

## **DANCE TECHNIQUE ATTENDANCE POLICY DURING COVID-19**

A studio dance course is an experiential, cumulative process -- a physical study -- and it is an expectation that you participate by dancing. Attending a technique class and physically participating is one way to accomplish this aim. And, in the era of COVID-19, the dance program understands that circumstances may demand alternative approaches.

**During the COVID-19 pandemic, the term “attendance” has new meaning.** For purposes of this semester, "attendance" means "participating" in class activities.

***Participating*** means demonstrating a willingness to integrate physical and/or scholarly perspectives, tackling given class work thoroughly and professionally. Participation also indicates adequate time and energy is spent on class work via physically dancing or the equivalent. Exceptional participation means going above and beyond, demonstrating significant commitment to the physical and integrative goals of the course.

If you occasionally find yourself unable to *attend* a synchronous class meeting (either online or in-person), you must work collaboratively with your instructor to determine alternative methods so you can *participate* in required class activities. We understand there might be times when you aren't able to access course materials "in real time" — for example due to difficulty logging into a Zoom call. As long as you are participating according to the standard agreed upon by you and your instructor — and as long as you **communicate promptly** with your instructor — **alternative participation methods (aligned with the above definition) will not affect your grade.**

By replacing the term “attendance” with “participation”, the overall Dance Technique Class Attendance Policy (below) remains the same. Further, the Medical withdrawal policy remains in place. See the attached Dance Technique Course Attendance Policy below for more information.

### **Dance Department Technique Course Attendance Policy**

No matter how many times a technique course meets per week, you are allotted 1 week worth of absences (not participating) before this begins negatively impacting your overall, final course grade. Absences (not participating) beyond this allotment work against the philosophy of the course and the study of dance technique. ***Absences/no-participation days exceeding three weeks worth of classes will result in an automatic “F” for the final course grade.***

### **Attendance Policy, applied to Technique Courses that Meet 2X/Week:**

Based on the above departmental policy, for any course that meets twice a week, you may use two sick/personal days absent/not participating before your grade is negatively impacted. ***This includes illnesses/injuries and other issues that are recognized in writing by the Muhlenberg Health Center.*** The below table illustrates how excessive absences impact your grade. “Starting Grade” refers to the overall grade you have in the course (based on physical & written work, etc.).

**Starting Grade**    # of Absences, and the resulting highest overall, final grade you can attain

	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	6	7
<b>A</b>	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
<b>A-</b>	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	
<b>B+</b>	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F		
<b>B</b>	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F			
<b>B-</b>	C+	C	C-	D	F				
<b>C+</b>	C	C-	D	F					
<b>C</b>	C-	D	F						
<b>C-</b>	D	F							
<b>D</b>	F								

Excused Absences: are permitted for college-wide faith-based absences. All other forms of absence, including illness, injury and personal travel, are subject to the attendance policy.

Injuries: Students with injuries that prevent full class participation for more than one week must be screened by the department Physical Therapist, Gayanne Grossman. To make an appointment, e-mail Gayanne: [dancewellnesscenter@gmail.com](mailto:dancewellnesscenter@gmail.com) and carbon copy your teacher(s) on your e-mail. Should your injury result in missing more than 3 weeks of full physical participation in class, a medical withdrawal will be necessary.

Dance Wellness Center Requirement:

Screenings, personalized conditioning programs and ongoing treatment are only available to current dance majors, minors, and/or performers in our co-curricular concerts. It is a privilege to receive treatment and/or be screened by our in-house Dance Medicine specialist, Gayanne Grossman, PT. In order to continue receiving treatment from Gayanne you must write a one paragraph self-reflection addressing the prompts below immediately following every week's worth of treatment, to be emailed to **all** of your technique instructors, and cc: Gayanne. Thank you for taking charge of your own learning and integration!

- *What are the intended outcomes of your personalized treatment and strengthening regimen for this week?*
- *What did you learn from your session(s) with Gayanne this week that you will apply to your work in technique class/performance/etc.?*

- *How are you progressing towards your goals in treatment? How does this relate to your work in class?*

Observations: Whether due to injury, illness, or tardiness, you will take notes and submit a 1-2 page typewritten essay summarizing what you learned through analytic watching to the faculty whose class you observed, in order to obtain 2/3 of the attendance/participation credit for that class.

Tardiness: The progression of a dance class is designed to minimize the risk of injury. Tardiness to class results in you missing crucial beginning warm-up exercises and, therefore, increases the risk of injury. If you arrive to class:

- i.) Less than 5 minutes late: you may participate; however note that repeated tardiness of less than 5 minutes will negatively impact your grade.
- ii.) More than 5 minutes late: you must observe that day, see the observation policy above.

Keep up: If you miss class, please learn the material from someone else in the class prior to the next class meeting. Absences do have the potential to slow the class' progress. Please help us continue the pace that is best for those with consistent attendance.

Incompletes: Since the majority of graded work in this course is based on participation and performance that cannot be completed once the course is over, grades of incomplete will not be granted.

## **Dance Technique Course Audit Policy (revised 8-20)**

- All audits are processed during the first week of the semester. Please do not submit requests until the start of the semester.
  - Submit the following forms to the Dance Program Director (Jeffrey Peterson):
    - An official audit form from the registrar with a filled out top portion
    - The completed audit application (see Dance Major/Minor Canvas Page)
  - Please make sure that you email the two forms as attachments in one email to Jeffrey no later than Friday at 4pm, the first week of classes
- Audits are available only to declared Dance Majors and Minors
- Student must have successfully taken the course for credit in a previous semester
- Student should be taking another technique class for credit and the audit class should represent a course load beyond **4 credits**.
- Student must attend class regularly and participate fully in all studio work including performance day projects.
- The attendance policy applies to auditing students - should an auditing student exceed FOUR CLASSES absent in a course, the student will not receive credit for the audit, and future auditing privileges will be revoked.
- Faculty teaching the course will determine written requirements and additional parameters around what an audit will mean in their course. These parameters may involve additional specifics related to online delivery, as determined by the faculty. Please communicate with your instructor for additional details.
- No audits can represent enrollment beyond a course's capacity.

- Student may only audit one dance course per semester.
- You will receive an email from Jeffrey when your forms are approved. It is then your responsibility to forward the signed forms to the registrar before the Add period has closed in order for the course audit to become official.
- Students who have in any way abused their audit privileges the previous semester will not be approved to audit.

Students who are not dance majors or minors may opt to take a dance course pass/fail. Please see Muhlenberg College Catalog section on Academic Policies for information regarding this option. The teacher of the course can sign this form.