***Covid Considerations Spring 2021***

**WKU Dance Program**

***The following information is subject to change. Please visit the WKU Department of Theatre & Dance and WKU websites for up-to-date information.***

<https://www.wku.edu/theatre-and-dance/>

<https://www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill/>

Your health and safety are paramount to the WKU Dance Program and the Department of Theatre & Dance. Please rest assure that this fall we will be following the WKU Big Red Restart and CDC guidelines and requirements in our class delivery and general traffic-flow procedures within buildings. We have carefully planned a course of action that allows us to continue to provide a high level of dance education and technique instruction in a socially distanced and safe method. As a result, you can expect the Dance Program to function a little bit differently this semester.

COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that has transformed the way we live, work, and interact. As we return to the dance space, we must all commit to the serious nature of this pandemic and be vigilant and respectful in our behaviors and habits. The dance faculty is committed to providing a safe environment for classes in our facilities, and we expect dance majors and minors to follow behaviors that will sustain their health and safety. Wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, washing hands frequently, completing daily screenings, and testing when necessary are healthy behaviors that all must adhere to both in and outside the classroom. It is essential that we all commit to these practices – 24/7. As faculty, we pledge our efforts to keep our dancers as safe as possible and ask for a similar pledge in return from the very students that we are here to serve. As you prepare to return to the classroom, please review the following:

**Masks**

* Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with the [CDC guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations to face coverings must be determined by the Student Accessibility Resource Center and documented before a student may attend class.
* Masks must be worn throughout all dance technique courses.
* A mask may make it harder to breathe during class, and students will need to self-monitor for symptoms of lightheadedness, dizziness, numbness or tingling, and shortness of breath. Students should notify the instructor if they experience any of these symptoms. Each instructor will address with their class the procedure for dancing in masks and how to cope with adverse symptoms.
* Dance students should plan for the need for multiple masks throughout the day as a wet mask is less efficient at filtering bacteria and viruses. Students should bring separate Ziploc bags to store both clean and used masks.

**Social Distancing**

* Dance technique classes have been relocated or modified to allow for social distancing. Dance technique classes may occur in Gordon Wilson Dance Studio A or B, Russell Miller Theatre, or Preston Center Gym.
* GW Dance Studios have been visibly marked to designate social distancing parameters. Instructors will provide guidance and expectations for social distancing within each class.
* Regardless of the class location, dance students will be expected to remain spatially aware while dancing.
* Students are not allowed to congregate in the hallways, greenroom, or second-floor landing of Gordon Wilson as they normally would.
* Students should not linger after class to practice or chat with peers. Please refrain from remaining after class to speak to the instructor. That time will be needed to disinfect the classroom and allow for a socially distanced transition of the next class. Faculty will be available for scheduled appointments should a student have questions or issues.

**Dressing Rooms**

* Students should arrive dressed for class.
* The GW ladies’ dressing room will be closed for the fall semester unless you are specifically assigned to store your belongings in the dressing room during a given technique class.
* For classes that meet in
* GW 200 A/B - Students will store their bags/belongings in either the dressing rooms, hallway, or second floor lobby as assigned by the instructor.
* Russell Miller Theatre - Students are to store bags/belongings in the house seating following appropriate social distancing.
* Preston Gym - Students are to store their bags/belongings along the perimeter of the gym floor as directed by the instructor.
* *Do not bring valuables with you to class as the Dance Program is not responsible for lost or stolen items.*

**Preston Center**

* A face mask and university student ID are required upon entry into the Preston Center.
* Students should allow ample time to enter the building as they will be screened upon entry.
* Students must walk the perimeter of the gym floor to approach the appropriate court/classroom space rather than cutting across the entire gym floor.
* Street shoes must be worn throughout Preston Center except when on the specified court for the dance class.
* Dancers are not to use the showers in Preston Center and may not rent lockers to store their belongings. Bags/belongings will be stored alongside the actual dance space.

**Cleaning/Disinfecting**

* Hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes will be available in the dance studios/classrooms.
* Students must sanitize their hands prior to entry into and upon leaving each classroom.
* Ballet barres will be disinfected after each ballet class; all appropriate surfaces will be disinfected after each dance class.
* If preferred, students may wear socks during modern class and socks/shoes during jazz warm-ups.
* Dance floors will be disinfected daily.

**Studio Use**

Studio use will be limited to faculty, *Dance Project* choreographers/casts, and students of DANC 310: Choreography I.Choreography students must sign out the studio space and properly disinfect the space prior to leaving.

**What to Do If You Think You Are Sick**

The dance faculty is committed to daily self-screening; students should also practice daily self-screening. Please do not come to class if you have a temperature above 100.3 degrees F, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches or chills, sore throat, diarrhea/vomiting, loss of taste or smell, or have been in close contact with someone who has contracted COVID-19. Contact your instructor and arrange to see a doctor immediately or call the WKU COVID-19 Hotline at 270-745-2019 for additional guidance. Appropriate documentation is necessary upon re-entry into the dance studio. *For further guidance, visit* <https://www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill/healthandsafety/symptoms-and-health-checks.php>.

*Please see the attendance policy for further information about missing dance class due to COVID-19.*

**COVID Attendance Policy**

*\*Policy is subject to change.*

Courses within the Dance Program follow a shared attendance policy. Given the challenges that COVID-19 may present throughout the spring 2021 semester, instructors will consider increased absences due to the virus on an individual basis. Students should plan for the possibility that they may need to use their allowed absences for actual illness or emergency and not miss class for inconsequential reasons.

* In the event a student is unable to participate in a class meeting (either in person or virtually), they should immediately inform the instructor of the reason for the absence and the plan for return to the class. The instructor and student will decide an appropriate course of action in order for the student to continue to receive course credit. Options could include participating synchronously via Zoom, submitting alternate assignments independently, returning to the classroom on a specific date, etc.
* If you have been exposed to someone who has the virus and you are showing any symptoms, then you should refrain from attending class and be tested immediately. Contact your instructor/s and make the necessary arrangement for any missed classes.
* If your absence is due to diagnosis of COVID-19, proof of your negative test and/or permission by a doctor to return to physical activity is necessary upon re-entry into the dance technique classroom.
* We encourage any students showing signs of the virus to seek immediate testing, which is being made available free to students on the WKU campus.

Finally, please note that your grade or standing in the Dance Program will not suffer as a result of virus-related absences. This is an unprecedented time and the health and safety of our students is our primary concern.

***Traditional Attendance Policy as stated in the WKU Dance Program Handbook***

***Technique Courses***

*All dance technique courses follow a shared attendance policy. Students are expected to attend and participate in every class in which they are enrolled. Only two absences are allowed. There will be no distinction made between excused and unexcused. Each additional absence will lower the student’s final grade by one letter grade; however, faculty may choose to waive unavoidable absence due to serious illness, other WKU course conflicts, and participation in professional auditions/interviews with the appropriate documentation. Arriving to class late three times will equal one absence. If a student is recovering from an injury or illness and is not able to fully participate in a technique class, the student should attend and observe the class. The student must inform the instructor before the class begins. More than two observations, unless a doctor’s note is provided, will equal one absence. If a student is unable to participate in the class for more than a two-week period, he/she will be advised to drop the course. Sitting out should be a last resort only. Adapted participation is encouraged when possible. If a student does not participate in technique class, he/she will not be allowed to participate in remaining technique classes or rehearsals for that day.*