

Nichols School of Dance

Dance Examinations

At NSD, we hold examination sessions twice annually. RAD Ballet exams are held in March, with ISTD Modern & Tap exams held in December. As the school grows, the frequency of sessions may increase.

Dancers are typically encouraged to take examinations every other year. In some cases, dancers may be ready to take their exams sooner. In other cases, it might take children a little longer.

Guided Learning hours set out by the ISTD

Grade 1-2: 60 hours

Grade 4-5: 75 hours

Grade 6: 90 hours

Higher Levels: 150 hours

For reference...

30-minute classes at NSD = 16.5 hours per year

45-minute classes at NSD = 25 hours per year

1-hour classes at NSD = 33 hours per year

Entry Requirements

The decision to enter dancers into examinations is always carefully considered.

Students must meet a list of criteria to take and pass their examinations. Knowledge of syllabus is vital, alongside technical proficiency, performance, flexibility, musicality, line and style.

NSD dancers' progress is continually monitored by teachers, within their RAD & ISTD classes.

Dancers are informally assessed in the run up to exams, on an individual basis.

Like academic school, children learn at different rates and in different ways. Therefore, examinations are **not the only way** to measure a dancers' progress. Some children thrive under the structured syllabus setting, where others may thrive more in creative classes, performing on stage, at competitions, holiday clubs, or other dance events.

We want to ensure that all dancers have a positive experience in the exam, achieving the results that best reflect their ability. We always have the dancers' best interests at heart, and are committed to giving each dancer equal attention and assessment. Therefore, if we do not feel dancers display readiness for the examination by the entry date (a couple of months prior), they will not be put forwards. If we have any concerns about a students' progress, be assured that you will be the first to know.

Reasonable Adjustments/Equal Opportunities

NSD, as well as the ISTD and RAD are committed to providing equal opportunities, where no candidate is at a disadvantage. Dancers can apply for reasonable adjustments if applicable.

This may include but is not limited to...

- A medical condition, e.g., epilepsy or diabetes
- A physical disability, e.g., scoliosis, multiple sclerosis
- A sensory impairment, e.g., visual or hearing impairment
- Specific learning difficulties, e.g., dyslexia
- Developmental disorders, e.g., autism spectrum disorder
- Social, emotional, or mental health difficulties, e.g., anxiety, panic attacks.

You can read more about the ISTD's (modern & tap) reasonable adjustments here...

<https://www.istd.org/examinations/applications-for-reasonable-adjustments-ara/>

If anyone would like to apply for reasonable adjustments, please get in touch with NSD.

Should anyone have any further queries regarding examinations, do not hesitate to reach out.