

WHAT ARE RAD EXAMS?

The Royal Academy of Dance offers three syllabi in Classical Ballet. There are two examination syllabi, known as Grades Examinations in Dance and Vocational Grades Examinations in Dance. There is also a non-assessed syllabus known as Presentation Classes. All are designed to recognize the progress and achievement of children and young people.

Students may begin with the Grades Syllabus starting at the Primary level and after Grade 5, can either continue through Grade 8 and/or opt to follow the Vocational Grades Syllabus. The Vocational levels are designed for students wishing to study Classical Ballet seriously, possibly with the goal of pursuing a career in dance or dance related subjects.

Royal Academy of Dance exams provide opportunity for dancers to attain their personal best and have fun, have a goal to work towards, and receive recognition from the world's largest examining body while preparing dancers for careers in dance and an opportunity to compete on an international level.

WHO SHOULD TAKE EXAMS?

Dancers in the Primary level and above are eligible to participate in RAD exams. Exams are not required for dancers in the Academy but are strongly encouraged. Some roles in *The Nutcracker* (i.e. Clara) and scholarships may be determined based on results of RAD exam scores. **Dancers do not need to take an exam to advance to the next level of classes in the following year. However, Grade 5 dancers must pass the exam with Merit (55-74 points) in order to go on pointe in Grade 6.** If a dancer skips a year of exams, they are still eligible to take the appropriate exam the following year.

WHEN ARE EXAMS?

RAD exams may be scheduled starting in March 2018—likely by the end of March—RAD is not able to schedule exact exam dates until all southwest exam entries have been received. Dancers taking vocational exams should receive individual letters with their assignments; all graded exam assignments will be posted in the lobby of the Ponderosa building.

Please contact the Academy should you need an official letter to release your student from school for their exam.

Exam times will be assigned to each dancer. Dancers should plan to arrive at the studio at least 45 minutes prior to their scheduled exam time to account for warm-up and any other last minute details.

It is possible that your child will be asked to attend an extra rehearsal in order to practice with the pianist (if applicable), work on spacing, etc. and will likely be scheduled in the days leading up to exams.

WHERE ARE EXAMS?

Exams will be held in Studio A at the Ponderosa Building.

WHAT DO I WEAR FOR EXAMS?

No additional attire is required other than regular class uniform. A character skirt will be provided for necessary exams. Primary dancers need light pink tights with feet and pink ballet shoes—leotards and skirts will be provided prior to their exam.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR EXAMS

Payments must be submitted to one of the Academy teachers or the Academy Office by the end of the Friday, January 19, 2018. Checks payable to "NAU Academy". We also accept all major credit and debit cards.

WHAT DO EXAMS COST?

- Accompanist Fees
- Character Skirt
- Examiner Fees (travel, lodging, per diem, etc.)

EXAM FEES

- Primary: \$75
- Grade 1: \$79
- Grade 2: \$83
- Grade 3: \$87
- Grade 4: \$91
- Grade 5: \$97
- Grade 6: \$99
- Grade 7: \$101
- Grade 8: \$103
- Intermediate: \$134
- Advanced Foundations: \$226
- Advanced 1: \$231
- Advanced 2: \$241

Dancers may choose to purchase individual lessons with Mr. Needhammer (\$55/hour) or Ms. Heather (\$45/hour) in preparation for exams. To purchase private lessons, please contact the Academy Office. As soon as lessons are purchased, the teacher will be notified and will contact the dancer to schedule a mutually beneficial session. Private lessons should be scheduled outside of regular class time and is subject to the teacher's availability.

CDs of the RAD exam music can be purchased through the Academy Office for \$5/CD.

HOW ARE EXAMS SCORED?

Dancers are given scores in various areas such as timing, musicality, alignment, etc. Points are added together for a total out of 100. Grades are as follows: 75-100 points = Distinction (gold); 55-74 points = Merit (silver); 40-54 points = Pass (bronze). While scores are based on a 100 point system, candidates are scored very differently from standard academic grades—e.g. a score of 77 at school may result in a "C" but for a ballet exam, a 77 is a very good score and considered a Distinction—scores in the 90s are almost unheard of.

Exam scores arrive in the summer and teachers receive a list of scores but scores are never made public. Parents and dancers are discouraged from discussing scores with friends. Exams are not meant to be a competition between dancers but rather to encourage each dancer to strive for his or her personal best.