

FAC DANCE PRE-PROFESSIONAL

Modern and Contemporary Dance Syllabus

2025–2026 School Year

Instructor: Gina Buntz

Courses Taught: Modern & Contemporary Techniques, Choreography, College & Career Prep

Location: Room 230, Dance Studio

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Instructor Schedule (Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays)

Time	Class
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Dance Foundations
9:15 – 11 AM	Dance Preparatory – Honors 3–4
12:30 – 1:25 PM	Studio Time: Creation / Rehearsal
1:25 – 3:15 PM	Dance Pre-Pros – Honors 3–6

Course Description

Dance Pre-Professional Honors is designed for intermediate-advanced and advanced dancers preparing for collegiate or conservatory-level training. Through rigorous training in ballet, modern/contemporary technique, choreography, and repertory, students develop the technical ability, discipline, and professionalism required in a concert dance environment. Younger dancers demonstrating advanced skill and readiness may also be placed in this course. Students from this program are well-positioned to attend elite summer intensives, including Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive, USC Summer Dance Conservatory, American Ballet Theatre, and Charlotte Ballet Academy

Required Performances:

- Fall Dance Offerings - November 6, 2025 - FAC Dance Studio
- Spring Dance Concert - April 16, 2026 (Rehearsals April 15-16)
- Young Choreographers Concert - May 2, 2026 - FAC Dance Studio

Additional Opportunities:

- Community outreach performances
- Eligibility for the **National Honor Society for Dance Arts**

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate advanced technique in Graham, Horton, and contemporary fusion styles.
- Understand the historical and cultural evolution of concert dance in the U.S. and globally.
- Develop solo and group choreographic skills.
- Collaborate effectively in rehearsals and performances.
- Learn and retain repertoire by faculty and guest artists.
- Participate fully in the creation and production of concerts.
- Represent FAC Dance with maturity, professionalism, and artistic integrity.

Course Outline**Week 1 – Orientation**

- Overview of syllabus and expectations
- Technique class review
- Self-assessment: “Where are you now, and where do you want to be?”

- Journaling and sharing with peers
 - **Signed contract due:** Friday, August 22, 2025
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Quarter 1: August – September 2025

- **Unit 1: *Moving from Center*** — Breath and centeredness in modern technique
 - **Section A: *Healthy You – Part 1*** — Nutrition and wellness for dancers
 - **Unit 2: *Composition Development*** — Improvisation-based tools for solo and group choreography (*All Pre-Pro Students*)
 - **Senior Project Proposal due:** Friday, August 29, 2025
 - **Unit 3: Phrase work & rhythmic structures in modern dance studies**
 - Phase 3 Development of “Deconstructing Appalachia”
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Quarter 2: October – December 2025

- **Unit 4: *Guest Artist Residency – Anindo Marshall*:** October 6–10
 - **Unit 5:** Rehearsal and development: *Appalachian Spring Dance Suite*
 - **Unit 6: *Healthy You – Part 2*** — Mental and emotional wellness
 - **Performance: *Autumn Dance Offerings*** – November 6
 - **Fall Juries:** November 11–12
 - **Guest Artist Residency – Janice Rosario:** November 12–14
 - **Alonzo King Residency:** November 17–21 (Curated by Ms. Anita Pacylowski)
 - **Preparation for Winter Dance Showcase**
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Quarter 3: January – February 2026

- **Unit 7:** Contemporary technique — Dynamic movement, speed, level changes
 - **Unit 8:** *Guest Artist Residency – Jacqueline Calle:* January 12–16
 - **Section C:** *Healthy You – Part 3* — Injury prevention and maintenance
 - **Unit 8 (continued):** Rehearsal and refinement of faculty/guest works
 - **Unit 9:** Senior project development and Spring Concert adjudication
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Quarter 4: March – May 2026

- **Unit 10:** Theatre prep, etiquette, and final performance process
 - **Spring Dance Concert:** April 16 - Gunter Theatre
 - **Rehearsals:** April 15 & 16 - Gunter Theatre
 - **2nd Semester Juries:**
 - **Ballet:** April 21
 - **Modern:** April 22
 - **Unit 11:** Final Self-Assessment – *Reflection & Future Planning*
 - **Unit 12:** Rehearsals for *Young Choreographers Concert* – May 2
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Grading Scale

A 90 - 100 **B** 80 - 89 **C** 70 - 79 **D** 60 - 69 **F** 50 - 59

Grade Distribution

- **Major Grades – 60%**

- Quarterly juries (Q2 & Q4)
- Fall Dance Offerings
- Spring Dance Concert
- Young Choreographers Concert
- In-Class Projects/Presentations
- Journaling & Reflection Writing
- **Minor Grades – 40%**
 - Weekly ballet/modern technique participation
 - Written assignments, studio work, critiques
 - Dress and hair code compliance
- **Exam Grades – 10% of each semester grade**
(Refer to pages 37–38 of the FAC Student/Parent Handbook)

Policies & Expectations

Attendance

- Class begins promptly; ends 5 minutes early for changing
- All absences, early dismissals, and late arrivals must follow official procedures.
- Early dismissals are not allowed for other dance classes, rehearsals, or auditions.

Early Dismissal Procedure:

1. Bring a signed slip from the Main Office to the Dance Office
2. Present to the instructor **before class**.
3. Participate or observe as time allows

Refer to pp. 3–4 of the Student/Parent Handbook for lawful vs. unlawful absences.

Tardiness

- Marked after the roll is taken
- The teacher may deny participation.
- Students who are not dancing must observe and take notes.
- *Unexcused tardies = class ditching.*
(Refer to p. 33 of the Student/Parent Handbook for consequences)

Late & Missing Work

Assignment Type	Accepted Late?	Deduction	Final Deadline
Major Grades	Yes	15 points per day	3 days max
Minor Grades	Yes	15 points (1day)	1 day max
Homework	No	Not accepted	0 grade

Grading Dates & Report Cards 25 - 26

1st	Aug 11 – Oct 10
2nd	Oct 11 – Dec 19
3rd	Jan 6 – Mar 12
4th	Mar 23 – May 22

Standards Alignment

This course aligns with the **South Carolina College- and Career-Ready (SCCCR) Standards for Dance – Intermediate, Mid & High** levels.

[South Carolina Dance Standards – SC Department of Education](#)