



BALANCE DANCE STUDIOS

**INFORMATION PACKET
2026-2027**

WHO WE ARE

UNITE. GROOVE. KONNECT.



OUR MISSION

UGK is a competitive youth hip hop and street-style crew at Balance Dance Studios.

Directed by Haley Sikes, UGK trains dancers to be entertaining performers, while growing teamwork skills. The team performs at various events, competitions, and dance conventions across Texas, and holds many prestigious titles, including World of Dance Houston Junior 3rd Place Champions. For dancers ages 6-18, UGK focuses on building the youth community in Austin and exposing more kids to hip hop and street culture.

LIL' GROOVES

AGES 6 - 8

AUDITION INFORMATION

MAY 29 | \$30 AUDITION FEE

Lil' GROOVES AGES 6-8 | MAY 29 | 4pm-5pm

After having pre-registered, dancers should plan to arrive at the studio no less than 15 minutes before their audition time, to check in, complete any remaining paperwork (an application should be fully completed ahead of time – please fill out thoughtfully so we can get to know your dancer), and to warm up. Dancers should wear their best hip hop attire to auditions. Application and registration links will be linked from the UGK info webpage at balancedancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info.

Light makeup and hair accessories are acceptable. Dancers will learn a short combo, and will be asked to freestyle, as part of their audition.

3:45pm - Check in/warm up

4:00-5:00pm - Learn combo and dance in groups

5:00pm - Parent Pick-up

Lil' GROOVES do not need to attend Innovate Audition Intensive



INNOVATE

AUDITION INTENSIVE

MAY 26-28 | DANCERS AGE 9-18



Junior Room (dancers auditioning for UNITE + UNITEpro): 4-7pm

Teen Room (dancers auditioning for KONNECT + KONNECTpro): 5-8pm

Senior Room (dancers auditioning for VELOCITY + VELOCITYpro): 6-9:30pm

This intensive's purpose is for our dancers to grow their artistry and emerge as the best dancer and human they can be. The UGK Company Directors will be attending the intensive to observe dancers in preparation for their auditions. Dancers will also learn a short combination at the intensive that they will perform at their audition on 5/29.

Dancers ages 9+ auditioning for UGK are required to attend the Innovate Intensive as well as their audition time on 5/29. Links for both will be available on the UGK information page at balancedancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info.

UGK

AUDITION DAY

MAY 29

After having pre-registered, dancers should plan to arrive at the studio, no less than 15 minutes before their audition time, to check in, complete any remaining paperwork (an application should be fully completed ahead of time, along with headshot – please fill out thoughtfully so we can get to know your dancer), and to warm up. Application and registration links will be linked from the UGK info webpage at balancedancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info.

Please wear clothes that highlight your dancer's personality and help them stand out.
Light makeup and hair accessories are acceptable.

Dancers will learn a short combo, and will be asked to freestyle, as part of their audition.
Dancers ages 9+ will perform the audition combo learned at the Innovate intensive.

LIL' GROOVES Ages 6-8 | MAY 29 | 4-5pm

UNITE + UNITEpro Advanced Dancers Ages 9-11 | MAY 29 | 5-6:30pm

KONNECT + KONNECTpro Advanced Dancers Ages 12-14 | MAY 29 | 6:30-8pm

VELOCITY + VELOCITYpro Advanced Dancers Ages 14+ | MAY 29 | 8-9:30pm

During the Innovate Intensive, dancers may be asked to audition for a team that is outside of their age grouping. Please contact Haley Sikes if you have any questions or concerns prior to auditions.

AUDITION RESULTS

Evaluation:

Balance Dance Studios will bring in outside judges to help evaluate auditioning dancers, and provide objective feedback for team placement. In addition, director feedback is considered, as well as past attendance, work ethic, attitude and performance quality (for returning company members). Judges and directors will share feedback after auditions and collaborate to determine the crew best suited to dancers' abilities, commitment level and expressed goals (per their application). *If your dancer cannot attend choreo week, they may be refused placement on UGK*.

Results:

Dancers will be notified by midnight on Friday, May 29th, via email, of their audition results/placement. After that, one parent and dancer are **REQUIRED** to attend a mandatory crew meeting with the directors on May 31st.

Summer classes start Monday, June 8th, and end on Saturday, August 1st. The fall session begins on Monday, August 17th.

Meeting times are as follows:

May 31ST

2:00PM: UGK Team Meeting

(Lil' Grooves, UNITE, KONNECT)

3:30PM: UGKpro Team Meeting

(UNITEpro, KONNECTpro, VELOCITYpro, and dancers approved for PROline)

4:30pm UGKplus Meeting

Meetings will be held at Balance Dance Studios.

Email UGK@balancedancestudios.com with any

questions.



IMPORTANT DATES

SUMMER 2026-SPRING 2027

5.26-5.28 - INNOVATE INTENSIVE

5.29 AUDITIONS

5.31 - MANDATORY CREW MEETINGS

JUNE- PHOTOSHOOT + RETREAT

6.12-6.14 - UGK PROline + jrPRO CHOREOGRAPHY

7.17-7.22 CHOREOGRAPHY WEEK

If your dancer cannot attend choreo week, they may be refused placement on UGK

7.23-7.25 AXIS INTENSIVE-HIP HOP

OCTOBER - WORLD OF DANCE HOUSTON (Mandatory for PROline + jrPRO)

11.6-8 - MONSTERS HOUSTON (Mandatory for PROline + jrPRO)

1.22-24 - MONSTERS AUSTIN | CONVENTION AND COMPETITION

FEBRUARY - 8 NATIONAL | DANCE COMPETITION

FEBRUARY - SHOWSTOPPER | DANCE COMPETITION

MARCH - HALL OF FAME | DANCE COMPETITION

MARCH - MONSTERS DALLAS | DANCE CONVENTION (optional)

APRIL - MURGE COMPANY SHOW

MAY - SPRING RECITAL

TIME COMMITMENTS

SUMMER EXPECTATIONS

EVERYONE

Summer choreography week (7.17-22), team photoshoot and retreat (TBD), Axis Hip Hop Intensive (7.23-7.25)

If your dancer cannot attend choreo week, they may be refused placement on UGK.

Lil' GROOVES, UNITE, KONNECT, VELOCITY.

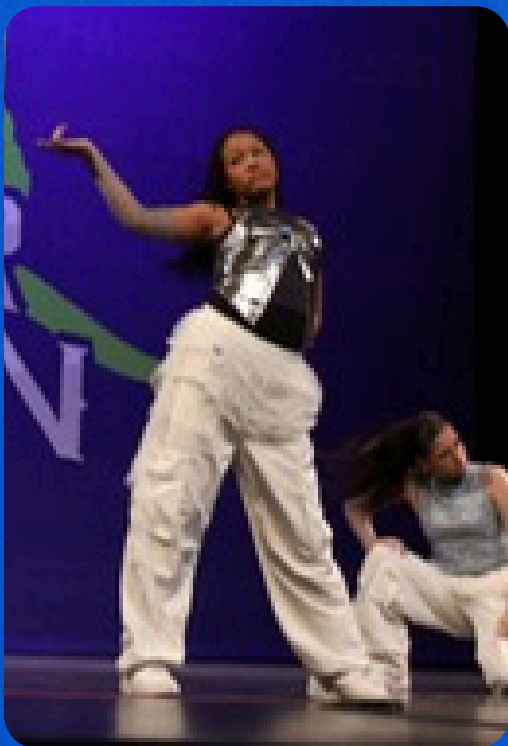
8 hours of hip hop during the 8-week session (1 class/week)

UNITEpro, KONNECTpro, VELOCITYpro.

16 hours of hip hop during the 8-week session (2 classes/week)

PROline

1.5 hour weekly Rehearsal - Thursdays at 5:30pm. Dancers may only miss 2 rehearsals in the summer semester.



SUMMER CLASSES

Lil' GROOVES - Tuesdays at 5pm

UNITE - Tuesdays at 4pm

UNITEpro - Thursdays Hip Hop 4:30pm,

Thursdays Fusion 7pm

KONNECT - Tuesdays at 6pm

KONNECTpro - Thursdays Hip Hop 7pm,

Thursdays Fusion 8pm

VELOCITY - Thursdays Hip Hop 7pm

VELOCITYpro - Thursdays Hip Hop 7pm,

Thursdays Fusion 8pm

PROline - Thursday Rehearsals 5:30pm

UGK PLUS

UGK PLUS PIECES

This season, we will be adding more opportunities for your dancer to take the stage. UGK Plus routines will be cast by UGK directors during Innovate. UGK Plus pieces will span broader street and club dance categories outside of hip hop. These routines are designed for higher level dancers of all ages, and will require a higher level of commitment. Dancers who are cast for a UGK Plus piece will have rehearsal on Saturdays in the fall; these rehearsals will work around Ignite and Verge rehearsals. Dancers may only miss 2 UGKplus rehearsals per routine per semester. All absences must be approved by the director prior to classes missed. All conventions and competitions are mandatory, no exceptions. Reblocking fees of \$150/piece will apply. The choreography, costume, and competition fees for UGK Plus routines will be included in monthly installments.

