

San Diego State University Dance Team Frequently Asked Questions

Audition Information

Why should I audition to be a SDSU Dance Team member?

The SDSU Dance Team is recognized as a prestigious and talented group on the SDSU campus and in the San Diego community. Being a member of the team is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and is a great way to get involved in Aztec spirit. The Dance Team provides an avenue through which experienced dancers can continue training and performing past high school. Team members make life-long memories and friendships.

What characteristics do Dance Team members possess?

We are looking for talented, energetic, and committed dancers who have strong academic goals, time management skills, and work ethic. Prospective dancers must be dedicated to representing the University and the Dance Team in a professional manner. Team members commit to ALL team practices, performances, and other appearances.

Is there a certain look that is required of dance team members?

Dancers must maintain a professional collegiate dance image and be in good physical condition.

What should I expect at auditions?

Auditions are conducted in one day. Please see the tentative date, times, and location under "Auditions" on the website. Come prepared to learn and perform a variety of dance styles with good technique and showmanship.

What should I wear to auditions?

Please wear boy cut shorts, tights, and a fitted top for pom and jazz, and sweat pants and tennis shoes for hip-hop.

How many members are selected for the team?

There is no set number, but the team usually consists of 15-30 dancers. Each year, returning members are required to re-audition.

How do I prepare for auditions?

Here are some suggestions:

- Take jazz, hip-hop and ballet classes, increase your flexibility and stamina, and practice learning choreography quickly.
- Watch videos of the team's performances on You Tube to familiarize yourself with the team and its style.

- Periodically, the team conducts clinics that provide an opportunity to meet the team and coaches and learn and perform a routine in the style of the team. Check the website for more information.

What is the financial commitment?

The SDSU Dance Team receives some funding from Associated Students, but members are responsible for costs such as clothing/shoes, warm-ups and camp. Monthly dues of \$25 are collected from each member. Other costs are covered through team fund raising activities.

Do you have alternate positions?

Alternates are considered at auditions, but we do not always offer alternate positions.

What happens in I live out of state?

Many out-of state dancers travel to San Diego for Dance Team auditions. If travel is not possible, video auditions are accepted. See the website for information on auditioning by video.

Team Life

What does the SDSU Dance Team do?

The Dance Team is a Sport Club organization that is also affiliated with SDSU Athletics and the SDSU Marching Aztecs. The team performs at all home Football games where the team cheers on the sideline with the award-winning SDSU Cheerleaders. During football pre-game and half time, the Dance Team is featured on the field with the Marching Aztecs. SDSU dancers also perform at Men's and Women's Basketball games and volleyball games. Community events, Band exhibitions, parades, rallies, and guest appearances provide numerous opportunities for the team to perform. Select SDSU Dance Team members compete during the spring semester, at either or both UDA and USA.

What are the dancers' schedules like?

A SDSU Dancer's time is dedicated to academics and Dance Team events. Some dancers find time to hold part-time jobs, however academics and dance team responsibilities are top priorities. The following events are mandatory:

- At least one week-long summer dance camp
- Band Camp in San Diego (approximately 2 weeks before school starts)
- Dance team rehearsals approximately 3 times per week
- Choreography projects
- All home Football games
- Clinics and Fundraisers
- Men's and Women's Basketball games
- Competition
- Community Service Events

- SDSU Campus Functions (rallies, appearances, etc.)

Are dancers able to go home for Thanksgiving/Winter break?

Dancers are able to go home during the Thanksgiving/Winter break; however, specific dates will be given once the Football and Basketball schedules are released. Dance team members should not make flight arrangements for the holidays without consulting the coach.

Does the Dance Team travel with SDSU Athletic teams?

We travel with Athletic teams for post-season games, such as SDSU Football Bowl Game (New Orleans, 2011), the Mountain West Conference Championship Tournament (Las Vegas every year), and the Men's and Women's Basketball NCAA Tournaments (Tucson and Anaheim, 2011). These trips are paid for by the Athletic Department.

Who are the Dance Team Coaches?

The team is coached by Carrie Smith and Dean Cortez, who are assisted by alumni and guest choreographers. Coaches' bios can be found on our website.

For specific Dance Team questions please contact sdsudanceteam@yahoo.com

Our Mailing Address:
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