

Miami University Dance Team Spring 09 Tryout Packet

Dear Prospective Miami Dance Team Member:

Thank you for your interest in the Miami University Dance Team! We are excited that you are considering our team, whether you are a current Miami student or beginning your college search. This packet contains information about our team and our tryout process.

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The nationally ranked Miami University Dance Team is a collegiate dance team program that is “on the rise” and has begun to generate a great deal of national recognition. We are a nationally competitive team and are proud to represent the Miami University RedHawks at home basketball and football games, intercollegiate competitions, on-campus event as well as in the community. The members of our team pride themselves on passion, dedication, and heart for our team, our university and dance.

If you love to dance, are dedicated and motivated, and want to be part of a TEAM in every sense of the word, the Miami Dance Team is a tremendous opportunity available to you during your college years.

****IMPORTANT:** In order to audition, you must be confirmed on your attendance to Miami in the upcoming fall semester and be able to demonstrate your acceptance to Miami University via acceptance letter / housing form.

All forms must be received at the start of the clinic in order to participate in our spring tryout. While it is not necessary to mail the forms in prior to the tryout, the paperwork needs to be completed upon arrival to the first workshop. **There is a mandatory non-refundable \$25.00 tryout fee that will be collected the first day of tryouts.**

Thanks again and good luck!

Eloiza Domingo-Snyder
Head Coach
Miami University Dance Team
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Miami University Dance Team Workshops and Tryout Detailed Schedule

Attendance is mandatory at both workshops in order to audition for the team. At the workshops, you will learn all tryout material, including dance and cheer combinations and skills. At the end of the workshops, you will sign up for or be assigned a tryout time for Sunday. **There is a mandatory non-refundable \$25.00 tryout fee that will be collected the first day of tryouts.** Only exact cash and checks made payable to “The Miami University Dance Team” are accepted. Tryout clinics are closed to the public.

Bring: water bottle, completed application and medical release, cassette tape if you want to record the music.

Wear: dance attire (form fitting – no baggy clothing), shoes you can dance in (jazz shoes, dance sneakers, etc.), appropriate hair and make-up; no excessive jewelry,

Day One – Registration, Tryout Workshop and Information Session

Date/Time: Friday, April 24, 2009, 5:00-9:00pm

Location: Sub Gymnasium, Millett Hall, Miami University

Who can attend: Any Miami student for the 2009-2010 year (including incoming first-year and transfer students)

Day Two – Tryout Workshop

Date/Time: Saturday, April 25, 2009; 9:00am-2:00pm

Location: Sub Gymnasium, Millett Hall, Miami University

Day Three – Final Tryouts

Date/time: Sunday, April 26, 2009; tryout slots begin at 9:00am

Location: Sub Gymnasium, Millett Hall, Miami University

You will try out in a 15-minute time slot. Wear dance attire (preferably black pants and a form-fitting top), hair neat and completely out of face, and dance shoes. No jewelry. Dancers will try out alone or in groups of two depending on numbers. Tryouts are closed to the public. Results will be posted on the Miami University Dance Team website within a week or as soon as possible. Good luck!

Frequently Asked Questions

What skills are included in tryouts for the Miami Dance Team?

Dancers auditioning for our team perform a set of technical skills as part of the tryout. The skill list includes: double and triple pirouettes, leaps on the right and left (split leaps, leaps in second, and switch leaps); fouette turns, fouette turns a la seconde, calypso, C jump, and toe-touch. Other dance and cheer skills may be changed or added. We will detail and review skills at the clinic.

Is the Miami Dance Team considered a sport?

Not officially. The Dance Team does not receive a varsity letter, and dance is not considered an NCAA sport. However, we are considered sponsored and managed by the Athletic Department and practice, train, and compete in a similar manner to many other RedHawk sports.

Can I tryout more than once?

Yes – there is no limit on the number of times you can tryout for our team unless authorized by the Head Coach.

How many spots are there on the Miami Dance Team?

As we are a growing program, we do not have a set number that we take. We set our team based on audition score breaks. The number of new members each year tends to depend on graduating seniors and

overall talent level of the audition pool. Our team usually ranges between 16 and 20 dancers, but could be larger.

Does the Dance Team hold clinics and give technique classes?

Yes. In the past we have held kids' clinics for local elementary and high school students. For more information on this and future clinics, please see our website.

I've heard of different dance groups at Miami. What is the difference between these groups?

- **Miami Dance Team (our team)** We are a nationally competitive collegiate team that performs at all home basketball and football games and attends annual intercollegiate competition.
- **Dance Theatre** – Dance Theatre is an eclectic dance company at Miami that showcases work in a dance concert each semester at Miami. This group specializes in lyrical and modern.
- **Shakerettes** – The Shakerettes are a drill and kickline team that has been part of the Miami tradition for over 30 years. They are part of the Miami Marching Band and perform at home football games and periodical home basketball games.
- **Visions Dance Company** - Visions is a dance student organization on Miami's campus that performs a broad variety of dance styles in a spring concert each year.
- **Hip Hop Dance Troupe** – The Hip Hop Dance Troupe is a dance student organization that specializes in various forms of hip hop expression and performs at a variety of on-campus events.

Can I study abroad if I am on the Dance Team?

In general, it is possible. Most team members that study abroad choose to do so in the summer, as these programs end before July and August camps. If a member has an interest in studying abroad for a semester, she must decide prior to trying out and notify the coach and captains.

Schedule and Expectations

Practices:

During the academic year, we will typically practice 4-5 days per week for 2-4 hours each practice. Practices begin the first week of classes and end with Nationals in April. Practices increase and may be held on weekends in the time before nationals, working with our choreographer, etc. The team is required to return early to campus in January and remain on campus during Spring Break. The team also maintains a required conditioning program at the Gross Center for student-athletes two days per week.

Summer Camp:

At the end of the summer, we attend National Dance Alliance (NDA) camp. Prior to leaving for camp, the team practices for several days in Oxford to prepare.

Football and Basketball Season:

We perform at all men's and women's home basketball games as well as all home football games (in addition to practices and other special performances.) This game season begins mid-September. Typically there are 1-2 games per week.

Traveling with the Basketball team:

The Dance Team is required to travel to and perform at the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Basketball tournament every March with our basketball teams. The tournament is held in Cleveland and is usually the week before Spring Break. We remain in Cleveland the duration that Miami is involved in the tournament.

National Competition:

Our main competition each year is the NDA Collegiate National Championship held in April in Daytona Beach, Florida. This is an amazing opportunity for our team and allows us to compete with some of the best dance teams in the country. It is important to note that due to nationals preparation, the team is required to return to campus early in January and stay at Miami for practice over Spring Break.

Special Performances:

In order to gain important performance experience and exposure as a team, we perform at functions on and off campus. Past performances have included: Greek Events (Bandstand and Puttin' on the Hits), exhibitions at high school dance competitions, high school basketball tournaments, etc.

Attendance:

Job interviews and some class-related functions are considered excused absences from practice, but studying, extra-curricular activities, sorority functions, and group meetings are not. Attendance is mandatory for all Dance Team functions!

Academic Expectations:

The Miami Dance Team believes that academics come first. Other than classes, Dance Team needs to be the first priority of every member (i.e. over jobs or other extra-curricular activities). All Dance Team members must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA to be part of the team. I

Approximate Monetary Costs / Fundraising:

The Miami Dance Team is funded by our Athletic Department, the Associated Student Government (ASG), and outside sponsorships for many of our expenses. We also fundraise throughout the year to cover various expenses. Important team fundraisers include our corporate sponsor program, clinics and poster sale. The out-of-pocket cost for first-years is \$200.00; \$100.00 for sophomores; and \$75.00 for juniors. These payments are due at the beginning of the season to cover shoes and other team apparel.

What are we looking for?

Talent, Potential, Dedication, Enthusiasm, positive attitudes and HEART! We look forward to seeing you at our auditions and creating another amazing team for 2009-2010!

******* FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROGRAM, CHECK OUT OUR "POLICY DOCUMENT," FOUND ON THE MAIN PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE. (Go to WWW.MUREDHAWKS.COM. Under the "This is Miami" tab, scroll to "Spirit Groups.")**

ATTACH PHOTO HERE

Miami Dance Team Application

Name: _____

Year in College next year (2009-2010): (circle one) First-Year Sophomore Junior Senior

Email Address: _____

Phone number (CELL PHONE) _____

Phone number (HOME): _____

Address (check: HOME SCHOOL):

High School attended (School name and City/State):

Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Miami University Dance Team Medical Release and Waiver

I _____, do hereby give permission to receive medical attention if the need should arise while I am participating in all activities relating to the Miami University Dance Team during the tryout clinic, final tryout, practices and performances.

I am allergic to the following medications:

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Parents' Signature (if under 18): _____ **Date:** _____

I _____, do hereby certify that I am covered by medical insurance:

Insurance company: _____

Policy number: _____

Or I will pay all medical bills I incur during the 2005-2006 Miami University Dance Team tryout clinic, final tryout, and practices.

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Parents' Signature (if under 18): _____ **Date:** _____

I _____, do hereby release Miami University and/or their employees, agents or designees from any liability arising out of the Miami University Dance Team auditions, practices and performances throughout the season. This release and waiver will bind my heirs, designees, administrators and others operating on my behalf to the Miami University Dance Team and/or its employees, agents or designees harmless from any responsibility arising out of this action.

Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Parents' Signature (if under 18): _____ **Date:** _____