



## ABOUT THE GCU DANCE TEAM

The GCU Dance Team is the official Dance Team for Grand Canyon University. The GCU Dance Team is a group of 32-38 talented and hard-working student-athletes that represent our university through passionate school spirit, entertaining performances, drive for academic excellence, and commitment to community involvement. We currently compete in the Division I Jazz, Division I Hip Hop, and Spirit Program Game Day LIVE categories at UDA College Nationals, and have secured multiple National Titles in the past 6 years.

## GCU DANCER BENEFITS

- Scholarships available to ALL team members
- Practice attire, shoes, warm-ups, and bag provided by GCU
- Custom designed uniforms provided by GCU
- Dedicated and experienced dance team staff
- Customized strength and conditioning training program by our own Strength Coach
- Spirit Program Athletic Trainer for all team related injuries, injury prevention, pre & post-activity treatments
- Division I competitive dance team experience at UDA College Nationals
- NCAA athletic events include GCU Men's and Women's Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball, tourney travel
- UDA College Dance Camp travel, lodging and meals fully funded
- UDA College Nationals travel, lodging and meals fully funded

## RECRUITMENT AND TRYOUTS

GCU Dance Team recruited roster spots will be determined on a rolling basis, and therefore it is encouraged to complete your recruitment materials and application early. **Roster spots offered through recruitment are limited**, and will be contingent on the anticipated number of graduating student-athletes each year. In April of each year, a traditional tryout opportunity will be held on campus for unsigned incoming applicants and returning athletes.

Recruitment Links:

- [RECRUITMENT PACKET](#)
- [RECRUITMENT APPLICATION](#)

Tryout Links::

- [APRIL 2024 TRYOUT PACKET](#)
- [APRIL 2024 TRYOUT REGISTRATION](#)

## ABOUT GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

Grand Canyon University is a private Christian university located in Phoenix, Arizona. With new classroom buildings, popular dining options, sparkling swimming pools, state-of-the-art athletic facilities and a variety of new housing accommodations, the GCU campus is the perfect place to call home for the next four years. We offer a wide range of academic programs. GCU strives to keep tuition costs competitive and provides generous academic scholarships as well as scholarships for students graduating from Christian High Schools. Though we are a Christian university, GCU welcomes students from all backgrounds and denominations. Our mission is to ensure that our students reach their fullest potential and earn a degree. Because of that mission, our dedication and our rich history, we firmly believe that GCU is the only Christian University of its kind!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Do you hold clinics?**

Yes! We traditionally hold 4 clinics in the fall, and 2 Tryout Prep Clinics in the spring. Attending our clinics is highly suggested as they allow you to get to know the culture of our team, the style of dance we most frequently use, and prepare dance athletes for college dance team. Please visit <http://www.gcudancecamps.com> for registration and further details.

### **Can I get a travel reimbursement to visit GCU and tour campus?**

Yes! GCU offers day, overnight and travel reimbursement trips to campus. Check out the [Discover GCU](#) program, and plan your campus visit during a GCU Dance Team clinic for an all-expense-paid full experience.

### **Do veteran dance team members have to try out?**

Yes. We believe it is very important for everyone to try out each year to maintain growth and excellence. All returning athletes are required to re-audition each year, though they are exempt from the first cut.

### **Do you have a separate in-person tryout for incoming freshmen or out-of-state students?**

No. All prospective dancers who were not selected by recruitment attend the same audition for the team – incoming freshmen, transfer students, and returning athletes. Many students travel in from out-of-state to try out.

### **What skills are required to make the team?**

We ask to see both left and right aerials, headsprings, quad+ pirouettes, and a la seconde turns. We ask that you demonstrate each skill to the best of ability, if you are safely able to do so, to assess your current level. Mastery of all skills is not an absolute requirement, but highly suggested. Additionally, we have a list of bonus skills we like to see in prospective athletes including: front aerials, side sumis, snapdowns, handsprings, back tucks, etc.

### **What is the exact scholarship amount?**

All team members receive a dance team scholarship contingent on eligibility and university cap. The award amount varies each year and is based upon the program's overall scholarship budget and the number of veterans/rookies. Dancers receive their award amount in June. GCU also offers generous academic and other institutional [scholarships](#).

### **How often does the team practice?**

Currently, we practice 3 times per week. Once a dancer is selected for the team, their counselor arranges their academic schedule around our anticipated practice schedule for the year. In general, we ask that dancers anticipate approximately 20 hours per week for dance team activities including practices, training, events, and performances.

### **Is it difficult to balance school and dance team?**

Being a collegiate athlete is a large time commitment with high mental, emotional, and physical demands. As a college dancer, you learn to time manage, prioritize, and maintain responsible communication with your professors and coaches. Our dancers have several support programs in place to be student-athletes successful at both school and dance.

### **What styles of dance does the team perform?**

We train, perform, and compete collegiate Game Day style pom, hip hop, and contemporary jazz.

### **For which activities and athletics does the dance team perform?**

We perform at all GCU Men's and Women's Basketball games, GCU Volleyball games, GCU Baseball games, NCAA and WAC basketball tournaments, select Men's and Women's Soccer games. We are also present at many student-activities events on campus, marketing and outreach events for the university, and serve as university ambassadors for promotions and media.

### **Can GCU Dancers also be on a pro team, dance company, or dance major?**

Because of the large time commitment and rigorous physical schedule, we do not allow GCU Dancers to simultaneously dance for other teams, companies, or major in dance.

### **How long is the season?**

We are “in-season” from late-July/August until early April.

### **I'm from out of state. Will I get to go home over school breaks?**

We do our best to provide students with time off over school breaks to travel home, though it is not guaranteed. Due to our performance schedule, nationals rehearsals, and athletic schedules, we announce our breaks as soon as we are able for athletes to plan travel arrangements. As GCU Athletics become more successful, we are provided more opportunities to support our school teams! We also encourage family to visit us in AZ when possible!

### **What are summer requirements and expectations?**

Because of the longer summer break for GCU, we hold a one-week training camp for the full team in June. We also require our dancers to continue strength and dance training through the summer in their hometown studios and gyms, and complete training documentation for accountability.

### **Does the GCU Dance Team Compete?**

We have participated in Collegiate Dance Nationals and Championships for the past 8 years, and plan to compete again during this season at UDA in Orlando, FL.

### **Do all GCU dancers participate in national competitions?**

We are first and foremost a Game Day team. Performances and appearances at our home athletic contests and GCU events are our highest dance-related priority. However, as we compete, all team members are required to audition for placement on the competition squad. From there, the coaching and choreography staff assign members appropriately to fulfill both roles for Game Day Squad and Nationals Squad. All dancers have a rigorous schedule, and we plan our practices, events, and opportunities to make it as equitable as possible for all athletes.

### **Where can I learn more about the policies of the GCU Dance Team?**

When dancers are selected to progress through our recruitment, we share our updated Policies and Procedures handbook. If you have immediate questions about any policies, procedures, regulations, or rules for GCU Dancers, please contact Coach GK at [jacque.genung-koch@gcu.edu](mailto:jacque.genung-koch@gcu.edu)

### **Is it mandatory as a GCU Dancer to live on campus?**

It is not mandatory to live on campus, though due to our rigorous schedule and the amenities and support provided for our dancers, it does make it easier on the athlete. We encourage anyone who is unsure to ask questions and look into the option of campus living.

### **What are academic requirements for GCU admission?**

GCU has rolling admissions and it is free to apply: <https://www.gcu.edu/>  
Applicants must have a 3.0 unweighted GPA or 2.5 unweighted GCA + qualifying college entrance exam score.

### **What recruiting events does the GCU Dance Team attend?**

Check out our Instagram posts for upcoming events. We usually attend: Varsity College Combines, Tribe 99 Combine, Sharpen Up College Summit

### **What is the best part of being a GCU Dancer?**

If you ask the athletes, they will first and foremost say their relationships with one another. They will then mention the scholarships, the opportunities to travel and be involved on campus, and the ability to compete for a Division I university.

If you ask the coaching staff, they will mention the support provided by the university and the unique camaraderie we experience as a Spirit Program. We receive extensive financial and affirmational support of our team which is unique in today's college dance team culture.

***It's a good time to be a Lope. Come visit campus and see what makes GCU so special. Go Lopes!***