arrange travel plans to accommodate attendance at your scheduled final exam period for *all* of your classes. Faculty members will visit as many technique classes as possible during the last two weeks of each semester. These in- class observations are to aid the faculty in voting for advancement,

scholarships and in some circumstances, grading (only those faculty members who have been assigned to teach a particular class will participate in grading discussions).

Accommodations Policy

Each course has a syllabus describing its content. The content of some courses may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Students are encouraged to review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that they are committed to taking. If students have a concern, they must discuss it with their instructor at their earliest opportunity. Some practices outlined in the syllabi are inherent to the discipline of dance (e.g., form fitting dance attire) and will not be altered to meet an individual student's comfort level.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in classes, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and the Center for Disability Services. See: <http://disability.utah.edu> or visit 162 Olpin Union Building. Phone: 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. This information is available in alternative format with prior notification.