I. PURPOSE AND MISSION

A. The UTEP Dance Team strive to promote pride and school spirit by initiating crowd enthusiasm and actively engaging with our fans. The dance program supports many different athletic events, and community functions/appearances throughout the calendar year.

B. Members are committed to their role as ambassadors of the University and represent UTEP at a variety of alumni, civic and charitable events with a positive attitude and collegiate image that emulate the values of The University of Texas at El Paso. Each team member will uphold all of the standards, rules and regulations contained herein.

C. Members will develop transferable skills that will be assets to their professional and personal growth. We pledge to introduce, develop, and/or refine communication skills, organizational skills, scheduling and planning, and time management, to name a few. The members of our team will receive the resources to assist them with academic success and they will graduate!

II. COMPOSITION

A. The dancers shall consist of designated numbers of male and female dancers on the Orange Team (Varsity) and Blue Team (JV).

B. Blue Team members may be available to perform and fill vacancies on the Orange Team when necessary.

C. The number of squad members may increase or decrease at the discretion of the coach. Orange Team members may move down to Blue Team if work ethic, skills, attitude, performance, etc.... regresses. Blue Team members may move up if skills are up to par or a vacancy needs to be filled.

D. Walk-ons may be added at the discretion of the coach.

III. ELIGIBILITY

A. A member of the UTEP Dance Team must be enrolled for a minimum of twelve (12) undergraduate or six (6-9) graduate credit hours (dependent on college) per semester at UT El Paso for the period he or she will serve.

B. A member must have and maintain a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average and not be on academic or disciplinary probation of any kind to be a member of the dance team.

C. Failure to meet these minimum eligibility requirements may result in suspension or removal of the team for the remainder of the semester.
IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A. All dancers selected at try-outs are considered finalists. The final dancer(s) will be selected in August by the coach based on, but not limited to, grades, enrollment at UTEP, respect, commitment, attitude, performance, skills, work ethic, ability to pick up material, athleticism, study hall, workouts, physical fitness, attendance, overall talent, and endurance.

B. Any squad member that resigns from the squad at any time after tryouts or during the football or basketball season may try out for following school year, but may be required to sit out a semester at discretion of coach. An appeal may be made after a year’s absence and an exception will be made only by mutual agreement of the coaches. All students must try-out each year and a student is assured a position on the squad he or she is selected to only for the school year involved. A student dismissed from the squad for disciplinary reasons may be prohibited from trying out in the future.

C. Individuals must complete a sickle cell test and pass a physical examination prior to becoming members of the UTEP Dance Team.

D. Squad members are required to carry health insurance at all times during the year and to show proof of coverage to the coach and the Athletic Training Staff (you are responsible for reporting any changes to your medical insurance with the Athletic Trainers). Individuals not already included in a family plan may purchase the student health insurance endorsed by the University.

E. Individuals must sign an Indemnification Agreement prior to becoming members of the Dance Team.

F. Individuals must sign a statement stating they understand and agree to the rules, regulations, and consequences contained herein prior to becoming members of the Dance Team.

G. Squad members are encouraged not to be employed during the football/basketball and summer season. Work will not be considered a legitimate excuse for missing any scheduled games, workouts, practices, or functions unless approved by the coach. Squad members are expected to be available for all scheduled games, practices, and events/functions.

H. Squad members may NOT participate in any non-university Dance activities or camps without the advanced approval of the coach (NCA/UCA).

I. UTEP Dancers may not be a member of a Dance Competition Team. No Exceptions!

J. All squad members are expected to assist with recruitment as determined.

V. SERVICE AWARDS

A. Twenty five (25) squad members are eligible (depending on the availability of funds) to receive a service award mid semester and following tryouts in the spring semester. This is contingent meeting 2.5 GPA, proper return of all uniforms, equipment, and payment of any funds owed.

B. The amount of the service awards will be determined by the amount available. Leadership Team may receive a service award amount greater than other squad members. Fall service award will generally be smaller than spring service awards to encourage members to fulfill their obligation for the entire year.

C. A squad member will not receive a service award if he/she is dismissed, resigns, or fails to remain eligible as stated in Article III. This includes members who complete the fall semester, but do not remain on the team for the spring. Further, a service award may be withheld as stated above.
D. A service award can be revoked by the coach for disciplinary reasons or may be reduced due to absences and/or tardiness.
E. You must have at least a 2.5 GPA to be eligible for service award.
F. You must be enrolled in 12 hrs to be eligible for service award.
G. You must accrue 10 hrs of community or campus service hours in addition to our athletic events.

VI. POSITIONS

A. The designated Team Leader(s) of the Dance Team will be selected by the coach and will have the following duties and responsibilities:
   1. To report behavior that may be viewed as unbecoming of a representative of UTEP Dance Team.
   2. To be examples of following the rules and regulations contained herein;
   3. To help run strict and organized practices;
   4. To call squad members with any additional information regarding games, practices, events, etc.;
   5. To report gym activity by squad members as outlined in the squad's workout policy;
   6. To lead the squad in all regards in the absence of the coaches.
B. The "Blue Team" will be selected by the coach and will have the following duties and responsibilities:
   1. To attend all practices, workouts, women's sporting events and volunteer at community/campus events.
   2. To join Orange Team or if there is a vacancy, and/or when certain individual improvements are made at the coach’s discretion; and
   3. To dance at women’s games/functions
   4. The Blue Team members may, or may not, have all the privileges a varsity team member has.

VII. PRACTICES

A. Summer practices, as of today, are scheduled to be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00a.m. to 11:00 a.m. beginning June 3rd. If employed, squad members must work around our practice and S&C days/times. The coach has the option to keep the squad later or to call extra practices if necessary (expect several weekend practices).
B. Fall and Spring practices are scheduled to be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:20 p.m.
C. You must be in Holiday Hall, stretching/reviewing and ready to begin by :05 minutes after the hour (11:05a) otherwise, you will be considered late (see discipline plan).
D. No visible CELL PHONES will be allowed at any time during practice (including water breaks). Cell phones must be kept out of plain sight (keep in your bag, purse, etc..) and on silent mode. You may be asked to leave the gym if I catch you on your cell phone and will be considered an unexcused absence. Exceptions (emergencies, family illness, etc..) will be made at the discretion of the coaches.
E. The coach or assistant, will conduct all practices. When a formation is called out, everyone is expected to get in their places immediately without any talking, disturbance or delay to ensure fast and uninterrupted practices.
F. **No Sitting! Ever!** You will work on individual skills during any down time. If I catch you standing around not working on skills you may be asked to leave practice and will be considered an unexcused absence (see discipline plan).

G. Every squad member must attend all practices.

H. A squad member that is injured is expected to be present at all practices unless excused by the coach.

I. **All squad members are expected to arrange their class, work, and personal schedules around scheduled games, practices, and functions.** However, during final examinations, individual squad members may be excused from games if the individual can show that he/she has a final exam.

J. **Negative attitudes are not welcomed** and will not be tolerated! I expect nothing but positive attitudes and good energy in my gym! I will not tolerate disrespectful behavior towards myself, assistant coach, trainers, and your teammates.

K. This is a ZERO tolerance program. No Drugs! You will not consume alcohol before or during practice/games/events/appearance. You will be dismissed from the team if you engage in this kind of activity!

**ATTENDANCE**

A. Practices are mandatory!!!!

B. Tardiness and absences must be preceded by a phone call. **Acceptable excuses for tardiness will be determined by the coach.** Please refer to discipline plan for further explanation of consequences.

   - 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence
   - 1 unexcused absence = suspension; travel may be compromised; possible removal;
   - 3 excused absences = suspension; no travel; possible removal
   - 2 suspensions = removal of team

C. Tardiness will earn you laps within a certain time limit and extra 30 min of study hall after practice in addition to consequences stated in discipline plan.

D. Illness is the only legitimate excuse for an absence and must be preceded by a telephone call to the coach. For an excused absence, a squad member must present a written physician’s statement to the coach immediately upon return.

E. Emergencies will be handled on a case by case basis.

**VIII. Games**

A. All squad members must meet and be present at least 2 hours prior to football game time and basketball game times unless otherwise notified. The meeting time and place will be designated by the coach.

B. Any squad member that forgets any piece of his or her uniform for a game (i.e. Costumes, poms socks, etc.) will be sent home for it and will be counted as tardy upon return.

C. If you miss a practice during a game week you will not perform that game (includes, but not limited to, illness, injury, etc... at discretion of coach).
Personal Appearance

1. **Females**
   a. Jewelry is not allowed (rings, bracelets, necklaces, belly rings, etc...)
   b. Fingernail polish if worn, must be clear or nude (based on your skin tone) (i.e. no bright reds, light pink, white, etc.)
   c. Fingernails should be kept at a reasonable length.
   d. Hair should be neatly groomed, bangs pulled back and of appropriate styling and color.
   e. No gum during games or functions... Don’t make me tell you more than once!!
   f. Makeup should be more of an All-American look. No blue or white eyeshadow, dark eyeliner and dark lipstick. No think drawn in eyebrows! Less is more. We must uphold my vision of a collegiate image (we can discuss in further detail if you are unsure of appropriateness.)
   g. Earrings – only one small silver stud will be allowed per lobe- no diamonds, pearls, cubic zirconia. If you abuse this rule then no earrings will be allowed!
   h. Any and all tattoos must be covered at all times. **I strongly suggest you refrain from getting visible tattoos until your dance career is over.**

2. **Males**
   a. No jewelry will be permitted in uniform
   b. Hair must be neatly groomed and the length must be approved by the coach (no inappropriate coloring).
   c. Accessories of any kind must be approved by the coach.
   d. No gum during games or functions.
   e. Face must neatly groomed for any and all functions.

A. **Conduct During Games:**
1. Girls must keep their hands on their hips when not cheering and or dancing. **Always!**
2. Do not play around or goof off on the sidelines.
3. You will **SMILE** and look like you are having fun on the sideline the entire game whether we are winning or losing or **YOU WILL NOT PERFORM!!!**
4. Keep talking to a minimum.
5. No PDA will be allowed when in UTEP DANCE UNIFORM (holding hands, kissing, inappropriate embrace (legs around person, long hugs) etc..)
6. At the end of a game you are not to leave the area until dismissed by the coach. (The same applies to halftime).
7. The team leaders and coaches will determine what cheers, dances, or cadences/dances will be performed.
   a. The squad may make recommendations subject to the prior approval of the coach.
8. Conference USA, ACCAA, and NCAA rules and guidelines will be followed at all times.
9. There will be NO dead time at game! You will dance, cheer if dead time presents itself.
10. If the squad is approached by dancers from other universities, all squad members must greet them together.
11. **YOU WILL TREAT FANS WITH KINDNESS AND RESPECT AT ALL TIMES.**
12. Dancers will not partake in any negative chants or insults!
13. You can watch the play then immediately turn around and prepare for a chant/Dance.
14. **Negative attitudes are not welcomed** and will not be tolerated! I expect nothing but positivity and good energy in my gym! I will not tolerate disrespectful behavior towards myself, assistant coach, and your teammates.

15. This is a zero tolerance program. You will not consume alcohol before or during games. You will be dismissed from the team if you engage in this kind of activity!

**ATTENDANCE**

A. Games are mandatory respective of your team designation.

B. Tardiness and absences must be preceded by a phone call. *Acceptable excuses for tardiness will be determined by the coach.* Please refer to discipline plan for further explanation of consequences: however, The coach may impose a further appropriate penalty if necessary.

- 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence
- 1 unexcused absence = suspension; possible removal (coaches discretion)
- 3 excused absences = suspension; possible removal (coaches discretion)
- 2 suspensions = removal of team

C. Illness is the only legitimate excuse for an absence and must be **preceded by a telephone call to the coach.** For an excused absence, a squad member must present a written physician’s statement to the coach immediately upon return.

D. Tardiness will earn you stadiums/suicides (depends on athletic event) after game in addition to 30 extra minutes of study hall and/or consequences stated in discipline plan.

E. If a squad member has one absence before a home or away game (**this may include absence from an injury or illness**), he or she **will not dance or be able to travel (at coach’s discretion).**

F. A pattern of tardiness will not be tolerated and will affect your opportunity to dance at home and away games. Please refer to discipline plan. This is your warning.

**IX. Community and Campus Events**

A. All team members are required to attend community and campus events and fundraising activities.

B. All team members must accrue at least 10 volunteer hours to be eligible for service award for each semester. Each squad member is expected to volunteer for at least one activity a week (when opportunities are presented).

C. Once you volunteer for an event you are committed. Consequences will apply for tardiness, absence or “no show”. Refer to discipline plan.

D. Occasionally, you will be required to appear for mandatory events. **MANDATORY!** The entire squad will be expected to participate at all on campus events and activities at coach’s discretion.

E. **You must have three (3) (new) volunteer credits before each away game** to be considered for travel. Activities will be logged by coach with the help of asst. coach. Members not meeting these minimum volunteer requirements may not be chosen to travel and may affect dancing at home games.

F. Our appearances are subsidized (fee) and a contract is generated for each request; therefore, we must bring our “A” game to every event and once you volunteer you are committed to event.
G. You will respect all directives given by Coach, Asst. Coach, Team Leaders, Strength Coaches, Trainers and/or other Athletic Personal (Athletic Directors, Marketing, Media Relations, etc...).

H. This is a zero tolerance program. You will not consume alcohol before or during events. You will be dismissed from the team if you engage in this kind of activity!

**Personal Appearance**

2. **Females**
   
i. Jewelry is not allowed (rings, bracelets, necklaces, belly rings, etc...)
   
j. Fingernail polish if worn, must be nude or clear as per your skin tone (i.e. no bright reds, light pinks, etc.)
   
k. Fingernails should be kept at a reasonable length.
   
l. Hair should be neatly groomed; bangs pulled back and of appropriate styling and color.
   
m. No gum during games or functions... Don’t make me tell you more than once!!
   
n. Make up should be more of an All-American look. No blue or white eyeshadow, dark eyeliner and dark lipstick. No thick drawn in eyebrows. We must maintain my vision of a collegiate image!
   
o. Earrings – only one small silver stud per lobe will be allowed- no diamonds, pearls, cubic zirconia. If you abuse this rule then no earrings will be allowed.
   
p. Any and all tattoos must be covered at all times. ** I strongly suggest you refrain from getting visible tattoos until your dancing career is over.

Males

f. No jewelry will be permitted in uniform.

g. Hair must be neatly groomed and the length must be approved by the coach (no inappropriate coloring).

h. Accessories of any kind must be approved by the coach.

i. No gum during games or functions.

j. Face must neatly groomed for any and all functions

X. **Conduct At All Times:**

1. Squad members will not argue or fight with anyone while in uniform and are expected to maintain an appropriate smile at all times while in uniform. Necessary disciplinary actions will be determined by the coaches, or the team leaders, if the coaches are not present.

2. **No smoking or drinking while in uniform, or while wearing any items that would associate you with this program, and do not use intoxicants or unlawful drugs before or during practices, events or games.... ever!!**

3. While in public and in uniform or camp wear, do not hold hands or display any type of affection.

4. A high standard of behavior and conduct is expected in and out of uniform, and in addition, avoid any situations or circumstances that could be considered as personally unbecoming and/or embarrassing to the University (includes internet activities).

5. **NO Bullying and/or Hazing** will be tolerated.....EVER!! You will treat each other with respect at all times!! If you feel you are a victim of bullying/hazing, please report to coaches immediately! Any reports of this type of behavior will be handled through the student conduct
and conflict resolution department (OSCCR) and you may be suspended/dismissed from the team at discretion of coaches and in conjunction with report from OSCCR office.

**XI. Social Media:**
A. A high standard of behavior and conduct is expected in and out of uniform, and in addition, avoid any situations or circumstances that could be considered as personally unbecoming and/or embarrassing to the University.
B. Think twice before posting anything on social media. If you have any doubt of what you are posting may be inappropriate- DO NOT POST!!
C. Do not post anything that has a negative connotation towards our team or team member.
D. You will respect your team mates, trainers, and coaches on and off social media!
E. If you announce your affiliation with UTEP Dance Team on social media then all your posts must be appropriate (no pictures of you in uniform holding/drinking alcohol, sexual innuendos, fighting, etc.).
F. Any violations of the aforementioned rules will result in suspension and/or dismissal from the team. Consider this your one and only warning!

**WELLNESS**

The UTEP Dance program is committed to promoting and fostering healthy lifestyles and eating habits for squad members. Conduct which opposes this philosophy and/or conduct which poses unacceptable risk and disregard for the health, safety, and welfare of participants is in violation of this policy and will result in appropriate counseling and/or disciplinary action up to and including termination from the squad.

**XI. Strength and Conditioning**

- All squad members will attend strength and conditioning with an assigned strength coach. Times will be determined per availability of strength staff.

**XII. TRAVEL**

*Travel is a privilege! Everything including, but not limited to, volunteer hours, attitude, work ethic, skills, study hall, tardiness and absences will be factors when determining who travels.*

A. The Dance Team will travel to selective away games and tournaments. A tentative schedule will be given to each squad member even though trips may be added or canceled. Who travels and how many will be decided by the coach.
B. You must maintain at least a minimum of a 2.50 GPA (cumulative) to travel for in season games (summer camp GPA must be at least a 2.0).
C. You must have at least three (3) new volunteer credits before any out of town game to be considered to travel (when opportunity presents itself).
D. When the squad is traveling as a group to an out-of-town game or function, all members involved must travel via transportation arranged or designated by the coach. All individuals must travel with the squad round-trip and stay in the same hotel/motel as a group.

E. Only squad members are allowed in rental cars and hotel rooms.

F. While staying in hotels, squad members will be informed in advance when they need to be available for extra practices, meetings, or instructions unless excused by the coach.

G. During away travel and stays, squad members may not wear any attire that advertises a college or university other than UTEP. This includes professional teams.

H. During away travel and stays, squad members will be expected to be on their best behavior as visiting representatives of the University.

I. UTEP Dancers will be subject to curfews during travel.

J. No outside guest or other student athletes are allowed in your rooms and you are not allowed in other athletes' rooms.

K. There will be NO DRUGS, NO DRINKING, NO PARTYING and no fornicating of any kind on out of town trips! You will be removed from the team if you partake in drinking and/or using drugs! No Drinking! No Alcohol! No Nothing!

XIII. DISCIPLINE

A. Insubordinations to the coach, asst. coach, trainers, and strength staff will not be tolerated at any time. Disciplinary actions will be determined by the coach (i.e. not being allowed to travel on road trips and/or dismissal from the program).

B. The coach may dismiss any squad member for violation of Conference USA/NCAA rules and guidelines and/or any violation of the rules and regulations contained herein.

C. A squad member WILL be suspended (from activities/games/trips) or dismissed from the squad (at the discretion of the coaches) if he/she:
   1. Displays improper behavior;
   2. Disrespects coaches;
   3. Uses profane language/gestures while in uniform;
   4. Drinks alcoholic beverages immediately preceding or during practice, events and/or game or while in uniform;
   5. Is involved in a situation which causes embarrassment for him/herself, the squad, or the University; or
   6. Becomes ineligible
   7. Social media posts depicting the use of alcohol, drugs, or inappropriate behavior.

D. Should a squad member be dismissed from the squad for disciplinary reason, he or she forfeits the right to try out for the squad again in the future. An exception can only be made by mutual agreement of the coaches.

E. All problems, concerns, or complaints should be discussed with the coach directly, and any malicious gossip or lack of cooperation will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be addressed to the coach first.

F. An appeal on any disciplinary action may be made in writing to the Dean of Students only after scheduling a meeting with the coaches first.

G. Tardiness and absences prior to a home or away game will be factors when determining who performs at home and away games!!

H. NO Bullying and/or Hazing will be tolerated.....EVER!! You will treat each other with respect at all times!! If you feel you are a victim of bullying/hazing, please report to coaches
immediately! Any reports of this type of behavior will be handled through the student conduct and conflict resolution department (OSCCR) and you may be suspended/dismissed from the team at discretion of coaches.

**This is a very demanding, time consuming program. This is a Division 1A team (highest division in college athletics) with many valuable resources provided for your benefit. You are held at the same standard as other NCAA student athletes. We represent the University at all times- in and out of uniform for the rest of your lives. Welcome to the UTEP Family and Go Miners!!**