



## 2019-20 GLOSSARY OF TERMS COLLEGE DANCE (Rev. 8/27/19)

**Note: This document provides terminology reference for the USA College Dance Safety Rules.**

Updates from the 2018-19 season are in blue.

**Aerial Cartwheel:** (airborne hip over head rotation skill without hand support) A skill which emulates a cartwheel executed without placing hands on the ground.

**Airborne (Executed by Individuals, Groups or Pairs):** A state in which the dancer is free of contact from a person and the performing surface.

**Airborne Hip Over Head Rotation (Executed by Individuals):** A tumbling skill in which the hips continuously rotate over the head and there is a moment of no contact with the performance surface (Example: Round Off or a Back Handspring).

**Axel:** (airborne skill with axis rotation) A turn in which the working leg makes a circle in the air to passé as the supporting leg lifts off the ground enabling the dancer to perform a rotation in the air and then lands on the original supporting leg.

**Axis Rotation:** An action in which a dancer rotates around his/her vertical or horizontal center.

**Back Walkover:** (non-airborne hip over head rotation skill with hand support) A skill in which the dancer moves backward into an arched position, with the hands making contact with the ground first, then rotates the hips over the head and lands on one foot/leg at a time.

**Backward Roll:** (non-airborne hip over head rotation skill with hand support) A skill in which the dancer rotates backward, rotating the hips over the head while curving the spine (a tucked position) to create a motion similar to a ball "rolling" across the floor.

**Calypso [ka-lip-SO]:** (airborne skill) A turning leap in which the working leg extends making a circle in the air as the supporting leg lifts off the ground enabling the dancer to perform a rotation in the air then the supporting (back) leg reaches behind the body, often in an attitude, and then lands on the original working leg.

**Cartwheel:** (non-airborne hip over head rotation skill with hand support) A skill where the dancer supports the weight of the body with the arm(s) while rotating sideways through an inverted position landing on one foot at a time.

**Chassé [sha-SAY]:** A connecting step in which one foot remains in advance of the other; meaning to chase.

**Connected/Consecutive Skills:** An action in which the dancer executes skills without a step, pause or break in between. (Example: Double Pirouette or Double Toe Touch)

**Contact (Executed by Groups or Pairs):** When two (or more) people physically touch each other. Touching hair and clothing does not qualify as contact.

**Costuming:** An accessory or an article of clothing that adds to the overall effect and/or theme of the routine.

**Coupé [koo-PAY]:** A position in which one foot is held lifted and close to the ankle. Also known as Coup de Pied: quickly takes the place of the other; meaning to cut or cutting.

**Developpé [develop-AY]:** An action in which the working leg moves through passé (bends) before extending into position; meaning to develop.

**Dismount (executed by Groups or Pairs):** An action in which the Executing Dancer(s) returns to the performance surface or upright position with or without assistance from a Supporting Dancer(s) with whom there was prior contact.

**Dive Roll:** (airborne hip over head rotation skill with hand support) A forward roll where the dancer's feet leave the ground before the dancer's hands reach the ground.

**Drop:** An action in which an airborne dancer lands on a body part other than his/her hand(s) or feet without first bearing weight on the hands/feet.

**Elevated:** An action in which a dancer is moved to a higher position or place from a lower one.

**Elevator:** When the top person is being held at shoulder level by the base(s). Also known as Extension Prep, Prep or Half.

**Executing Dancer:** A dancer who performs a skill as a part of Groups or Pairs who use(s) support from another dancer(s).

**Extension:** A fully-extended stunt above head level where the Executing Dancer stands with both legs locked out (shoulder-width apart) and one foot in each hand of the base (partner stunt) or each foot is held by a different base (group stunt).

**Forward Roll:** (non-airborne hip over head rotation skill with hand support) A skill in which the dancer rotates forward, rotating the hips over the head while curving the spine (a tucked position) to create a motion similar to a ball "rolling" across the floor.

**Fouetté [foo-eh-TAY]:** A turning step, usually done in a series, in which the working leg makes a circle in the air and then into passé as the dancer turns bending (plié) and rising (relevé) at each revolution; meaning to whip. Fouetté turns can also be done to the side or in second position (fouetté à la seconde).

**Fouetté à la Seconde:** A turning step done in a series in which the working leg makes a circle in the air and extends at a 90° angle from the supporting leg remaining parallel to the ground as the dancer turns with a plié and relevé at each revolution.

**Front Aerial:** (an airborne hip over head rotation skill without hand support) A skill which emulates a front walkover but is executed without placing hands on the ground.

**Front Walkover:** (a non-airborne hip over head rotation skill with hand support) A skill where the dancer moves forward with the hands making contact with the ground first, then rotates the hips over the head passing through an arched position and lands on one foot/leg at a time.

**Glissade [glee-SOD]:** A connecting step that transfers weight from one foot to the other; meaning to glide.

**Handstand:** (a non-airborne inverted skill with hand support) A non-airborne, nonrotating, skill where the dancer supports him/herself vertically on his/her hands in an inverted position and the arms are extended straight by the head and ears.

**Head Level:** A designated and averaged height: the crown of the head of a standing dancer while standing upright with straight legs. (Clarification: this is an approximate height to measure space, and is not changed by bending, inverting, etc.)

**Headspring: (an airborne hip over head rotation skill with hand support) A skill where a dancer moves forward with the hands then head, making contact with the performance surface, then rotates the hips over the head passing through an arched position. It is non-airborne in approach but airborne in descent after hips pass through perpendicular.**

**Headstand:** (an non-airborne inverted skill with hand support) A non-airborne, nonrotating, skill where the dancer supports him/herself vertically on his/her head in an inverted position with hands in contact with the floor to support the body.

**Hip Level:** A designated and averaged height; the height of a standing dancer's hips while standing upright with straight legs. (Clarification: this is an approximate height to measure space, and is not changed by bending, inverting, etc.)

**Hip Over Head Rotation (Executed by Individuals):** An action characterized by continuous movement where a dancer's hips rotate over the head in a tumbling skill (Example: Back Walkover or Cartwheel).

**Hip Over Head Rotation (Executed by Groups or Pairs):** An action characterized by continuous movement where the Executing Dancer's hips rotate over their own head in a lift or partnering skill.

**Illusion: (a stationary turn) A skill where a dancer steps onto a standing leg, releasing the upper body all the way forward, lifting the working leg as close to 90 degrees as possible while rotating on the standing foot.**

**Inversion/Inverted:** A position in which the dancer's waist, hips and feet are higher than his/her head and shoulders.

**Inverted Skills (Executed by individuals):** A skill in which a dancer's waist and hips and feet are higher than his/her head and shoulders and there is a stop, stall, or change in momentum.

**Jetté/Jeté[juh-TAY]:** A skill in which the dancer takes off from one foot by brushing the feet into the ground and swiftly 'whipping' them into the position and then landing on one foot. A jetté can be executed in various directions, sizes and positions.

**Jump: Movement taking off and landing on same foot or both feet.**

**Kip Up:** (non-airborne in approach, airborne in decent, inverted skill) A skill where the dancer begins in a supine position, rolls back onto their shoulders elevating their hips off the performance surface and into an inverted position. Using their arms and/or legs, core, and momentum, the dancer thrusts their body in an upward direction away from the floor. The movement is completed by bringing the feet to the performance surface keeping the body inline and following to an upright position.

**Leap:** (airborne skill) A skill in which the dancer pushes from a plié (bend) off of one foot, becomes airborne, and lands on one foot.

**Lift (executed by Groups or Pairs):** A skill in which a dancer(s) is elevated from the performance surface by one or more dancers and set down. A Dance Lift is comprised of an Executing Dancer(s) and a Supporting Dancer(s).

**Passé [pa-SAY]:** A position or movement in which the working leg bends connecting the pointed foot to or near the knee of the supporting leg; meaning to pass. Passé can be executed with the hips parallel or turned out.

**Partnering (Executed by Pairs):** A skill in which two dancers use support from one another. Partnering can involve both Supporting and Executing skills.

**Perpendicular Inversion (executed by individuals):** A skill that begins with backward airborne momentum and lands on the hands and head in an inverted position in which the dancer's head, neck and shoulders are directly aligned with the performance surface, creating a 90 degree angle between the head and floor.

**Pirouette [peer-o-WET]:** (axis rotation) A skill in which the dancer bends (plié) with one foot in front of the other (fourth position) and rises (relevé) to one supporting leg making a complete rotation of the body; meaning to whirl. A pirouette can be executed in a variety of positions.

**Plié [plee-AY]:** A preparatory and landing skill in which the dancer bends, softens his/her knees; meaning to bend.

**Prop:** Any physical object used to enhance the overall effect and/or theme of your routine.

**Prone:** A position in which the front of the dancer's body is facing the ground and the back of the dancer's body is facing up.

**Release (executed by Groups or Pairs):** An action that results in a moment of time when the Executing Dancer is free of contact from the performance floor and the Supporting Dancer(s) with whom there was prior contact.

**Relevé [rell-eh-VAY]:** An executing skill in which the dancer lifts up to the ball of his/her feet; meaning to rise.

**Round Off (Executed by Individuals):** (airborne hip over head rotation skill with hand support) An airborne hip over head rotation skill that takes off on one foot and lands on two feet simultaneously. (Clarification: the skill becomes airborne after the hips have rotated over the head).

**Shoulder Inversion (executed by individuals):** A skill that begins with backward airborne momentum and lands on the hands /shoulders /upper back area on the performance surface and the dancer's waist and hips and feet are higher than his/her head and shoulders.

**Shoulder Level:** A designated and averaged height; the height of a standing dancers' shoulders while standing upright with straight legs. (Clarification: this is an approximate height to measure space, and is not changed by bending, inverting, etc.)

**Shoulder Roll (forward/back):** A non-airborne tumbling skill where the dancer rolls with the back of the shoulder and maintains contact with the floor and the head is tilted to the side to avoid contact with the floor.

**Shushunova [Shush-A-nova]:** A jump variation in which the dancer lifts extended legs to a toe touch or pike position and then circles them behind the body dropping the chest and landing in a prone support (push up position).

**Stag:** A grand jete in which the front and back leg bend as the body travels through the air. It can also be performed with the back leg extended.

**Supporting Leg:** The leg of a dancer that supports the weight of the body, during a skill.

**Supporting Dancer:** A dancer who performs a skill as a part of a group or pair who supports or maintains contact with an Executing Dancer.

**Supine:** A position in which the back of the dancer's body is facing the ground, and the front of the dancer's body is facing up.

**Thigh Stand:** Stunt in which the top person stands on two bases' lunged thighs.

**Toe Pitch (executed by Groups or Pairs):** A skill in which the Executing Dancer(s) starts in an upright position with one foot in the hand(s) of a Supporting Dancer(s) and is propelled upward. (Clarification: this is not the definition of a toe pitch back tuck).

**Toe Touch:** (airborne skill) A jump in which the dancer lifts the legs through a straddle position. Hips externally rotate to turn out the legs and the chest is upright. Arms are typically held in a T position.

**Tour Jete:** (airborne skill with axis rotation) A skill in which the dancer takes off from one leg, executes a half turn and lands on the other leg.

**Tumbling:** A collection of skills that emphasize acrobatic or gymnastic ability, are executed by an individual dancer without contact, assistance or support of another dancer(s) and begin and end on the performance surface. (Clarification: tumbling skills do not have to include hip over head rotation)

**Vertical Axis: (executed by Groups or Pairs):** a designated line in space that goes straight up and down and has no slope.

**Vertical Inversion (executed by Groups or Pairs):** A skill in which the Executing Dancer's waist, hips and feet are higher than his/her own head and shoulders and bears direct weight on the Supporting Dancer(s) by a stop, stall or change in momentum.

**Working Leg:** The leg of a dancer that is responsible for momentum and/or position, during a skill.