

## SPOTLIGHT DANCE RULES

Dance students who attend a dance program away from home and outside of Southern California during the Spotlight year and whose parent(s) live in Southern California, may participate in Spotlight as long as they attend the rehearsal and final performance if advancing to the Grand Finale Performance. Proof of both online high school and dance program will be required. You may not be an apprentice or member of a professional dance company and participate in Spotlight.

### WHAT'S REQUIRED OF ME FOR MY DANCE PRELIMINARY 1 VIDEO AUDITION?

All students begin with a Preliminary 1 video audition. Those scoring highest will advance to Preliminary 2 live auditions in January or February 2026. Those scoring highest after Preliminary 2 will advance to the Semifinals.

- You will perform one solo in the style of your choice
- You may perform your own choreography
- Performance/competition video taken between November 2024 - October 2025 is allowed
- Your solo must not exceed 3 minutes
- For all forms of dancing, your choreography must show a range of movements: turns, jumps, controlled sustained movements, and extensions
- We encourage you to refrain from using too many gymnastic or dance team movements
- Please keep floor work and sustained poses to a minimum. We want to see you dance!!
- If you advance to Preliminary 2, you may either perform the same solo or change it

### AUDITION APPAREL

- Applicants may not wear pointe shoes
- Costumes are allowed but not necessary
- All dancers must wear a color that is in contrast to the background. In other words, don't wear all blue against a blue background.
- Do not wear all black against a black floor and backdrop
- Leotard, unitard, or rehearsal/jazz pants and fitted top are all great choices

### AUDITION MUSIC

- Please use original recordings for your music. **Do not use mashups or remixes of recorded music.** A remix is when an artist (typically a DJ) takes an existing piece of work from another artist and produces a different version of that musical recording. Email us with any questions at [spotlight@musiccenter.org](mailto:spotlight@musiccenter.org)
- Please do not lip sync or sing while dancing

### GUIDELINES FOR RECORDING YOUR AUDITION IF YOU ARE NOT SUBMITTING A PERFORMANCE VIDEO

- Your recording device can be a cell phone, tablet, camera, etc. You do NOT have to rent fancy recording equipment. We will refer to the recording device as "camera"
- Shoot straight on. You may either place the camera in a fixed spot, or it may follow your movements. However, keep the camera far enough away from you to see perspective. Do not film so far away that you appear small on screen. Do not get too close to the face during filming. Keep the camera movement simple and clean. You need to remember this is not a music video; it's your dance audition
- The camera should be placed sufficiently close to you so that all parts of the body are clearly visible
- Do not shoot into a mirror
- Record with the camera framing your entire body to capture movement in place as well as movement in and through space

- Ensure recording captures good quality sound and image
- Do not do any editing within the video
- When recording with a tablet or cellphone, use the landscape/horizontal mode for best results

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR AUDITION VIDEO

- After you have recorded your solo, watch it in playback to make sure you can be seen and the music heard
- When uploading, verify that the image is upright (not sideways) and plays smoothly
- Save and name your file and upload into application

## EVALUATION CRITERIA AND WHAT JUDGES ARE LOOKING FOR

You should approach your video filming as though you are performing for an audience. Do not look at the camera, but instead look out as though you are performing on stage, beyond the camera.

**Technique** - the skill to execute the demands of the choreography with proficiency and apparent ease

**Presentation** - the presentation of oneself, physically, at a standard recognized in this dance form

**Musicality and phrasing** - the ability to physically express the rhythm, melody, nuance, and character of the music through the choreography

**Artistry** - the creativity and sincerity of the performance, which arouses a response within the viewer. The connection and expression of the dancer to the story of the solo

*Please be sure you follow all requirements related to your application. Failure to comply with any of the requirements may result in disqualification during the review process and/or make your application ineligible for an award.*

For **guidelines or requirement** questions, email us at [spotlight@musiccenter.org](mailto:spotlight@musiccenter.org).

For **technical issues** please visit the **Acceptd Help Desk** at [support@getacceptd.com](mailto:support@getacceptd.com).

To **start or complete your Spotlight application**, go to: <https://app.getacceptd.com/musiccenter>. If your application is already open, simply click on the Acceptd tab on your computer to return to it.