

Testing

Each level, starting at Intermediate., will have certain criteria they will be tested on for Advancement. The higher the level, the more challenging the criteria will be. Expectations for every skill and criteria category will be age and level-appropriate. We will bring in guest adjudicators who will judge the following:

1. **Foundation/Combos:** Fundamental moves and breaking combos that are a mixture of moves and concepts that the students must learn. They will go from basic to more complicated as rank gets higher.
2. **Cypher:** Breaking in a circle, freestyling, using set combinations, listening to the music, understanding energy and flow, while utilizing moves the student knows and displaying their style.
3. **Performance:** Knowledge of how to perform in front of an audience. Learning counts, performance concepts, memorization, showmanship, and stage presence. Advanced levels may be asked to create original choreography and showcase their own routine.
4. **Battles:** Etiquette and protocols of the art of battling. Battling will only be included as an adjudicated criterion at higher levels of Advancement. The higher the level, the more rounds students will be battling.
 5. **Creativity:** Using the imagination to create, elevate other moves, or display original ideas. Students will be asked to show creative processes and/or demonstrate original moves.
6. **Endurance:** Students must show that they can pace themselves through continuous movement. This could include doing a certain number of endurance drills, displaying breaking fundamentals for a designated length of time, dancing within a certain timed set, or executing through several battle rounds.
7. **Knowledge Test:** Adjudicators will quiz their students' knowledge during their Advancement test. This is to show that they understand and grasp the concept of breaking terminology, history, and philosophy.
8. **Legacy and Honor:** Each quarter will have a different focus on a legacy and honor value: leadership, empathy, kindness, growth mindset, etc. Students will learn it, understand it, implement it, and make it practical.

Again, expectations for every skill and criteria category will be age and level-appropriate. We want our students to look forward to Advancement Testing as a celebration of their hard work, rather than a dreaded examination to fear.

What to expect during and after Advancement Testing:

Advancement testing days will be structured similarly to belt testing in martial arts, so friends and family will be invited into the classroom to watch and support their dancers. Students will receive a written evaluation to show them areas in which they were strongest and where there is still room for improvement. Those who pass Advancement to the next level will be awarded a Certificate of Advancement.

Dancers who pass an Advancement may be offered a new, more challenging class to transfer into. However, many classes are split-level so an Advancement does not mean that a dancer will need to change classes, but they will earn a higher-rank shirt color.

Advancement will likely happen in December/January, May/June, and August/September. Dancers who advance in May/June will not change classes until summer or fall session. Only 1 Advancement test per year is required, but all students will be encouraged to test each time to help keep track of how they are progressing in general.

The main benefits of Advancement testing are to clearly understand which areas of focus have room for improvement, to encourage growth through courage and determination, to spark joy by accomplishing a goal and being celebrated, and to further develop a growth mindset.

Advancement testing is the only way to move up in levels beyond Beginning classes. If your dancer feels more comfortable doing private Advancement testing, a special rate can be negotiated to facilitate that. The goal is for each student to feel comfortable and encouraged by this process, and the support of one another as classmates will be an emphasized value.

What happens if my child doesn't advance?

If a dancer doesn't score high enough to pass their Advancement, they will still receive a written evaluation to see clearly what they need to work on for next time. They will not receive a new shirt color, but they will not be demoted. Their class placement will remain the same.

Re-testing can also be scheduled within 3 weeks for \$50. Otherwise, they will be encouraged to keep working hard in preparation for the next scheduled Advancement test they choose to take.

Cost:

Shirts: \$25 per shirt*

**Advancement in rank will require a new shirt each time. Shirts will be required as class dress code except on "Free Dress" days or during Spirit Weeks.*

Testing: \$97 per Advancement test*, \$50 for testing re-takes

**Advancement testing is required to move up in levels, starting at the Intermediate level. Intro. and Beginning Breaking do not have required testing. Up to 3 Advancement tests will be offered per year but are only required once if Advancement is achieved.*