Ragin’ Jazz Dance Team

General Information on requirements, expectations, tryouts & clinics

The University of Louisiana Ragin' Jazz Dance Team that represent the University at all home (some away) football games, home men's and women's basketball games and home volleyball games. Additionally, the squad represents the University at football bowl games and post-season basketball tournaments. The Ragin’ Jazz attend UDA cheerleading camp during the summer, compete at UDA College National Championships and also represent the University at other non-athletic functions such as Alumni events, student orientations and youth cheer clinics. To be eligible to tryout for the Ragin' Jazz Dance Team:

• Must be a currently enrolled student at UL Lafayette, with a current semester gpa of 2.0 minimum; an official copy of your transcript is required.
• For incoming freshman or transfer students, must have applied to University and should be accepted prior to tryouts. A copy of acceptance letter is required. If you have applied, but have not received acceptance to the University prior to tryouts, please contact the spirit squad office.
• Candidates & squad members must present a copy of the front & back of their health insurance card.
• Must be a full time student in the fall & spring semesters, minimum of 12 hours each semester
• Must be willing to establish & maintain high academic & social standards.
• Squad members from out of state will have out of state tuition fees waived, thus paying the in state tuition fees instead.
• Stipends are awarded to squad members in good standing with the squad & the University at the end of the fall & spring semesters. Stipend range from $500-$700 per fall/spring semester.
• Summer practices are held in the month of July (prior to camp) & squad members are required to attend UDA College Camp usually mid-late July
• The team reports for fall practice 2 weeks prior to the first day of school for the fall semester.

Tryout Process, Requirements & Attire:

Tryouts will be conducted in a clinic/judging format. Candidates will be evaluated jazz, pom & hip hop technique and choreography, including fight song & cheers (taught at tryout), & crowd leading ability & physical fitness/appearance. Judging will be done with the clinic atmosphere. When finalizing the team, candidates who are easy to work with & posses a strong work ethic are what we look for in candidates. Also considered is if the candidate is coachable & can easily make corrections as well as gets along well with other members/candidates. It is important to understand that this is not your old team and these are not your old coaches. Be COACHABLE & ADAPTABLE.

Following is a list of requirements BUT DOES NOT guarantee a spot on the team:
*pirouettes (triple & quad)
*variety of leaps (grand jetes, straddles, switch leaps, turning disc, calypso, etc.)
*a la seconde turns (and fouette turns)
*pique & chaine turns
*grand battements, fan kicks, tilts
Tumbling skills are used mostly in hip hop routines but also occasionally in jazz & pom routines
*Tumbling skills: headsprings, kip up, backbend, front/back walkover, cartwheels (one hand)
Tryout attire:
Females: Wear sports bra & spandex shorts (hot shorts). We are looking for a neat, collegiate, appearance. Wear hair & make up as you would on game day. Do not wear ponytails. Make up should be worn and look natural, with color on your lips. NO JEWELRY at all, including necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings or any other piercings (nose, lip, belly, eye brow, etc). Our school colors are vermilion (red) & white, so please dress accordingly. Refrain from wearing any other University, high school or all-star attire. Any tattoos you may have should not be visible.

Please be aware that your physical appearance & fitness is part of your score. Team members are weighed in at first meeting and are expected to maintain optimal fitness throughout the year.

Tryout Process:
All portions of the tryout process are closed to all except judges/coaches & staff. Candidates are encouraged to bring a water bottle/sports drink and snack (if necessary).

Day 1:
Doors open/Check in begins; Candidates encouraged to begin stretching/warming up
Tryouts begin
• Fight Song Choreography will be reviewed and evaluated.
• Technique/Progressions are taught. These progressions are basic jazz progressions/techniques consisting of turns, leaps, battements. The progressions will be evaluated after a brief practice.
• 1st cut is made
• Candidates who are selected to move on will learn jazz, hip hop and pom choreography.
• Open practice

Day 2:
Interviews begin.
• Please wear business casual attire. Interviews are conducted by coach, advisor, Student Union staff, and judges
• After a short judges break, a brief open practice begins; after open practice, evaluations on choreography begin.
Tryouts selections are final. Squad members will be selected based on the above evaluations/interviews and also how the judges & staff feel they will work within the Ragin’ Jazz Dance Team Program.

College Prep Clinics:
• Ragin’ Jazz Dance Team hosts college prep tryout clinics in the spring. It is recommended that candidates attend at least one clinic as they will learn fight song choreography at the clinic. Tryouts are held in April of each year and all candidates MUST BE PRESENT AT TRYOUTS to be considered for the squad. NO VIDEO SUBMISSION ACCEPTED.
• College prep clinics & tryout information will be released as soon as it is finalized. Please follow us on Twitter & Instagram @ULRaginJazz and like us on Facebook University of Louisiana Ragin’ Jazz to keep up with the latest information on our team.

Good luck & GEAX CAJUNS!

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