

2026 Illinois Combine SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Check In: Please arrive anytime during this window.

*Athletes should arrive anytime within this window. Reminder to complete your online waiver before you come.

9:30 AM Welcome/Warm Up

9:45 AM The Game Day Experience

*Athletes will have the opportunity to learn from the Varsity Dance Staff as they share their firsthand collegiate game day experiences. Participants will learn three different sideline routines from three unique university programs, giving them insight into the style, traditions, and performance expectations of college dance teams.

10:30 AM Showcase Game Day Material

10:45 AM Introduce College Programs

*Remember, Varsity Combines are about being prepared to shine whenever the opportunity presents itself. College coaches are observing athletes throughout the day—not just during performances—so every interaction matters. Even if the school at the top of your list isn't attending, this is your chance to expand your horizons, connect with other college programs, become a more versatile and well-rounded dancer, and better understand the recruitment process. You never know which opportunity or connection could open the door to your future.

11:00 AM Jazz Master Class

*Athletes will have the opportunity to train with industry-leading master instructors, exposing them to a variety of teaching styles, techniques, and perspectives. Learning from instructors outside of their comfort zone challenges athletes to adapt, grow, and become more versatile performers. This experience helps them develop the ability to showcase their individual strengths while also learning how to adjust to different choreography, performance styles, and team dynamics—an essential skill for success at the collegiate level and beyond.

12:15 PM Showcase Jazz Combination & Filming Round

*New this year, athletes will have the opportunity to practice filming choreography combinations, giving them valuable experience in a key part of today's collegiate recruiting process. This session is designed to help athletes perform confidently under pressure while learning how to present themselves effectively through video submissions that capture their performance quality, technique, and personality.

12:30 PM Meet and Greet Group 1/Group 2 Staff Feedback and Break

*Group 1 is Seniors and Juniors

1:15 PM Hip Hop Master Class

*Just like the Jazz Master Class, the Hip Hop Master Class provides athletes with another opportunity to train, grow, and stand out. Throughout the class, athletes will learn from an industry-leading instructor while showcasing their performance quality, adaptability, and work ethic. At the conclusion of the master class, college coaches, the master instructor, and Varsity staff will recognize a select group of standout athletes who will have the opportunity to perform again.

2:30 PM Show Hip Hop Combination & Filming Round

2:45 PM Meet and Greet Group 2/Group 1 Feedback and Break

*Group 2 is Sophomores and below

3:30 PM Combine Showdown

*The Combine Showdown gives athletes the opportunity to showcase their talent, creativity, and confidence through improvisation. Each round will feature a different dance style, challenging athletes to demonstrate their versatility, musicality, and performance quality. Throughout the competition, college coaches and Varsity staff will evaluate each round, narrowing the field until the Top 10 dancers remain.

3:45 PM College Coaches Wrap Up

3:50 PM Recruitment Reminders and Staff Feedback

*Throughout the day, the Varsity Dance Staff will observe athletes in each session, taking notes on their performance, technique, and overall presence. During the feedback session, athletes will receive individualized guidance designed to help them continue their growth and prepare for the next level. In addition to personalized feedback, our staff will share key recruitment tips, best practices, and important reminders to help athletes confidently navigate the collegiate dance recruiting process and position themselves for future success.

4:00 PM Dismissal