



## **2025-2026 UNK Sapphires Dance Team Tryout Requirements**

### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Admitted to UNK by April 13<sup>th</sup>
- Have a 2.5 cumulative GPA or higher
- Maintain full-time enrollment status during fall and spring semesters

### **Important Dates:**

- **Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
  - Spring Tryout Prep Clinic, 9 am to Noon!
    - We strongly encourage candidates to attend the Prep Clinic, where they will have the opportunity to review material for tryouts and potentially earn a free pass to the Finalist Round.
- **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
  - Online Registration & Preliminary Skills Video due by 11:59 pm
    - NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED
  - Invitations to in-person tryouts will be emailed to candidates on a rolling basis
    - *The sooner you submit your video, the sooner you will receive a notification*
- **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> -Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
  - In-person tryouts (Health and Sports Center – Kearney, NE)

### **Audition Process**

Auditions for the 2025-2026 team are by invitation only. Potential new members can earn an invitation in two ways:

1. Selection from our clinic on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025
2. Complete the online registration and submit a preliminary skills video by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

**[After registering, you will receive an email with instructions on where to upload your video link.](#)**

**We recommend uploading your video as an unlisted YouTube video that can be seen if its link is shared. If you don't know how or prefer using Google Drive/Dropbox/Etc. link, we ask that you make sure the sharing permissions are set to public. We will try to contact you if there is an issue with your link, but again please make sure your permissions are set before sharing.**

### **Preliminary Round Requirements** (Online Registration & Skills Video)

You do not need a professional video, but we do need to see your entire body, and it must be filmed from the FRONT. Please record horizontally, in a gym or dance space, and submit your best takes. Rewatching to ensure you are happy with it before uploading. Label your video with YOUR FIRST & LAST NAME- Sapphires 2025



- Female dancers, please wear fitted attire (fitted shorts, leggings, athletic top/crop)
- Male dancers, please wear shorts and a slim-fit T-shirt or sleeveless tank
- Hairstyle should not obstruct our view of your face. Please pull hair back if able.
- Ultimately execution, confidence, and facial expressions are just a few of the things we will evaluate you on
- Please record the skills below in the following order:  
**(NOTE: Skip any skills in which you have not been properly trained, particularly the acro)**
  - Brief introduction stating your first & last name, class and hometown
  - Right side maximum jazz pirouettes
  - Turns in second (a la seconds): Complete at least 6 rotations and end the combination with a clean double or triple pirouette. Can also include variations such as floats, tempo changes, arm placement changes, etc.) SHOW OFF!
  - Right and left leaps
  - Right and left leap in second
  - Calypso: Demonstrate on your best side
  - Toe touch
  - Firebird leap
  - Splits: Demonstrate both right and left side
  - Turning disc to the front
  - Switch Arabesque: Demonstrate on your best side
  - Front Handspring
  - Headspring
  - Ariel: Demonstrate on your best side
  - Front/back Walkovers
  - Any leg holds, turns or demonstrations of your flexibility
  - Any additional acro or technical skills you would like to showcase

[As mentioned, candidates will be notified via email if they have advanced to the in-person portion of tryouts.](#)

*We appreciate your submission and thank you for your interest.*

### **Finalist Round Requirements (April 25-26)**

(In-person Interview, Technique, & Routines)

- Interviews with first-year candidates will occur on Friday, April 25th. Your interview time will be scheduled in advance and can occur as early as 10 am.
- All candidates will be taught choreography Friday, which will include jazz, hip hop, and pom styles
- All candidates will execute technique during the formal tryout
- All candidates will be required to perform a solo (using music of your choice)



- 1st day – interviews, headshots, warm up, learn routine(s), open gym for short practice (informal judging will occur at this time and cuts may occur if necessary, at the end of the day)
- 2nd day – check-in, warm up, break into small groups for official tryout to begin (performing learned material, personal choreo, and technique)
- If unable to attend the physical tryout, video submissions may be accepted but not preferred – need to speak to Coach Sara for approval ([mccartys1@unk.edu](mailto:mccartys1@unk.edu))
- Callbacks are possible
- See below for a more detailed description of what to expect at finals:

### **Taught Choreography**

- This is to gauge your memory, execution, energy, and overall ability to perform

### **Fight Song/Pom Routine/Game Day**

- This is to gauge your proper arm placement and motions of pom skills including, high V, T, ½ T, Low V, and Touchdown (also called Goalposts). We are evaluating proper execution, energy and precision. Our Fight Song will be sent to all finalists the week prior to tryouts to learn in advance.

### **Self-choreographed 45-sec Routine** (no longer than a minute)

- Demonstrate choreography that highlights your musicality, flexibility, correct placement, body control, energy and showmanship. You will be evaluated on difficulty, performance, style and execution.

### **Technique**

- Right and Left Pirouettes – Double on each side
- Triple pirouette: On either right or left side
- Turns in second (a la seconds): Complete at least 6 rotations and end the combination with a clean double or triple pirouette. Can also include variations such as floats, tempo changes, arm placement changes, etc.)
- Right and left leaps
- Right and left leap in second
- Calypso (leap with back leg in attitude): Demonstrate on your best side
- Toe touch
- Splits: Demonstrate both right and left side
- Turning disc
- Switch Arabesque: Perform one on your best side
- Firebird

### **Additional Technique/Tricks (optional, but strongly encouraged)**

(NOTE: These are some suggestions, but of course the more you can showcase the better)



- Extension with right/left leg
- Needle turn (leg hold turn)
- Front/back Walkovers
- Aerial
- Handspring
- Headspring

### **Interview Attire**

- Please wear business casual attire as you would for an in-person interview. You will be evaluated on your character and personality.

### **Tryout Attire**

- Overall appearance/makeup should be gameday ready
- Candidates should wear fitted attire (fitted shorts or leggings, athletic top/crop) with tan jazz shoes. We encourage Loper colors - royal blue, gold, and/or white, but black is also acceptable. Wear appropriate undergarments for modesty and function.
- Please view our social media sites for examples of the Sapphires make-up and performance looks!
- Attire should be free of school names or logos
- Hair should be secure away from your face
- You may wear one pair of stud earrings only. All other jewelry must be removed.

### Overall, we are looking for dancers with the following qualities:

- Technical skill and flexibility
- Ability to pick up choreography quickly
- Coordination and rhythm
- Strong motions and attention to detail
- Collegiate, fit appearance and poise
- Dedication and commitment to program
- Engaging performance
- Adaptability
- Ability to uphold a standard of excellence in personal conduct and character
- Leadership skills
- Potential to contribute and grow with the program