



Dear Musical Theatre Level I-IV Students and Parents,

Welcome to NOCCA's Musical Theatre program for the 2018-19 school year!

Prelude (orientation) is **Wednesday, August 15th at the time arts instruction would begin**. Please report to the arts instruction classroom. **This is a mandatory event.**

The first day of classes is **Thursday, August 16th. If the student is in Academic Studio, he/she should report to class at 8:00am. Otherwise, please report to school at the time of arts instruction.**

NOCCA's Musical Theatre Department prepares students for continued study in a college or conservatory arts program. With ten classes a week in dance, acting, and music, students develop a **pre-professional** mindset in their approach to the arts. Classes are supplemented with a variety of activities, including **masterclasses** with guest artists, **workshops**, student-driven projects, as well as attending and critiquing **professional productions**. Each member of our faculty is a working professional in their field and is dedicated to passing that experience and knowledge on to the next generation of artists. We assume our students are interested in pursuing a career in theatre, and we encourage and advocate for them in that goal. However, we support any career that our students ultimately decide to pursue: we believe that our **process-driven curriculum** teaches them to be thoughtful, creative, and collaborative no matter their path.

**Rising Seniors** should come prepared to discuss their college plans. Each Senior (regardless of whether they plan to continue in a college arts program or not) must prepare an **audition binder** and successfully complete a **senior jury**. For Seniors auditioning for national arts programs, NOCCA attends **Unified Auditions in Chicago** in the first week of February. In September we will have a meeting with Senior parents about the college application process, preparing auditions, and any other related issues.

**Attendance:** please refer to the student/parent handbook for attendance policies. **Please note:** many of the Musical Theatre classes are based on **participation**. Absences, for any reason, will have a negative impact on the training and progress of the student.

**NOCCA Productions:** This year, due to a variety of needs both within the department and campus-wide, we are changing our traditional production schedule. In November, the Musical Theatre Department will have a production of **student-driven work**: over the past several years we have encouraged students to participate in all aspects of theatre, not just performing but also planning, producing, directing, and even writing. This production will be the next logical step for that work. In February, we will present the musical **Guys and Dolls** in an intimate, immersive production in the Black Box Theatre with guest director (and former Sister Sarah Brown on Broadway!) Leslie Castay. And to close out the year, there will be a **concert production** of a large-scale musical (in the vein of previous concert productions of *Titanic* and *Ragtime*.) The title of that musical and the guest artists involved are in the works.

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## Outside performances:

**Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors** are allowed, and encouraged, to participate in productions at other high schools and community or professional theaters. However, these productions **must not conflict** with NOCCA classes, rehearsals, or performances. Each student must receive written permission from the Musical Theatre Department chair prior to auditioning or accepting a role in any outside production. Please feel free to email Jefferson Turner ([jturner@nocca.com](mailto:jturner@nocca.com)) during the summer to request permission for outside productions during the fall.

**Seniors:** please remember that your fall semester is going to be busy with college applications and preparations for juries. In the past, Seniors who committed themselves to productions during the fall found that it added stress and subtracted time from their college preparation. There is no specific policy regarding this, rather, please use your own maturity and foresight during this most important semester.

**Freshmen** are **not allowed** to participate in outside productions and competition teams. NOCCA's classes are demanding in time and energy; it is necessary for new high school students to spend their first year focused on classes and their training.

## Dress Requirements

To instill a sense of ensemble and professionalism in the classroom, students in the Musical Theatre Department must wear **BLACK** for all classes: the standards for the NOCCA campus as a whole apply. The dress code specifically for Dance classes is attached: please review, as we have tried to streamline the code and respond to any questions.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email Jefferson Turner at [jturner@nocca.com](mailto:jturner@nocca.com).

Have a great summer and be ready for an exciting and challenging school year!

The NOCCA Musical Theatre Faculty  
Jefferson Turner, Chair  
[jturner@nocca.com](mailto:jturner@nocca.com)



## Dress Code for Dance Class:

Female: for all dance classes:

- Attire: Black leotards.
- No leggings, sweatpants, pantyhose, or snap leotards. No shorts.
- Warm-ups and cover-ups must be black: You must wear cover-ups while changing classes or at dismissal. Students are not allowed to walk the campus in leotards.
- Hair: must be off the neck, in a secure bun. No ponytails or hanging hairstyles. If hair is natural, it can be pulled back into a puff. Dreadlocks, braids, or twists must be secured off the neck and face.
- No jewelry (rings, watches, bracelets, or dangling earrings).
- No henna (unless for religious or ceremonial reasons), no ink or marker drawings.

Male: for all dance classes:

- Attire: Black convertible tights, dance belt.
- Gym shorts are **NOT** allowed in Ballet or Jazz, but are allowed in Tap. No biker shorts.
- No sweatpants or baggy clothing.
- Hair requirements: for gentlemen with longer hair, the same requirements as above.
- No hats, wraps, or bandanas.
- No jewelry (rings, watches, bracelets, or dangling earrings).
- No henna (unless for religious or ceremonial reasons), no ink or marker drawings.

## BALLET:

Female:

- Pink tights
- Pink ballet shoes

Male:

- White or black fitted shirt
- Black convertible tights
- White ballet shoes with white socks OR black ballet shoes with black socks.

## JAZZ

Female:

- Black convertible tights
- Black split sole jazz shoes (no jazz/dance sneakers)

Male:

- Black convertible tights
- Black leotard, black fitted shirt, or black tank top
- Black split sole jazz shoes (no jazz/dance sneakers)

## TAP:

Female:

- Black convertible tights

Male:

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- Black convertible tights or black gym shorts

**TAP SHOE SPECIFICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS** \*updated April 11, 2017

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Black Oxford style, lace up
- Hard toe box strongly recommended
- No Mary-Jane or slip-on shoes.
- Must have a full sole that runs across the bottom of the shoe, single or double sole is fine
- No “split-sole” or flexible jazz shoe style.
- Rubber on bottom of soles not recommended
- Shank not recommended

**METAL TAPS:**

- Recommended: Capezio Tele-Tone or Supersonic.
- 3 Screws: must be *actual screws*, not brads.
  - 1-screw taps are not acceptable or stable. (These can be found on Capezio CG09, which we do NOT recommend.)
- We recommend that all dancers carry a screwdriver in their dance bag to make sure that the screws on their taps are properly maintained... this helps us protect our floors!

**RECOMMENDED RETAILERS:**

- **Carmel's Dance Wear**
  - 3004 Cleary Ave, Metairie LA 70002
  - 504-457-0101
  - customerservice@carmelsdancewear.com
  - [orders@carmelsdancewear.com](mailto:orders@carmelsdancewear.com)
- **Discount Dance**
  - [www.discountdance.com](http://www.discountdance.com)

For specific questions, please email NOCCA’s Tap Instructor: Heidi Malnar at [hmalnar@nocca.com](mailto:hmalnar@nocca.com)