



Audition Information 2020-2021

Thank you for expressing interest in the Kansas State University Classy Cats Dance Team. We are part of the Kansas State University Marching Band (*The Pride of Wildcat Land*). Our team serves as ambassadors for Kansas State University and helps promote spirit at athletic events including Football, Men's and Women's Basketball and Volleyball, as well as many other events for our school and community.

Being a member of the Classy Cat Dance Team is an honor and a privilege that should be taken very seriously. We are looking for dancers who:

- have a great work ethic
- are fully committed
- have a "we" before "me" mentality
- are on time and prepared for the work they are doing
- dance full-out and with high performance quality/showmanship at all times
- perform consistently with energy, proper facial expressions, strong technique, musicality and solid style
- are team players interested in the overall success of the entire team, not just themselves or certain individuals
- are versatile, pick up material / adjust quickly and then can turn around and perform that material right away
- can be entertaining to a crowd of 54,000 + people
- are dedicated and committed to the goals of the Classy Cats, the Pride and Kansas State University
- are high level dancers who can execute consistently and with great technique / performance quality
- are professional at all times
- have good public speaking skills and ability to be an ambassador of the Classy Cats, the Pride and Kansas State University
- have high standards...in dance, academics, socially, in the community and as a person
- demonstrate potential to contribute and grow with the program
- will be positive role models of the Classy Cats, the Pride and Kansas State University.

More information about the audition process and about our program is contained in this packet. This is a life-changing opportunity and we are grateful that you are interested in joining the family. We look forward to your attendance at the auditions and wish you the best of luck. For questions, please e-mail Coach Heptig at saraheptig@gmail.com.

Pre-Audition Material Due Date:

April 10, 2020

On Campus Audition Dates: May 1 and May 2, 2020

On Campus Audition Location: Chester E. Peters Recreation Complex k-state.edu/maps/

PRE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

The following items are due by or before Friday, April 10, 2020.

- A registration fee of \$30.00 will be due when you sign up for the auditions. *Checks should be made payable to KSU Bands. Money is non-refundable.*
- Audition Application (found at k-state.edu/band/thepride/classycats.html)
The specific application can be found at: <https://forms.gle/WZAyNfrUX7jMib5P7>
- Current Coach AND Dance Teacher Evaluation (*If you are not on a dance team or do not dance at a studio, please have two other coaches or teachers fill out evaluations*).
- A short essay entitled “Why I Want to be a Classy Cat.” Explain your interest in Kansas State University and the Classy Cat Dance Team. Your essay should also include your goals should you make the team as well as how you would add value to the team.
- Recent color photo of at least 5x7 in size (*will not be returned*)
- Video (*Incoming Freshmen and Current Kansas State University Students who are not a member of the 2019-2020 Classy Cat Dance Team*)

Video should include:

- Introduction:
 - Name, Hometown, Name of current school, Year in school as of Fall 2020
- Why you should be considered for a position on the 2020-2021 Classy Cat Dance Team.
- 1:00 (maximum) Jazz Routine
- :45 (maximum) Pom Routine
- Technique Skills:
 - Pirouettes (as many as you can do)
 - 2nd Turn (minimum of 3 8 counts including variations in spot, legs, and / or arms)
 - Toe Touch
 - Jump of Choice
 - Center Leap
 - Switch of Choice (switch leap, switch center, switch tilt, switch arabesque, etc.)
 - Optional: Tumbling skills (headspring, kip up, and / or aerial)
- Routines should be
 - High energy
 - Only you
 - Performing style

NOTE: Videos can be uploaded to YouTube (unlisted) and e-mailed to saraheptig@gmail.com
In subject line, please include - “Tryout Video 2020 – Your Name”

Please send all materials to:

Kansas State Classy Cat Auditions

Attn: Sara Heptig

226 McCain Auditorium Manhattan, KS

66506

PRE-AUDITION MATERIAL:

The K-State Fight Song will be sent out one week prior to auditions. The video will be sent to the e-mail listed on the audition application.

Audition Workshops are HIGHLY recommended. The workshops are held at the Chester E. Peters Recreation Complex from 9:00-12:00 on the following dates.

- Saturday, February 8 •
- Saturday, March 7 •
- Saturday, April 18

You can sign up for these workshops at: <https://www.k-state.edu/band/thepride/classycats.html>

ON CAMPUS AUDITIONS:

Friday, May 1:

5:30 Registration

6:00 Welcome / Introductions

- Learn Jazz Combo
- Learn Hip Hop Combo
- Fight Song Review
- Technique

9:00 Closing

NOTE: There will NOT be any cuts made on Friday night.

Saturday, May 2:

7:30 Check In

8:00 Auditions Begin

- Group Workout / Review / Learn Stinger
- Technique Round
- Game Day Round

1st Cuts

- Hip Hop Round
- Jazz Round

Possible 2nd Cuts

- Interviews
- Final Auditions and Potential Callbacks

7:00 Announcement of the 2020-2021 KSU Classy Cat Dance Team

**There will be a meeting with the 2020-2021 Classy Cats approximately fifteen minutes following the announcement of the new team.*

***Times are subject to change.*

AUDITION WILL CONSIST OF:

- Fight Song (learned through video sent out one week before auditions)
- Jazz Combination(s) (learned at audition)
- Hip Hop Combination (learned at audition)
- Pom Stinger(s) and other Game Day Elements (learned at audition)
- Technique Combinations
 - Specific technique combinations taught at auditions
 - Improvised technique combination to showcase ability
 - Technical dance skills in addition to tumbling and hip hop tricks
- Marching Drill (learned at auditions)
- Solo Showcase (*Final Round Only: 4-6 8 counts to showcase your dance style and skills*)
- Interview including general Kansas State University knowledge and questions to get to know candidates better

REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Strong Pom Motions and Proper Pom Arm Placement
- Flexibility
- Rhythm and Musicality
- Outstanding Performance and Style
- Physical Endurance and Stamina
- Ability to pick up choreography and cleaning quickly
- Skilled Technique
 - Turn Variations (Triple / Quad pirouettes, 2nd turn variations, Leg Grab Turns, etc.)
 - Jump Kicks / Battement variations (right and left)
 - Variety of Leaps / Jumps (Grand Jete, Center Leap, Switch Leap, Tilt Leap / Jump, Turning Center, Calypso, Toe Touch, etc.)
- Recommend Skills:
 - Acrobatic Skills: Headsprings, kip ups, aerials
 - Minimum: Triple Pirouette, prefer more
 - Minimum: 2 8 counts of 2nd turns into triple pirouette, prefer changing spot
 - 180 degree toe touch
 - Series of Jump Kicks (above shoulder height, with good technique, demonstrating good stamina)
 - Turning Disk
 - Switch Arabesque
 - Switch Tilt
 - Leg Grab Turn (best side, as many rotations as you can cleanly execute)

BRING TO AUDITIONS:

- Water bottle / Healthy snacks
- Ibuprofen / Aspirin
- Warm ups / Cover ups
 - Cover up without logo must be worn for interviews
- Make-up and Hairspray
- Tan Jazz shoes AND Hip Hop Tennis shoes

AUDITION ATTIRE:

- **Ladies:**
 - Black hot shorts (no pants or capris)
 - Black, Purple, or White fitted sports bra or crop dance top
 - Jazz shoes and tennis shoes
 - Performance / Game Day make up

- No jewelry (earring studs are acceptable) and no visible tattoos (please cover) ○ Hair down / Game Day ready
- Interview Round: Please wear a classy cover up that has NO logo over your dance attire

• **Gentlemen:**

- Black shorts or pants, plain shirt – no writing, logos, etc, Jazz shoes and tennis shoes

AUDITION INFORMATION:

- Dancers must be warmed up and ready to dance prior to start time. This means audition ready with full hair and makeup done.
- Please bring your own food as you will want to keep up your energy throughout the day. Bring water to stay hydrated. Auditions will be continuous, so you will want to grab a bite to eat when you can. Bring healthy snacks!
- No parents / family members / friends / anyone not auditioning will be allowed into auditions. Only those auditioning for the 2020-2021 KSU Classy Cats Team will be allowed. Auditions are closed to the public.
- Classy Cat positions are considered a one-year position. Each Classy Cat must re-audition each year.
- We will choose a 18-24 member performance squad.
- The scores from the judges are a “roadmap” that help us to finalize the Classy Cat team for the 2020-2021 season with skill execution, interactions and observations throughout the audition process factored in. Many factors are taken into consideration when choosing the best fit squad for the University. Much of the process is inherently subjective. By participating, applicants understand and accept the subjective nature of tryouts. All decisions are final.

ALTERNATE POSITIONS:

- There MAY be Alternate position(s) available for the 2020-2021 Classy Cat Dance Team. Alternates play an extremely vital and valued role.
- If selected as an Alternate, the same commitments are expected as a Classy Cat Dance Team member. Performances would not be guaranteed.
- Alternate spots are subject to change throughout the year based on performance, behavior, overall effort and commitment.
- The experience as an Alternate would be extremely valuable and help in preparation for the future.
- If you wish to be considered for an Alternate position, you must designate when you fill out the Classy Cat application.

AUDITION PHASES:

- **PHASE 1:** (May 1 and 2, 2020)
2 Day in person audition. There will be cuts throughout the tryout weekend until approximately 18-24 dancers are chosen. We use a progressive tryout format therefore everyone must be present to audition.
- **PHASE 2:** (June / July, 2020)
2-3 summer practices. Participants will be evaluated during practices and cuts will be made if needed.
- **PHASE 3:** (August, 2020)

Band Camp the week prior to the start of school. If additional cuts are warranted, they will be made during this week.

- *Cuts during the 2 & 3 phases will be based on the person's ability to maintain their performance level from Phase 1 & 2, as well as, final decisions on the person's ability to work with their peers and coaches.*

Any questions about the audition process or the Kansas State University Classy Cats, contact Coach Heptig at saraheptig@gmail.com