

Appalachian Performing Arts 2025-2026 Dress Code

General Requirements:

- Legs must be covered at all times (tights, leggings, or athletic pants- whichever is acceptable for the specific class).
- All undergarments and private areas must be fully covered and not visible through or around clothing(Visible bra straps are acceptable).
- Leotards and bottoms must fully cover the seat area; thong-style or cheeky cuts are not permitted.
- Clothing must stay in place during movement — items that ride up or require constant adjusting are not allowed.

Requirements for female students:

- A leotard is required for all classes. Other items may be added to the outfit.

Requirements for Male Students:

- The midsection must be covered.
- Going shirtless is not permitted.
- Shirts/tops must cover the chest and sides.
- Male students may be required to tuck shirts in.

Hair:

- Hair must be neat, secured out of the face, tied back if longer than chin-length, and styled to stay in place for the duration of class without distraction.

Class-Specific Requirements:

- First Steps - Ladies; Pink ballet shoes. Gentlemen; Black ballet shoes
- Little Dancers - Ladies; pink ballet shoes. Gentlemen; black ballet shoes.
- ALL Clogging Classes - White clogging shoes with seven stomper taps or buck taps(taps with two separate pieces of metal per each tap that make the “jingling” sound). Split sole shoes are recommended, especially for level two and three clogging classes.
- ALL Tap Classes - Black tap shoes. Split soles are recommended, especially for level two and * three classes.
- ALL Jazz Classes - Black Jazz Shoes. Please avoid overly-baggy clothing.
- ALL Acro(Acrobatics) Classes - Feet must be bare/fully exposed while legs remain covered. (Transition tights or footless tights are a great option for this.)
- ALL Musical Theatre Classes - Black Jazz Shoes.
- ALL HipHop Classes - Hip hop shoes, jazz shoes, or athletic shoes designated for class(not for outside use). Any color is acceptable for class, however a specific color will be required for recitals/performance(usually black).
- ALL Ballet Classes- Ladies; Pink ballet shoes. Gentleman; Black ballet shoes. Please avoid overly-baggy clothing.
- ALL Modern and Contemporary Classes - Feet must be bare/fully exposed while legs remain covered(transition tights or footless tights are a great option for this).

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Please, no:

- Midriffs, visible cleavage, low/plunging necklines, or exposed stomachs.
- Jeans, jean shorts, denim, or non-athletic pants.
- Skirts/dresses that exceed knee length.
- Street shoes in the classroom
- Movement-restrictive clothing.
- Platform shoes or high heels.
- Large or distracting jewelry.
- Formal Dresses.
- Bathing suits.
- Boxers/undergarments in place of shorts/pants.
- Pajamas/sleepwear (except for on permitted days).
- Clothing with inappropriate language, images, or graphics.
- Cleanliness and Upkeep:
- Students must arrive to class clean, dry, and presentable.

More Guidelines and Reminders:

- **Tights are not pants and must be worn with a leotard.**
- If any accessory distracts a student during class, it may be removed for the duration of class.
- Dance shoes are for indoor use only on clean dance floors.
- During “special events”(e.g. Christmas Week, Spirit Week, etc), students may be invited to “dress up” - General dress code rules still apply.
- “Extra items” (hair ties, socks, bobby pins, etc.) may be available in exchange for fifty cents, one dollar, or a small physical exercise(push-ups, sit ups,etc) at instructor’s discretion.
- Underwear is not required under a leotard if the student is modestly covered.
- Students may be asked to remove hoodies or hats during class time.
- Students may be asked to remove press on nails/fake nails for specific classes/performances.

Discipline:

- New students will receive a three week “grace period” to gather items needed to meet dress code standards.
- Students will receive a first-time warning if they fail to follow dress code.
- Continued failure to comply with dress code may result in the student being asked to sit out of class until proper attire is worn.
- Failure to follow recital or performance dress code may result in temporary or permanent dismissal from classes or performances.
- No tuition or fee refunds are offered in such cases.

Recitals/Performances:

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- A different set of dress code standards may be set in place for recitals or specific performances. Please stay up-to-date by reading all emails and documents that are sent from Appalachian Performing Arts. These dress code standards may be enforced during class in preparation for upcoming performances. We will notify all students/parents/account holders in advance.

A Note on Dress Code:

- Wearing clean, proper dancewear shows respect for the teacher, class, and art form, and signals readiness to learn and grow. Inappropriate or overly casual clothing can suggest a lack of seriousness, even if unintended. Proper attire promotes focus, safety, and success by allowing instructors to see alignment clearly and helping prevent injuries. Dressing appropriately helps students feel confident and prepared for a productive class.