



United Talent Dance Performing Arts Company Handbook

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Performing Arts Company! The mission of the competitive company is to train and inspire students to the next level in dance education. Our teachers are committed to providing the dancers with top notch instruction & choreography. We will strive to offer numerous opportunities for them to increase their dance knowledge and will work as mentors in a positive learning environment.

This program exists to create and nurture a love for dance, not to win trophies. Competitive dance is fun....and can motivate dancers to reach higher standards of excellence. It is another opportunity to dance & perform!! In addition, we search for community outings as another way for our dancers to show their talents and hard work.

Due to the time commitment that is required for our program, we strongly encourage everyone to be certain that competitive dance is a good fit for them. While the benefits of participating are endless, we are looking for dedicated and focused individuals to assist us in our program's success.

Our Goals....

- To perform and compete representing our studio
- To share our passion for dance with our community
- To improve as dancers and grow with each performance
- To work hard and fulfill all commitments
- To be positive role models for all dancers
- To win with pride, lose with dignity and grace, and learn life lessons from both
- To bond and work alongside peers

But Most Importantly....

- To HAVE FUN and enjoy every moment!!

Sincerely,

Cassidy Moss
United Talent, Dance Director & Managing Partner
cassidy@unitedtalentky.com

COVID-19

Though we hope we are on the other side of COVID affecting dance schedules, procedures and competitions, we are being realistic and will face the challenges as they come. Please be understanding and flexible as these decisions are not easy, but made with the dancers best interest in mind. Competitions will also have their own guidelines and procedures to follow.

Placement Auditions

All dancers interested in PAC are invited to join. We create companies based on dancers that we and the outside judges feel will work best together in rehearsals and performances, loosely based on age but majority based on ability and uniformity. By participating, you understand that the company placements are final. Dancers will not be moved within a company during a season, unless injury or unforeseen circumstances require that. Our decisions in creating companies this year, or any year, depends on our numbers, and how we think it is best to divide them up. No amount of speculation by staff, parents, or even dancers themselves can determine what will happen with our auditions each season.

Commitment & Expectations

The Competitive Dance Program at United Talent is a 12-month commitment, during which numerous events will take place. Confusion and frustration during the year can be avoided by understanding the commitment up front and taking an active role in the program.

Time Commitment

- Attend PAC rehearsal on Mondays, one Flex/Tech class and recreational leveled Ballet & Jazz classes each week
 - 5.5 hours of class requirement (6 hours due to longer ballet class for Levels IV and V)
 - Dancers must regularly attend their required recreational classes to remain in PAC program (*minimum* of 2 of out 4 per month)
- Can take any additional UT dance classes (jazz technique, tap, hip hop, musical theatre, lyrical/modern, acro, etc) as apart of \$165/month unlimited tuition
 - Consistent attendance for these classes is required to stay enrolled. Many of these classes have waitlists of recreational students that would love to be in class.

Dancer Expectations

- **Be EARLY for classes, rehearsals & private lessons**
Dancers should arrive 5 minutes early to classes, rehearsals & private lessons and stretch in the hallway while waiting. Punctuality is important!
- **Regular & Consistent Attendance**
Every dancer is expected to be in recreational classes & PAC rehearsals each week in order to keep up with skills & choreography. When one dancer is missing, it makes rehearsals the following week more difficult. If the dancer is ill/contagious, please have them stay home. **If absent when PAC choreography is taught, it is the dancer's responsibility to learn what was missed before the next rehearsal.**
NEW: Dancers that need to sit out of a rehearsal for mild illness or injury need to sit and take notes during the rehearsal. There is still learning that can be done from sitting out.
- **Stay Informed**
Even though parents are often times the main contact receiving emails, dancers should stay updated as well. Particularly for our older dancers - if you would like to be added to the email distribution, let Ms. Cassidy know.
- **Behavior**
All dancers must be able to compromise, take constructive criticism gracefully, and adjust to times of stress for the benefit of PAC. Dancers must be cooperative and respectful to all teachers, fellow dancers, UT staff, parents, and competitive opponents. **Dancers should never correct to another dancer!** While seated and watching peers, it is great to give encouraging comments to your fellow dancers. Any disrespectful behavior will be handled by the teacher(s), and may result in sitting out, dismissal from rehearsal, parent-dancer-teacher conference, and/or removal from program.
- **Follow Dress Code**
PAC dancers are role models for the rest of UTD, and must follow the dress code set for each class/rehearsal. Dancers should have *one bag* with all shoes, extra leotards/tights, hair accessories (hair bands, bobby pins, etc). Please see Dress Code on website for more info. Items should be labeled with name/initials to avoid confusion.

- **Know Choreography & Practice Regularly**

As a member of a competitive program, knowing your company routines & practicing them outside of scheduled rehearsals is a requirement. If a dancer falls behind, an instructor may require a private lesson for them to catch up. UTD can remove a dancer from a competition/performance if they are not well prepared, or if they have poor attendance or poor behavior. **If absent when PAC choreography is taught, it is the dancer's responsibility to learn what was missed before the next rehearsal.**

- **Do Take Dance Seriously!**

Of course, we want our dancers to have fun and learn while doing so. Remember the large time and financial commitments associated with this program. Specifically for our solos, duos, and trios—remember that groups are the priority, and the those opportunities can be taken away at any point in the season. **COMPANY FIRST, SELF SECOND!** Personal accountability is essential for a successful season, and commitment to your other company members is a vital component of this success.

Parent Expectations

- **Stay Informed**

Please make sure I have the email you want me to use for my PAC News emails. Subscribe to our remind 101 account: just text @utdpacvis to 81010. Remind 101 is used specifically for competition weekends. We have a United Talent PAC Facebook group page, but IS NOT the primary way of contact. If you need to contact me, please use my email: cassidy@unitedtalentky.com My cell phone (859-608-4545) is for emergencies only!

- **Keep an Updated Calendar**

It is not that we mind answering questions concerning information already provided, but this will help eliminate those questions. As new deadlines & rehearsals are added, please also add them to your personal calendar.

- **Ask Questions that Pertain to *your* Dancer**

These types of questions are invited and allow you to expand your knowledge of dance! Remember that most gossip & rumors come from people who are misinformed. Please email an instructor to schedule a meeting or phone conference. **DO NOT** discipline a child other than your own. Teachers *cannot and will not* answer questions that pertain to another dancer/group.

- **Trust the UTD Staff**

Please do not contact an instructor (or gossip with other parents) regarding dancer's company placement, song/costume choices, or choreography. Faith in the instructors must come first! **These types of discussions are selfish and individualistic.** Overreaching questions will not be answered - this includes topics such as idea suggesting, scheduling, competition info, and speculating on future plans for PAC. We will share information as we see pertinent.

- **Building Behavior**

Unlike our recreational classes, there are not set weeks for PAC Rehearsal observation. When coming into the building to drop off and pick up dancers, please do not engage in gossip. To coordinate observation for private lessons, please discuss with specific instructor.

- **Encourage your Dancer**

Allow the teachers to give dance related corrections and be tough on them in the studios/at competitions. Always be the one to build your child up and support them! **Giving your dancer incorrect critiques related to their dance technique/performance can be detrimental to their training. Again, please trust that the UTD Staff is well-trained and has your dancer's best interest in mind.**

Parent/Teacher Communication

A meeting can be arranged, by appointment, with an instructor if you have questions or concerns about your child's class or progress. Please email to schedule any appointments or phone conferences. **Do not try to discuss matters with the instructor before/after pickup. By doing so you will not be getting the full attention you deserve from the instructor, and you could be causing the next class to start late.** Please make arrangements for a more private meeting, or send an email when possible.

Please keep all calls & text messages related to **urgent topics or emergencies**. Whenever possible call the studio & leave a message: 502-863-1002. Social Media messengers (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) are not a reliable form of communication for staff.

Cassidy: cassidy@unitedtalentky.com

Tess: tesselalauren@aol.com

Kamryn: kamryn.drumheller19@gmail.com

Taylor: taylor.diamond2012@yahoo.com

Jade: jadecampbell1400@gmail.com

Ashley: ashleywrickman@gmail.com

Angelica: angelica@unitedtalentky.com

Brian: brian@unitedtalentky.com

Estimated Costs & Due Dates

1. **Competition Entry Fees**—due dates separate for each competition
 - Will run credit cards on those dates for full competition amount
 - Any YAGP solos, photogenic entries, etc. that dancers would like to enter will be charged on the same dates
 - If you prefer to pay check or cash, you must do so BEFORE the due date
2. **Choreography Fees**—due by September 27th (cash or check to UT)
 - \$50 per routine (no fee for Production choreography)
 - Petite Company \$50, Junior & Apprentice Companies \$100, Teen Company \$150, Senior Company \$200, plus \$50 for tap routines
 - \$150 solo, \$125 duo per dancer, \$100 for trio per dancer - (*due at time of choreography session*)
3. **Costume Fees**—approx. \$80-115 per dance, processed via credit card on October 18th
 - Specific price per routine coming in early October
4. **Warm-up Jacket**—The dancers must UTD apparel on stage for awards (preferably a jacket, old or new). We have a new jacket design coming this year with our new UT Performing Arts Company logo!
5. **Directors Fee**—\$100 per dancer, processed via credit card January 17th
6. **Rhinestones**—subject to specific costume needs and ordered in December-February
7. **Costume Size Exchanges/Alterations**—approx. \$10-25 per dancer (due in March)
 - When group costumes arrive, they will all be altered by our volunteer moms.
 - *Please let Ms. Cassidy know if you're proficient in sewing and would like to be added to our alterations team.*
8. **Guest Teacher Fee:** We are working out the details of having Ms. Ellen Werksman of Chicago's Dancewerks come back to us for a workshop this season. We typically do this on a non-Nationals season. Cost & due dates TBD. For reference, in 2019-2020 season, it was \$165 per dancer. Optional participation this season.
9. **Re-Blocking Fee:** if your dancer quits PAC or must miss a competition, we are now charging a re-blocking fee to cover the choreographers time and effort. Dancers that must drop due to injury are excused from this fee, provided that a Doctor's note warrants them pulling out. \$75 per routine

Dress Code, Shoes & Accessories

if you can hold off on buying new shoes and tights until we announce specifics for each costume, that would be the smartest financially!

Dress Code for PAC rehearsals, both Mondays & Weekends: Black Leotard, Black jazz shorts, Pink/Tan/Black Tights, Proper Shoes & Hair UP!!

For Ballet Class:

Capezio Juliet Ballet Shoe - Ballet Pink

UFAA ballet shoe requirement also accepted here

For Jazz Class:

Capezio EOS Canvas Jazz Shoe - Caramel

Capezio EOS Canvas Jazz Shoe - Black

PAC Shoe / Multi-use

Capezio Pirouette II Lyrical Shoe - Tan Canvas

these wear out quickly, be sure to purchase a new pair closer to competition season

Tap

Capezio Tap Shoe - CG19 Black

Tights, Earrings, Hair & Makeup

- Information for tights will be announced around Dress Rehearsal time. Note: I will often use "tan" to abbreviate tight color, though it is actually **Capezio Caramel**. The specific tight style will depend on costume.

- We are using the same earrings as previous years, 20mm Crystal AB Earrings (pierced or clip-on). I will place an order in January for anyone that needs them (\$10/pair).
- No extra piercings should be worn on stage, including but not limited to: 2nd+ ear lobe, ear cartilage, nose, belly button.
- Any tattoos should be covered with skin-toned makeup during performances.
- Dancers will have assigned hairstyles and makeup styles to wear at competition. Dancers will abide by the set requirements. Be prepared that short hair will have to be pulled out of the face.
- Dancers may not have colored nails during a performance. Please plan accordingly with school dances, cotillions, proms, etc.

Solo, Duo & Trio Auditions

For solos, we are looking for confident performers that can remember choreography on their own, have solid technical foundation and are committed to putting in extra hours of work. Dancers must audition for their first and second years of a solo. After that, they automatically receive that opportunity each following year.

For duos and trios, all that are interested should mark so on their audition registration. We put together pairings that dance similarly and compliment each other. Dancers and parents cannot choose who gets paired together. If you choose to deny a duo/trio placement, you will also forfeit your placement within all of PAC for this season.

Solo, Duo & Trio Private Lessons

\$1/minute = \$30 solo, \$15 duo per dancer, \$10 trio per dancer (based on 30 min lesson)

Payment — Private lessons need to be paid separately from your tuition (exact cash or check only, with teacher's name written) and put in payment box* or given to the instructor.

*New Payment Box on the dance side was installed over the weekend!

Scheduling — Please check with your dancer's choreographer for scheduling. Every teacher handles this differently.

- Studio availability is tight and the peak hours of 4pm-8pm are difficult to fit private lessons in.

Please be understanding that lessons may be scheduled late at night, on weekends, etc.

Duos/Trios — If your dancer is in a duo/trio, it's your responsibility to communicate with each other with scheduling lessons. Please go ahead and get their contact information!

*Please note that available studio time & space is *extremely* limited, and private lessons should be taken seriously. If your dancer is ill or unable to attend the lesson, you must contact the instructor as early as possible to inform us. If the teacher is at the studio waiting on the dancer, it is too late and you **WILL** be charged as a NO SHOW! Less than 24 hour notice for a cancellation will be treated like a NO SHOW and charged accordingly.*

Other Private Lessons

We will also schedule private lessons to work on company routine choreography with individuals or for technique work. The rate is also \$1 per minute. We are more than willing to schedule extra private lessons with your dancer at your request, but time and space are limited.

Please email Ms. Cassidy (or specific/requested instructor) to schedule any additional private lessons throughout the season!

****To participate in private lessons, the dancer must be in "good standing" financially****

PAC Rehearsal Attendance Policy

Competitive dance, like most sports, requires frequent and focused rehearsal in order to be successful. With that being said, we understand that dance is not the ONLY activity that our members may choose to participate in. We encourage them to try all different types of activities “recreationally” during their young lives. However, we feel that when you make a commitment to a “competitive” program in one of those activities, such as our PAC program here at UTD, it is not a decision to be taken lightly. The dancer’s attendance & attitude will affect the whole company. While we do not ask that you solely dedicate your lives to our program, we do require that you make dance at UTD a priority.

Excused Absences (Teachers should be notified before absence!)

- Medical absences (contagious illness, COVID, quarantine, etc.)
- Educational school related absences (BETA, DECA, Band/Chorus, etc)
- Infrequent church related activities or trips
- Death/terminal illness of immediate family member

Unexcused Absences – 3 UNEXCUSED absences from rehearsals will result in a parent/teacher conference & discussion about participation in upcoming performances. This will be discussed and handled on a case by case basis.

- Injury or Mild Illness (headache, cramps, etc.)
- Other Extracurricular Team practices/performances/games
- School related issues (detention, homework/projects)
- Skipping rehearsal for birthday parties, friend events, or “didn’t feel like coming”

Excused Absences for Competitions

Please take into consideration that when a dancer is removed for a competition that it causes our instructors and other dancers to re-work each routine. There will be re-blocking fee charged to accommodate those changes. Please let Ms. Cassidy know ASAP if your dancer cannot attend. Depending on the time frame and how close the missed competition is to other events, dancers may not be able to compete at other events.

- Mandatory School Performances for a grade (ie., Dance SCAPA, Band/Choir Concerts)
- Extreme Illness of dancers
- Weddings or Funerals of close family members

COMPETITION DO’S & DON’TS

We will have a meeting prior to each competition. We will discuss specific details and the weekend schedule at that time.

DO: Arrive at Competitions early to familiarize yourself with the venue. Dancers **must** be dressed & ready to dance 1 hour prior to performance time.

DO: Take the time to attend at least one other performance at each Competition. We need lots of support in the audience!

DO: Stay for each awards ceremony in which your company/solo/duo/trio competed.

DO: Wear lots of Pink & Green/UT Gear! This is a requirement for dancers during awards ceremonies. We have a partnership with Our Merch Store for all apparel with UT logo or name.

DO: Double check that all costume pieces/accessories have made the trip. Use a checklist before you leave home, and check again when arriving at venue.

DO: Follow all hair and makeup requirements!

DO: Pack healthy snacks, waters, and emergency items. Come prepared with routine music, headphones/speaker, and anything else you may need to fully prepare!

DO: Volunteer (parents) to help transport props, drive prop truck, etc. The instructors cannot do this alone!

DON’T: Text any instructors to ask how the competition is running. Please rely on other parents for that information if you have left the venue.

DON’T: Hang out backstage, unless helping with props! Dancers are only allowed backstage 10 numbers before they perform.

DON’T: Spread drama or rumors! Competitions should be a positive experience for dancers and families alike. Any concerns should be brought directly to Ms. Cassidy, preferably via email unless urgent.

DON’T: Speak negatively of another routine, studio, costume, songs, etc. You never know who is listening, and while at competition everyone represents UTD! Keep all comments positive and encouraging!

Google Drive

- We have two Google Drive folders that we will *try* to keep updated for PAC. One for competition music, and one for videos of company routine choreography.
- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yqAJVh6E9WDFvTeT_9AxIsDHqL8-CoMX?usp=sharing

2022 Tentative Competition Schedule

Dance Masters of the Bluegrass (DMB) Solo Title Competition (*Soloists Only*)

no longer referred to as Pageant

- January 21-23, 2022
- Georgetown, KY / United Talent
- www.dma-national.org / Facebook: Dance Masters of the Bluegrass, Chapter #40
- Entry Fee: \$125, fee, entry form & bio due by November 22nd
- Petite (6-9), Junior (10-12), Teen (13-15), Miss (16-23)
- (**Age as of June 1st, 2022)
- Need to let Ms. Cassidy know if you're participating by Nov 1st.



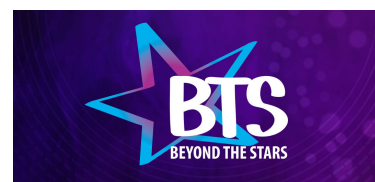
Dance Masters of the Bluegrass (DMB) Performing Arts Scholarship Competition (PASC)

- February 18-20, 2022
- Somerset, KY / Center for Rural Development
- www.dma-national.org / Facebook: Dance Masters of the Bluegrass, Chapter #40
- Virtual Workshop: October 31st, \$30 (9* & Under) or \$40 (10* & Up) due by September 20th
 - Workshop mandatory to participate in competition.
- Entry Fees: Solo \$75, Duo \$42 per dancer, Trio \$32 per dancer, Groups \$48 per dancer, Mandatory T-Shirt Fee \$15 per dancer, due by November 22nd
- (**Age as of June 1st, 2022)



Beyond the Stars Competition

- March 18-20, 2022
- Dayton, OH / Dayton Convention Center
- www.beyondthestarscompetition.com
- Entry Fees: Solo \$122, Duo \$72 per dancer, Trio \$72 per dancer, Groups \$55 per dancer, Photogenic \$50, due by January 24th



Platinum National Dance Competition

- April 22-24, 2022
- Richmond, KY / ECU Center for the Arts
- www.danceplatinum.com
- Entry Fees: Solo \$128, Duo \$70 per dancer, Trio \$47 per dancer, Groups \$52 per dancer, Photogenic \$30, due by February 21st



Stage One Dance Competition

- May 6-8, 2022
- Columbus, OH / Cherry Valley Hotel & Ohio Event Center (Newark, OH)
- www.stageonedance.com
- Entry Fees: Solo \$125, Duo \$78 per dancer, Trio \$54 per dancer, Groups \$56 per dancer, Photogenic \$35, due by March 7th



PAC Choreography/Rehearsal Schedule

*these rehearsals are *mandatory*, in addition to Monday nights during the season*

Friday, September 10th	5:00-8:00pm	Junior Musical Theatre
Saturday, September 11th	9:00am-12:00pm	Older Tap
Saturday, September 18th	9:00am-12:00pm	Younger Tap
Saturday, September 25th	9:00am-2:00pm	Teen/Senior Musical Theatre
Friday, October 15th	5:00-8:00pm	Apprentice Jazz
Saturday, October 16th	9:00am-2:00pm	Senior Contemporary

***PRODUCTION & OTHER COMPANY ROUTINE CHOREOGRAPHY** - will be taught during Monday PAC Rehearsals

Other Important Events:

- PAC Company Photos - Saturday, October 23rd 9:30-10:30am
 - Optional Individual style headshots following. Same style as UFAA, so no need to do these if you are already signed up for UFAA ones!
 - Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c49acad22a5f58-utpacheadshots>
- Dancewerks Regional Workshop - November/December/January (tentative & optional)
- PAC Dress Rehearsal - January/early February
- Recital - early June (with rehearsals end of May)

Important Closing Policies & Dates for 2021-2022 Season

****United Talent is not automatically closed if Scott County Schools are closed for inclement weather. Please call our office for an automated message after 1pm (502-863-1002), look on your local news channel or on our Facebook page for inclement weather closings.****

No classes on the following dates:

Saturday, September 4th - Monday, September 6th / Labor Day Weekend
Sunday, October 3rd - Sunday, October 10th / Fall Break
Wednesday, November 24th - Sunday, November 28th / Thanksgiving Break
Sunday, December 19th - Sunday, January 2nd / Winter Break
Our Spring Semester will begin on Monday, January 3rd
Sunday, April 3rd - Sunday, April 10th / Spring Break
Monday, May 30th / Memorial Day

****PAC Rehearsals typically are cancelled on the Monday following a competition and oftentimes cancelled or shortened rehearsal schedule on the Monday of a UFAA Ballet Tech Week****

Optional Workshops & Dance Education Opportunities

****These are events that dancers can attend individually for extra exposure and experience! UTD PAC Staff will not be attending these. This is not an extensive list, but plenty of opportunities can be found with some research. ****

- Bella Moxi Dance Convention - Bowling Green, KY - January 28-30, 2022
<https://www.bellamoxidance.com>
- Platinum Dance Experience Convention - Indianapolis, IN - October 2nd, 2021
- Platinum Dance Experience Convention - Cincinnati, OH - October 3rd, 2021
<https://www.danceplatinum.com/2021-platinum-dance-experie> - registration must go thru UT
- Kids Artistic Revue Dance Convention - Cincinnati, OH - October 24th, 2021
<https://dancekar.com/convention>
- Tremaine Dance Convention - Indianapolis, IN - January 29-30, 2022
<https://www.tremainedance.com/2021-22-tour-dates/>
- 24Seven Dance Workshop - Knoxville, TN - November 5-7, 2021
<https://24sevendance.com/tour-dates>
- Revel Dance Convention - Louisville, KY - January 7-9, 2022
<https://www.dancerevel.com/convention>
- Artist Simply Human Dance Convention - Nashville, TN - January 7-9, 2022
<https://ashdance.com/tour-dates/convention/>
- Energy National Dance Convention - Columbus, OH - November 14, 2021
<https://energyndc.com/conventions/>



United Talent Dance Performing Arts Company Handbook

Our Staff cannot foresee every problem that may arise during the school year. Therefore, the staff and management will resolve any problems not covered in this handbook, and will determine when a dancer (and/or parent) will be asked to sit out, dismissed, disciplined, or removed from competitions and/or the program.

By signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read the United Talent Dance Performing Arts Company Handbook and understand the guidelines set forth. Must be signed & turned into Ms. Cassidy by Monday, September 13th.

Dancer:

I, _____, understand what is expected of me in order to represent the United Talent Dance Performing Arts Company in a positive, spirited and appropriate manner. I am willing to fulfill these obligations and opportunities for the betterment of myself and the program.

Dancer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian:

I, _____, understand what is expected of me in order to help my dancer and the United Talent Dance Performing Arts Company be successful. I am willing to fulfill these obligations and opportunities for the betterment of my dancer and the program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____