



2024 / 2025

Academy of Christian Arts Advanced Placement

We are looking forward to another amazing year of Advanced Placement at ACA and are so glad that you want to be a part of it. In the following pages you will find an outline of our expectations & requirements for the current season. The goal of ACA's Advanced Placement class is to provide an opportunity within our studio to focus on an advanced level of dance by both challenging classes and more time in class at the studio. Learning dance requires both hard work and discipline; the same characteristics necessary for a solid Christian walk. It is of utmost importance that each dancer and parent read and understand the requirements PRIOR to making a decision to participate in Advanced Placement.

AUDITIONS

All interested students must audition. This season's audition will be held Wednesday, July 17 at our Lafayette location & Thursday, July 18 at our Scott Studio. We will be holding group auditions divided by age. All dancers should be in ACA dress code and will be given a number to wear while auditioning.

- Audition Forms need to be filled out prior to auditioning & require a parent signature.
- Arrive 15 minutes prior to start of audition for stretch & warm up.

PLACEMENTS

We will have a group of teachers making the decision on level placements. The studio owner makes the final decision on placements. Dancers will be placed into levels based on technique, ability, age, attitude, maturity, motivation, commitment, flexibility, musicality, performance quality, and strength. Please note that neither age or friendships will be the main determinant of placement. Students may be moved between levels, or dismissed, at any point, based upon teacher recommendation and the Studio Owner's decision.

WEEKLY CLASS COMMITMENT

During the season (Sept-May), all Advanced Placement (AP) dancers will be required to attend one AP Class and one regular technique class each week. (Hip Hop & Acrobats cannot be the second class). Please see attendance section for policies on absences.

SUMMER DANCE COMMITMENT

All AP dancers must attend our week long Summer Dance Intensive July 22-26. The intensive will include classes taught mostly by instructors not on our current staff. This gives our dancers the opportunity to learn from others and produces a more well rounded dancer. We use this week to improve their strength, flexibility, technique, expose them to new things, & bonding between dancers that may not normally take class together.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT DANCER STANDARDS

AP Dancers are to be considered "role models" of the studio, and will; therefore, be held to a higher standard of behavior, participation, & dedication. We expect them to be supportive of each other, demonstrate extremely good sportsmanship in class and at events, & to be respectful of the rules, other dancers, teachers, judges, etc. We also expect a higher level of responsibility in regard to attendance, dress code, and care of costumes. No bullying will be tolerated. Instances of bullying should be reported immediately to the studio owner. Instances of bullying, if reported or witnessed, will have consequences. The studio owner can dismiss any student that is not meeting these standards listed above. Though we never expect to dismiss a student, all fees are forfeited and no refunds will be provided should a student be dismissed.

PARENT STANDARDS

Advanced level dance requires a positive atmosphere from all involved. Cooperation between parents is expected at all times. Please show respect for our teaching staff, other dance parents, & all of our dancers. A positive and enthusiastic outlook extends to your child. Negative comments and feedback can be harmful to the progress and education of our students.

- For the benefit of their children, parents must always maintain a positive attitude during classes, events, & competitions.
- If you have an issue with the studio, a teacher, competition, student, dance, costume, etc. please speak to the studio owner to determine the appropriate way to handle the situation.
- 24-Hour Rule- We ask that parents never approach the teacher, manager, or owner until 24 hours after the event or incident.
- Please do not approach children other than your own about anything. If you have concerns, please go directly to studio owner.
- Be a TEAM player. Support your student, all other dancers, & the teachers and staff.

THREE STRIKE APPROACH

AP Parents & Dancers will be on a three-strike system. If a standard is broken, a verbal warning will be given. If a second standard is broken a written warning will be sent. On the third instance, the family will be dismissed from Advanced Placement and /or the studio at the owner's discretion. If an extreme event, issue, or problem arises, the studio may dismiss the dance family immediately, without warning. All fees are forfeited and no refunds will be provided should a family be dismissed. We want to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable experience with Advanced Placement. For us to accomplish this objective, all parents and dancers must conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner.

DRESSCODE

Our dress code for AP is the same for our regular classes. Hair must be pulled back and out of the face (pony tail, braid, or bun). Girls are to wear black leotard and tights (pink, tan, or black). Cover ups are acceptable if they meet the following criteria: No t-shirts may be worn in class. Shorts & pants are allowed in class if they are **black** and fitted enough for the teacher to see body placement. No pants are allowed in Ballet. Ballet Skirts are also welcomed and may be any color. Boys should wear black pants or shorts (allows movement) with white t-shirts.

FINANCIAL

Advanced Placement

CLASS	TUITION (MONTHLY)	COSTUMES
Intermediate Advanced	\$35	\$180 (3 costumes)
Junior Advanced	\$35	\$240 (4 Costumes)
Teen Advanced	\$35	\$240 (4 Costumes)
Senior Advanced (if co-enrolled)	\$35	\$240 (4 Costumes)
Senior Advanced (Adv Only)	\$60	\$400 (4 Costumes)

RECITAL

Our Advanced Placement students perform in multiple recitals. This gives them more performance experience. Different levels have different involvement during recital week & recital day. During recital week, AP dancers will have a spacing day just for AP dances on a different day than their regular class (typically the Sunday or Wednesday). All AP dancers are to attend the dress rehearsal for any recital they are dancing in. This means multiple dress rehearsals for our AP dancers. Some team dancers will perform in both Orange & Yellow Recitals. Some team dancers will perform in all 4 recitals (Green, Orange, Blue & Yellow Recitals) and will also work backstage.

EVENTS / PERFORMANCES

ACA often gets asked to participate in community events. We almost always give our AP dancers these opportunities. If we are asked to perform or participate in an event, ACA will decide which class would best fits the need of the performance. We will send out email communication about the event to the parents letting them know the details. Though these events are not mandatory, **they are strongly encouraged**. Advanced Placement class time will be used to prepare for these events and all dancers are required to attend all classes even if they are not performing for the event. We try to be smart with our choreography and typically can reuse a lot of it for either competition or recital. We want to use our God given gifts in our community. We also want to expose our dancers to performance opportunities which often come with a lot of learning

experiences. Christmas time is usually a big performance opportunity for us. If a dancer's team is asked to perform, we ask that the dancer & their parent do ALL they can do to participate. These performance opportunities are a great learning experience and will help dancers get their full advanced dance education.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is SO IMPORTANT. We require our AP dancers to take multiple days a week because we know that being in the classroom is vital to their growth as a dancer. Our policy handles absences from AP classes and regular classes differently.

*Advanced Placement Class- No dancer can have more than 2 AP absences between (Sept- Dec) & 2 AP absences between Jan-May. If a student arrives late, or leaves early, 3 times, it will count as one absence. Students will be notified on their 4th absence and will be dismissed from Advanced Placement on their 5th absence. Dancers must be able to commit to the entire season without over-committing themselves in other areas. Excused absences are very limited, but may include: contagious illness with excuse, a death in the family, and CERTAIN school functions (graded). Absences which are NOT excused, include: other practices/ games/ events (sports, concerts, etc.), appointments, homework, "not feeling well", & injures (for the latter two, students must attend class to take notes / watch). Watching class needs to be limited to necessary situations. Students sitting are not learning at the same pace as the students dancing. We understand that things happen, and we will take individual circumstances into account, but the studio owner has the final say on whether an absence is excused or not. Make Up classes are not available for Advanced Placement Classes. Should your dancer miss more classes than are allowed, private lessons may be used to make up classes at the parent's expense. If a dancer misses a class where a lot of choreography was taught, a make up class may be needed (at parent's expense) to catch student up before their next class even if the absence is excused. **Please use your 4 absences carefully (or not at all!)**

*Regular Technique Class

Part of our Advanced Placement Program is the requirement of dancers taking their regular technique classes in addition to their AP class. We know dancing more days a week helps our dancers build the strength they need to dance at a higher level. However, spending more days each week at the studio also increases your chances of missing class. We are requiring our AP dancers to make up every regular class they miss between the months of Sept- Dec. If a dancer misses a regular technique class, they can make up the class by attending the class above or below their current class or attend the same class at our other location. These make up options give our AP dancers the ability to manage their absences. After December, our regular technique classes will be working on recital, therefore; make up classes are not available. We will allow 3 absences between Jan- May that do not have to be made up.

COMPETITION TEAM

Dance competitions can be a wonderful experience for dancers. Dance is an art form, and the evaluation of dance is very subjective. We strive to use competition to bring our beliefs and dances into a world that may or may not honor Jesus, stretch us as dancers, improve our technique, experience performing and being evaluated, to foster a love for dance, & to make amazing memories. While a high score is nice to receive, it is not our main goal.

We will hold auditions in December during our AP class time. All auditions will be videoed and teams will be chosen by our teachers & staff. Not everyone in Advanced Placement will make the competition team, but that is part of growing as a dancer. No one outside of Advanced Placement is allowed to compete. All competition group dances will be learned and performed by ALL AP dancers for recital. A selection of dances & dancers will be chosen in December to attend competitions. It is not mandatory for our AP dancers to audition for competition, but **we strongly encourage it**. We keep it affordable, there are not a bunch of extra practices (only a few during Holiday breaks), and it really gives our dancers a bunch of extra dance exposure.

What to expect from Competition Season:

- We typically attend 3 competitions total during the months of March / April.
- Our Dancers fill out an availability form in December and dates are released in January.
- Cost depends on the number of dances your dancer is chosen for. The studio fee to compete is a flat fee of approximately \$60. Dancers typically pay \$60 per group dance per competition. Solos are much more expensive. All financial information will be given out in December when your dancer auditions. This was to just give you the idea.
- **Competition Team practices over Mardi Gras Break & Easter Break. (Plan trips accordingly- These are important)**
- Competition Team Dancers & Parents are to follow all call times given to them the week prior to competition. It is important for the studio to be able to count on these team members.
- Our dancers are to win & lose with grace. We also will encourage all dancers, both from our studio and from other studios. We want to remember who we represent. We bring Jesus with us wherever we go.

More competition information will be given out once the team has been decided. We just wanted our Advanced Placement dancers & parents to know a little about what they can expect.



Academy of Christian Arts
Dance Studio

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, & agree to comply with all of the 2024/2025 Advanced Placement Expectations & Standards listed above.

Dancer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____