

Mid-Pacific Institute School of the Arts Certificate Handbook 2014-15

The Mid-Pacific Institute School of the Arts Certificate program is modeled after nationally successful performing and visual arts high schools that offer conservatory arts training. Students with strong talent and interest in the arts study with professional teachers/artists in a disciplined, rigorous environment. Emphasis is placed upon the student's individual growth and technique within their art discipline, with a careful balance between classroom work and public performances or exhibitions. We expect that students who have enrolled in the School of the Arts Certificate program want to stretch their abilities, knowledge and methodology in the arts and are interested in the long-term academic/artistic benefits of arts study.

All students are required to conduct their study and behavior in accordance with the academic and behavior guidelines established for Mid-Pacific Institute as a whole. Within the Mid-Pacific Institute School of the Arts, we attempt to make our rules, procedures, policies and grading comparable to those of the professional arts world which is highly demanding and disciplined. Therefore, School of the Arts students must comply with each of the following guidelines for the successful completion of the School of the Arts certificate program:

1. Meet the professional standards expected in the School of the Arts by demonstrating self-discipline, self-motivation, good morals and a professional attitude at all times.
2. Give full commitment to the training by demonstrating preparation, participation and cooperation in the School of the Arts program.
3. Demonstrate proper social behavior and be a student role model at school and in the public, exhibiting the School of the Arts ideals of maturity, respect and professionalism.
4. Show respect for faculty, directors and peers.
5. Show respect and care for equipment, classrooms, theatres and surrounding areas and grounds.
6. Be present and on time to all classes, rehearsals, performances, exhibitions and other required events.
7. Fulfill outside discipline requirements, such as participation in School of the Arts performances, attending required outside productions or events and passing required portfolio reviews.
8. Receive a final grade of no lower than a "C+" in all School of the Arts courses.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR MPSA CLASSES

The classes in the Mid-Pacific Institute School of the Arts are highly sequential and experiential: daily course work is almost always a continuation of work done at the previous class meeting. For these reasons, students are expected to be present and on time every day, ready to work and properly attired. The following is the policy for determining quarter grades based on absences from class in all MPSA disciplines.

- **ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE** will lower the quarter grade one entire letter grade: example, a B+ would be lowered to a C+, two (2) unexcused absences would lower the grade to a D+, etc. **In addition, certificate students will be dropped from the program on the first unexcused absence.**
- You will be **allowed three (3) excused absences per quarter** prior to your grade being lowered one step: example, if at the end of the quarter you have 5 excused absences and your grade is a B+ it would be lowered to a B, if you have 6 excused absences it would be lowered to a B-, etc.
- **TARDIES EQUAL AN ABSENCE:** Students who are tardy and do not have a re-admit pass will be considered unexcused. Three (3) unexcused tardies equals an absence. Latecomers may not join the class once exercises have begun without permission of the instructor. Students must be actively participating in the class to receive credit for attendance.
- **BEING EXCUSED FROM PARTICIPATION:** Students who are excused from participation due to illness or injury are required to bring a note from a parent or guardian, and/or a medical professional.
- **EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES:** Extenuating circumstances may require medically excused absences to be dealt with by the instructor and the Director of the School of the Arts on an individual basis.

Students are reminded that they must have a final grade of at least a C+ to receive their School of the Arts Certificate for any given school year. Therefore, should excessive absences result in a final grade below C+, a student will not receive a certificate for that school year.

In determining your grade each new quarter, you will begin with a “clean slate” of zero absences.

MPSA DANCE CLASS DRESS CODE

*All footwear must be labeled with your name on the inside.

BALLET ATTIRE-LADIES

Pink ballet slippers*
Pink or tan tights
Capezio Style CC202 Black Leotard
Leotard must adequately cover all under garments
Hair must be secured away from face with a hair net
and hairpins

BALLET ATTIRE-MEN

White ballet shoes*
Tight fitting tee shirt
Spandex bike shorts or tights level 4 and higher
Gym Shorts above knees, level 1, 2, 3

CONTEMPORARY DANCE ATTIRE-LADIES

Tights
Leotard that adequately covers all under garments
Black jazz shoes-low cut or slip-on* No jazz boots
Hair secured away from face at the discretion of individual
Instructor – see syllabus
Knee pads – per instructor

CONTEMPORARY DANCE ATTIRE-MEN

Tight fitting tee shirt
Spandex bike shorts or tights, level 4 and higher
Gym shorts above knees, level 1, 2, 3
Black jazz shoes-low cut or slip-on* No jazz boots
Knee pads – per instructor

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS MID-YEAR EVALUATION

The Mid-Pacific Institute School of the Arts faculty conducts and sends out a mid-year review to every student in the certificate program, typically in January. This form is intended to give the student and parents an idea about how they are progressing within their art discipline. In order to continue in the certificate program after the first year of enrollment, students must receive an invitation to return each subsequent year. This invitation is based on this mid-year evaluation.

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS ARTISTIC PROBATION

A student who fails to meet the expectations and requirements of the MPSA program will first receive a verbal warning. If action is not taken by the student to correct the problem, a member of the MPSA faculty will contact the student's parents. If the behavior continues or reoccurs, the student will be placed on artistic probation. The parents will receive written notification that their student has been placed on Artistic Probation. This notification will include a set amount of time to correct the situation. The ultimate goal of artistic probation is not to punish the student but to provide a chance to solve problems that interfere with their success in the School of the Arts. Students who fail to correct the issue before the deadline on their notification will not receive a certificate or receive School of the Arts notation on their transcript.

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS DISMISSAL POLICY

If a student is not taken off artistic probation by the date specified, the student will be dismissed from the certificate program and will not receive a certificate or receive School of the Arts notation on his/her transcript. Students wanting to return to the School of the Arts Certificate program for the following school year must reapply and have approval from the Director of the School of the Arts. Under certain circumstances a student may be dismissed from the certificate program without any warning. Such circumstances include but are not limited to an unexcused absence from a School of the Arts class or student behavior deemed grossly inappropriate or unacceptable. Students dismissed from the certificate program will remain in their arts classes.

MPI ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students on Academic Probation (GPA below 2.00, receiving 2 or more “F” or because of Citizenship) are not permitted to participate in School of the Arts performances or exhibitions. A student placed on Academic Probation during rehearsal for a show has two weeks to get off Academic Probation before they are removed from the production. Students that are not able to fulfill their School of the Arts Requirements due to the consequences of being on Academic Probation will not receive a certificate or receive School of the Arts notation on their transcript.

CENSORSHIP

Parents and students should be aware that, at the high school level, the School of the Arts generally does not censor material used in classes or productions. The policy should not be construed, however, to mean, “anything goes.” The faculty relies heavily upon material from traditions that are considered to be the best of their genre. Some of this material - even in classical works – could be considered “PG-13” or “R.” The faculty discourages the use of material that contains gratuitous profanity, vulgarity, sexual content or content that glorifies drugs or alcohol. At the middle school level, great care is taken to select age appropriate material.

PERFORMANCES OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

We encourage students to participate in outside performance activities, if and only if, they do not conflict with the School of the Arts hours. Students may not always know which projects are legitimate professional experiences or understand the time commitment involved in such projects, therefore, we require all students to clear their potential involvement in such projects with a School of the Arts program head or the School of the Arts Director prior to their acceptance in any outside activities such as TV, film, commercials, extra work, modeling, theatre productions, dance concerts, etc.

ARTS DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC OUTSIDE REQUIREMENTS

For Mid-Pacific Institute School of the Arts Certification

Students who do not meet all requirements of their specific arts discipline will not receive the MPSA Certificate nor will the MPSA notation appear on their transcripts.

General Requirements For All Arts Disciplines

- 1. Students are required to attend all assigned MPSA meetings, coaching and mentoring sessions, workshops, lectures, field trips, outside performances and performances or exhibitions within their program.**
- 2. Students are encouraged to attend all MPSA art exhibitions, dance concerts, music concerts and theatre productions.**

DANCE

All **Technique Level 1 & 2** will participate in an in class performance or informal showing of an in class project.

All **Technique Level 3-7** students are required to audition as a dancer in at least one dance concert per year. Participation as a performer requires after-school rehearsals. If a student is not cast in a work as a performer, that student must participate as technical crew, backstage crew, or front-of-house which includes box office, serving refreshments at intermissions and ushering dance concerts.

Please refer to dance dress code

DANCE/HULA

Participation in the annual Hula Concert is required. Participation as a performer requires after-school rehearsals. **3rd & 4th** year students may also audition for dance concerts. Participation is not guaranteed.

Please refer to dance dress code

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

1st, 2nd & 3rd year students must take private lessons in voice or on his/her musical instrument for the entire school year. (Students with any concerns about fulfilling this requirement, please consult with the music faculty as soon as possible.) All students must perform in the winter and spring music concerts. All students must participate in additional concerts (dates to be determined.) Participation as a performer requires after school rehearsals on occasion. All upper level students will be given individual music projects to be completed independently.

VISUAL ARTS

ALL visual arts certificate students will be required to complete portfolio assignments of the regularly scheduled class period for the entire school year. All students are required to attend weekly after-school studio sessions and scheduled seminars throughout the entire year. All students must pass required portfolio reviews.

DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS

All media certificate students will be required to complete portfolio assignments throughout the school year in their media art classes. Two additional portfolio projects are required each semester to be completed independently outside of scheduled classes. All students must pass required portfolio reviews and project assessments.

THEATRE ARTS

1st, 2nd & 3rd year students in grades 8-10 should try to contribute their time to at least one theatre production per year. Participation can be as technical crew, backstage crew, front-of-house, which includes box office, serving refreshments at intermissions, ushering theatre performances or as a performer. Students are encouraged to audition for at least one of the productions for the audition experience. Students are not guaranteed a role in the annual productions.

3rd, 4th & 5th year students in Grades 11-12 are required to audition for and participate in at least one MPSA Theatre Production or as a dancer in at least one MPSA Dance Concert. Please note that participation in a vocal ensemble concert does not fulfill this requirement. Participation can include Performing, Assistant Directing, Assistant Choreography, House manager/Head Usher, Stage manager, Running Lights or Sound, Creating Video, Hair and Makeup Design, etc. Participation as a performer requires approximately seven weeks of rehearsals, technical crew requires approximately three weeks of rehearsals, and front-of-house requires 2-3 weeks of scheduled performance times.

Those taking contemporary dance please refer to the dance dress code

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