

Course Description

DAA1520 | Tap Dance | 2.00 – 3.00 credits

Designed for students interested in learning the skills and techniques of tap dancing.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will use the tap-related vocabulary correctly by:

1. Engaging in regular practice sessions that incorporate tap-related vocabulary, actively working on executing the steps and techniques associated with the vocabulary correctly, to develop proficiency and accuracy in tap dancing
2. Actively seeking out opportunities to study and learn from experienced tap dance instructors or mentors, actively applying the tap-related vocabulary taught in class to further enhance understanding and execution, ensuring correct usage of the vocabulary in tap dance routines
3. Participating in tap dance workshops or masterclasses that focus on specific tap-related vocabulary, actively immersing oneself in the learning process, and applying the vocabulary in various rhythmic patterns and combinations to solidify correct usage and develop a comprehensive grasp of tap-related terminology

Competency 2: The student will explore the history of tap and how traditional steps evolved by:

1. Engaging in extensive research on the history of tap dance, actively delving into books, articles, documentaries, and online resources to gather information and gain a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of traditional steps
2. Participating in discussions and workshops led by knowledgeable tap dance instructors or historians, actively sharing insights and exchanging ideas with peers to deepen understanding of traditional tap steps' historical context and evolution
3. Immersing oneself in exploring tap dance history through practical application, actively learning and practicing traditional steps from different eras, aiming to embody and understand the stylistic nuances and technical advancements that have shaped the evolution of tap dance

Competency 3: The student will learn tap movement and sequencing, including “call and response” patterns by:

1. Practicing tap movement and sequencing regularly, actively incorporating "call and response" patterns into dance routines, aiming to develop fluency and proficiency in executing these rhythmic patterns
2. Engaging in collaborative tap dance sessions with peers, actively participating in "call and response" exercises, and taking turns initiating and responding to rhythmic sequences fosters a deeper understanding of the dynamics and intricacies of this particular pattern
3. Experimenting with improvisation in tap dance, actively exploring different ways to incorporate "call and response" patterns into spontaneous movement, allowing for creative expression and adaptability within the context of tap dancing

Competency 4: The student will respond to verbal instructions and demonstrate them in action by:

1. Listening to verbal instructions given by instructors, attentively processing the information, and comprehending the specific requirements or steps to respond effectively and demonstrate the instructions through physical action
2. Engaging in regular practice sessions that involve following and executing verbal instructions, actively focusing on translating the instructions into action with accuracy and precision, thereby improving the ability to respond promptly and demonstrate the given instructions
3. Participating in interactive learning activities requiring the student to respond to verbal instructions in real-time, actively adapting to different cues and prompts, and effectively demonstrating the instructions through immediate action, enhancing responsiveness and proficiency in executing verbal instructions

Competency 5: The student will transfer weight, keeping the feet under the body by:

1. Engaging in active listening during instructional sessions, attentively focusing on verbal instructions provided by instructors to ensure a clear understanding of the required actions and steps
2. Demonstrating active participation by promptly translating verbal instructions into physical action, showcasing the ability to respond effectively and accurately to the given instructions
3. Regularly practicing and reinforcing the retention of verbal instructions by actively applying them in practical exercises, solidifying the understanding and ability to demonstrate the instructions in action consistently

Competency 6: The student will understand rhythm and weight changes, as well as beginning musical skills by:

1. Engaging in rhythmic exercises regularly, actively practicing and internalizing various rhythmic patterns to develop a strong sense of timing and coordination about weight shifts
2. Participating in guided movement sessions, actively exploring different weight placements, and actively experimenting with rhythmically driven movements to develop a physical understanding of how weight changes contribute to the overall expression of rhythm
3. Analyzing and studying dance performances or videos focusing on rhythm and weight changes, actively observing and reflecting on the techniques and choices made by experienced dancers, to deepen the understanding of how these elements can be effectively utilized in dance
4. Listening to various musical genres actively identifying rhythmic patterns, beats, and structures to develop a basic understanding of musical concepts
5. Engaging in interactive activities, such as clapping or tapping along to music, and actively practicing rhythmic coordination and timing to develop a sense of musicality and the ability to synchronize movement with music
6. Participating in introductory music theory lessons, actively learning basic musical notation, key signatures, and rhythm notation to gain a foundational understanding of musical concepts and terminology
7. Participating in choreography workshops or classes, actively applying knowledge of rhythm, weight changes, and musical skills to create dance sequences that effectively communicate and express musicality
8. Collaborating with musicians or fellow dancers, actively engaging in joint improvisation sessions, exploring the connection between movement and music, and seeking opportunities to integrate rhythm, weight changes, and musical skills in a collaborative setting
9. Actively seeking performance opportunities, actively performing choreographed routines that showcase an integrated understanding of rhythm, weight changes, and musical skills, actively seeking feedback, and actively refining skills to enhance the overall performance quality

Competency 7: The student will improve strength, ankle flexibility, and rhythmic understanding by:

1. Engaging in regular strength training exercises, actively targeting specific muscle groups relevant to dance to build overall strength and enhance physical performance
2. Participating in conditioning classes, actively performing exercises that focus on strength development, such as planks, squats, and lunges, to increase muscular endurance and improve overall body strength
3. Actively incorporating resistance training equipment, such as resistance bands or weights, into dance training sessions, actively challenging muscles and actively promoting strength development through targeted resistance exercises
4. Participating in ankle mobility exercises regularly, actively stretching and actively strengthening the ankle joint through exercises like ankle circles, calf raises, and ankle dorsiflexion exercises to improve overall ankle flexibility
5. Incorporating dynamic stretching routines into warm-up sessions, actively focusing on ankle mobility exercises that involve controlled movement and stretch to improve ankle range of motion and flexibility
6. Engaging in ankle strengthening exercises, such as ankle rotations with resistance bands or toe raises on a balance board, to actively improve ankle stability and flexibility for better control and movement in dance
7. Participating in rhythm-based classes, such as tap dance or percussion workshops, actively practicing

- rhythmic patterns, and actively developing a deeper understanding of musical timing and syncopation.
8. Engaging in rhythmic exercises, actively clapping or tapping along to music with varying tempos and beats, actively focusing on internalizing and replicating rhythmic patterns accurately
 9. Studying and analyzing different music genres, actively identifying rhythmic elements and actively applying them to movement, actively integrating rhythmic understanding into dance routines to enhance musicality and rhythmical expression

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities
- Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment