

Jazz Proficiency Standards Outline

I. Introductory/Beginner level performance that reflect “DANC 1604 technical proficiency standards.” This course is designed to build on beginner, introductory level competency skills, principles and concepts within the jazz idiom and to build upon this foundation through strength, flexibility, endurance and aesthetic/creative challenges.

At the successful completion of the course the student will be able to demonstrate competence at the beginner level, with visible progress in the practice of the following:

A. Movement Foundations

Basic physical and conceptual understanding of the fundamental movement principles as introduced through the jazz idiom, which include:

Introduction to stability/mobility factors that allow for articulation/isolations and support for strength and balance moves

Understanding and building foundational dynamic alignment

Introduction to foundational application of movement patterns as a means to provide better support and coordination

Exploration of pelvic articulation/isolation

Demonstrates foundational rhythmic coordination of limited body parts in isolation

Explores various rhythm combinations

B. Dance Vocabulary

Introduction to jazz vocabulary/terminology of various styles

Introduction to historical/cultural origins and legacies of jazz dance

Introduction to concepts of initiation and sequencing patterns

Isolation exercises to articulate mobility, coordination

Introduction to rhythmically focused exercises that hone skills in musical understanding and musicality

Locomotor patterns and pathways as applied to the jazz idiom which include, but are not limited to walks, runs, turns, leaps and jumps.

Develop foundational skills of balance, strength and control

C. Performance

Introduction to musical concepts (fulfilling counts, artistic phrasing, music concept such as syncopation, counterpoint, improvisation)

Introduction to multi-cultural perspectives on rhythm and meter

Demonstrates foundational understanding and initiation of dynamic range in the performance/execution of movement material.

Introduction to foundational understanding of spatial tethering/tension, differentiating spatial directions and planes.

Execution of a one-minute group based movement combinations requiring application of movement material and the inclusion of full body investment, and some evidence of projection, and expressive qualities in a performance context

II. Intermediate level performance that reflects “DANC 2642 technical proficiency standards” as printed in the dance student handbook. This course is designed to build on high intermediate level competency skills, principles and concepts within the jazz idiom and to further challenge and build upon these skills through strength, flexibility, endurance and aesthetic/creative challenges.

At the successful completion of the course the student will be able to demonstrate competence at the high-intermediate level, with visible progress in the practice of the following:

A. Movement Foundations

Deepening physical and conceptual understanding of the fundamental movement principles as introduced through the jazz idiom, which include:

Stability/mobility factors that allow for articulation/isolations and support for strength and balance moves

Application of dynamic alignment in all movement contexts

Application of movement patterns as a means to provide better support and coordination

Three-dimensional articulation of spine/pelvis [“pelvic tilt,” (hinge), circling, forward, backward tilts and side to side]

Demonstrates rhythmic coordination of body parts in isolation with consistency

Demonstrates polyrhythmic capabilities of intermediate complexity

B. Dance Vocabulary

Expansion of jazz vocabulary/terminology of various styles

Introduction to historical/cultural origins and legacies of jazz dance

Development of initiation and sequencing patterning to create movement phrasing variations

Isolation exercises to articulate mobility, coordination

Exploration of different meters, increasingly complex rhythmic patterns and phrasing that refine and deepen foundational skills in musical understanding and musicality

Increasingly varied and complex locomotor patterns and pathways as applied to the jazz idiom, which include but are not limited to walks, runs, turns, leaps and jumps.

Develop balance, strength and control in increasingly complex contexts

C. Performance

Demonstrates developing competence and consistent application of musicality principles and skills (fulfilling counts, artistic phrasing, music concept such as syncopation, counterpoint, improvisation, and understands rhythms and meters of multi-cultural perspectives)

Demonstrates developing competency in understanding/initiation of dynamic range and smooth transitioning, and projection in the performance/execution of movement material.

Demonstrates understanding and intermediate level application of spatial tethering/tension, differentiating spatial directions and planes.

Execution of a two-minute length movement combinations requiring application of movement material and the inclusion of full body investment, projection, and a limited range of expressive qualities in an evaluated performance context

III. High-intermediate/advanced level performance that reflects “DANC 3643 technical proficiency standards” as printed in the dance student handbook. This course is designed to build on advanced level competency skills, principles and concepts within the jazz idiom and to further challenge and build upon these skills through strength, flexibility, endurance and aesthetic/creative challenges.

At the successful completion of the course the student will be able to demonstrate competence at the advanced level, with visible progress in the practice of the following:

A. Movement Foundations

Deepening and refining physical and conceptual understanding of the fundamental movement principles as introduced through the jazz idiom, which include:
Stability/mobility factors that allow for articulation/isolations and support for strength and balance moves
Application of dynamic alignment in all movement contexts with consistency
Application of movement patterns as a means to provide better support and coordination
Three-dimensional articulation of spine/pelvis [“pelvic tilt,” (hinge), circling, forward, backward tilts and side to side]
Demonstrates rhythmic coordination of body parts in isolation with consistency and complexity
Demonstrates polyrhythmic capabilities of advanced complexity

B. Dance Vocabulary

Expansion of jazz vocabulary/terminology of various styles
Application of historical/cultural legacies of jazz dance through various styles and techniques and individual creativity
Application of initiation and sequencing patterning to a variety of contexts
Layering and refining of body isolations that result in polyrhythms and nuanced control
Accurate exhibition of differentiation of meters and increasingly complex rhythmic patterns and phrasing that refine and deepen foundational skills in musical understanding and musicality
Combining of intricate locomotor patterns and pathways as applied to the jazz idiom, which include a combination of walks, runs, turns, leaps and jumps.
Develop balance, strength and control in increasingly complex contexts and transitions with the ability to self-monitor and adjust

C. Performance

Demonstrates competence and consistent application of musicality principles and skills (fulfilling counts, artistic phrasing, music concept such as syncopation, counterpoint, improvisation, and understands rhythms and meters of multi-cultural perspectives)
Demonstrates developing competency in understanding/initiation of dynamic range and smooth transitioning, self-initiated risk and projection in the performance/execution of movement material.
Demonstrates consistency in understanding and application of spatial tethering/tension, differentiating spatial directions and planes.
Execution of a three minute movement combination, often executed as a solo, requiring application of movement material and the consistent inclusion of full body investment, projection, and a range of self-initiated expressive qualities in an evaluated performance context