

About the Team Changes

At the Auditions Meeting on Thursday, we discussed a couple of the possible options in which the dance team may continue at Oregon State. We were not certain yet which direction the team would go – but we did know enough to be very confident that the program will continue, despite the loss of our funding from the Marching Band. We discussed that this year we are really looking for talented dancers that are very passionate, hard working, and not afraid of a challenge. It's going to be a very special year with all the team changes, but it also will require dedication and eagerness to be a part of this journey and do what it takes to keep this program alive!

Since the Auditions Meeting, we have made some significant strides in devising a successful plan for moving forward with the program. We still have a lot of planning, meetings and discussions to do in order to define several elements of the program and get final approval; but all signs currently indicate that Athletics, the Band, and Cheer is supportive of our new direction and plans for change. Currently, we are planning to continue the program as it is, with some adjustments in program structure, responsibilities, performance duties, and hopefully a modification of time commitments. We plan to reduce some of the performance elements of the program (ie Marching Band half-time shows, highly integrated routines with cheer, etc). Fortunately, this should also help reduce some of the rehearsal commitments.

We don't have the financial plan finished, but we determined that we could fundraise our conservative operating budget for next year (similar to previous years). With community support, we're hoping to raise enough money for the 2008-09 Season, while building a good foundation to expand the program and funding to reach a maintainable, healthy level for future years. Each dancer will be responsible to raise a certain amount of money to run the program. We hope to have the amount determined & a financial plan in motion by Day 1 of Auditions. All applicants must agree to commit to the financial obligations (fundraising) before we will accept the dancer on the team. With all the support that is coming forward, we are confident that fans will help us raise the money. It will be a lot of work – but we are very hopeful that we can turn this difficult situation into a great opportunity!

This is an INCREDIBLE program and a rare opportunity for dancers. Please don't let the financial obligations make you nervous... it's going to be a great year and we're going to make it work! These changes are also going to give us more freedom in our program. If you have any questions or concerns about the program, feel free to contact me about specifics.

Here's a couple of other important reminders:

- Team "Boot Camp" Practices will begin 3 weeks before school starts (around Sept 8th)
- Regular practice times, once classes begin, have not yet been determined. For now, expect to rehearse M, W, F for 3 hour sessions in the evenings. This is a reduction from last year's rehearsal times & we hope to reduce it even more as we get into the season. We will likely hold optional team practices over the summer and provide DVDs of sideline material so new dancers can get a head start on learning the traditional material.
- Dancers will still perform at all home Football & Men's Pac-10 Basketball games. For Football and Basketball Schedules, go to <http://www.osubeavers.com>
- Summer Pro/College Dance Camps will be the last week in July (out of state). With all the changes this year, camp is not required, but it's highly encouraged. We'll discuss camp options with the new team on May 18th.

Auditions

Day 1: Friday May 16 at 5:30 pm. Please arrive at 5pm to check in and start stretching

Day 2: Saturday May 17 at 10am. We'll finish at least by 5pm, w/a break for lunch around 1pm

Day 3: Sunday May 18 at 10am. New Team Meeting & Rehearsal

The length of each session depends on how difficult our decisions become. Cuts will be made at the end of each session.

Appearance

Hair, makeup, etc:

You will be judged on appearance – and it can be a deciding factor for making the team. It's VERY IMPORTANT that you come “performance ready.” You should look ready to wear our costumes – and ready to represent OSU in front of the fans. We recommend you wear your hair down (i.e. pin it half-way up, pull it back with a pinned head band, add a “poof”, etc). Make sure you wear make-up and please keep it tasteful! Use make-up shades that enhance your skin tone. It's not required, but for those with lighter complexions, we also encourage using a moderate self-tanner or mystic tan before auditions.

Dance Attire:

All dancers are required to wear a sports bra or a cropped top that reveals dancer's midriff. Jazz pants or dance shorts are acceptable attire for Day 1. **Dance shorts & cropped top are required for Day 2.** Jazz shoes or Lyrical Sandals are preferred to demonstrate technique (bringing a couple pair of dance shoes is a good idea). **If shorts and a cropped top are not ideal for your own routine on Day 2, then you are welcome to bring another outfit to change.** You do not have to wear all black... and it's often a nice touch to wear our school colors or something that identifies you with Oregon State.

Tryout Elements

Free Style*

NEW!! We plan to add a “free-style” section at the beginning of auditions. This would simply entail dancing for the judges in small groups (ie 4-6 dancers per group) to an upbeat piece of music so we can become familiar with the applicants. You can dance completely free-style, use part of your “bring your own routine,” prepare a few extra 8-cts from something you've performed before... it's completely up to you! We will not score this section; rather, the judges will just make notes and start putting together names, faces & audition numbers. Don't stress about this addition, we will make it relatively painless!

Across the Floor*

We will teach you an across the floor technical combination that will include turns, leaps, jumps, and kicks. See the “Required Technical Elements” list online.

Dance Routine*

The audition routine you learn will primarily be jazz and hip-hop. The style will be similar to routines OSU Dancers typically perform. We will also include technical elements on the "required technical elements" list online.

Fight Song*

A portion of the fight song will be taught, performed & judged at auditions. We're looking for good showmanship, vocal strength, enthusiasm, and precision.

In Center*

Each dancer will demonstrate Right & Left splits, Right & Left pirouettes, fouettes or pirouettes a la seconde on the Right (and left, if able).

Bring Your Own Routine

"Each dancer that makes call backs for Day 2 will be required to perform a short routine of their own, to further demonstrate their abilities. This routine should be about 30 seconds, but no longer than 1 minute. There are no requirements for routine style, however it would be a good time to demonstrate your musicality, rhythm, showmanship, creativity, style, and advanced technical elements. Please bring your own music; CD player will be provided. If your music is on an Ipod, we can connect it to our sound system. But we recommend you bring a backup CD just in case."

The routine does not have to be your own original material – we're not looking for your choreographic ability, rather for your performance ability. It's your *time to shine*, your time to show us what you're passionate about, and an opportunity to demonstrate your strengths. Dancers invited back for Day 2 are encouraged to bring their music on an **IPOD, with a backup CD** (if possible) for their "Bring Your Own Routine."

*All tryout elements will be performed/judged in groups, except the "bring your own routine" section on day 2.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE READ ALL THE AUDITION INFORMATION & TEAM DESCRIPTION ONLINE. The "Team Description" section will be modified with the necessary changes for next year once the program is completely defined, but the basic team information will stay the same. All the auditions information & requirements are up to date (except for the recent addition of the "freestyle" section at the beginning of tryouts, explained above). If you have not seen any of our performances... please watch some of the videos on our team virb page. The current plan is to have the dancers continue to perform feature time-out routines to recorded music, sideline material (pom) & some combined routines with cheer to band music. Website addresses for both sites are below.

We look forward to seeing you at Auditions... Good luck!

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<http://osumb.oregonstate.edu/dance/dance.html>

<http://www.virb.com/osudance>