

INTERVIEWING IN DANCE CAREERS

Dance interviews are often performance-based, collaborative, and physically demanding.

Employers are evaluating:

- ✓ your technical and artistic ability
- ✓ your professionalism
- ✓ your preparation and discipline
- ✓ your adaptability and reliability
- ✓ your collaboration skills
- ✓ your communication style
- ✓ your ability to receive feedback and direction
- ✓ how you contribute to rehearsals, performances, and ensembles

In many dance environments, employers are asking: “Would this person be prepared, collaborative, and dependable throughout rehearsals and performances?”

PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW

Research the Organization

Strong preparation demonstrates professionalism and genuine interest. Before the interview, understand:

- ✓ the organization’s mission and artistic style
- ✓ recent performances or productions
- ✓ company culture and expectations
- ✓ choreographers, directors, or faculty
- ✓ the role and responsibilities

PREPARING YOUR MATERIALS

Make sure materials are organized, professional, current, and tailored to the opportunity. Depending on the role, employers may ask for:

- ✓ dance resumes or CVs
- ✓ reels or audition videos
- ✓ headshots
- ✓ choreography samples
- ✓ teaching philosophy statements
- ✓ portfolios or websites

AUDITIONS & PERFORMANCE INTERVIEWS

Some dance interviews may include:

- ✓ live auditions
- ✓ choreography combinations
- ✓ improvisation exercises
- ✓ teaching demonstrations

- ✓ interviews with directors or faculty
- ✓ portfolio or choreography discussions

Before the Audition or Interview

- ✓ Review audition requirements carefully
- ✓ Prepare and organize materials in advance
- ✓ Arrive early and warmed up
- ✓ Dress appropriately for the setting
- ✓ Practice introducing yourself confidently

TALKING ABOUT YOUR WORK

Be prepared to discuss:

- ✓ your dance background
- ✓ rehearsal and performance experiences
- ✓ collaboration and ensemble work
- ✓ teaching or leadership experiences
- ✓ creative or choreographic decisions
- ✓ challenges you faced
- ✓ lessons learned from performances

Avoid focusing only on performance outcomes.

Instead, explain your preparation process, your role within productions, how you collaborate, and how you continue improving as a dancer or performer.

COMMON DANCE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

General Questions

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why are you interested in this position?
- Why do you want to work with our organization?
- What interests you most about dance?
- What types of dance experiences excite you most?

Performance & Preparation Questions

- Describe your rehearsal process.
- How do you prepare for performances or auditions?
- Describe a performance you are proud of.
- How do you handle performance pressure?
- Tell me about a challenging dance experience.
- How do you stay prepared during demanding rehearsal schedules?
- What role do you typically take within an ensemble?

Collaboration & Adaptability Questions

- Tell me about a time you worked under pressure.
- Describe a difficult collaboration experience.
- How do you respond to feedback / direction?
- Tell me about a time you had to adapt quickly during a rehearsal or performance.
- Describe a situation where teamwork was essential.
- How do you contribute to a positive rehearsal environment?

TEACHING & PROFESSIONALISM QUESTIONS

Depending on the role, employers may ask:

- Describe your teaching philosophy.
- How do you work with dancers of different skill levels?
- How do you stay organized during rehearsals or performances?
- Describe your experience balancing multiple responsibilities.
- What rehearsal or performance practices are important to you?

SAMPLE BEHAVIORAL QUESTIONS FOR DANCE STUDENTS

- Tell me about a time you solved a performance problem.
- Describe a situation where teamwork was essential.
- Tell me when you adapted under pressure.
- Describe a rehearsal or performance that did not go as planned.
- Tell me about a time you received difficult feedback.
- Describe a situation where you demonstrated leadership.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK EMPLOYERS

Strong questions demonstrate preparation and curiosity. Examples:

- What qualities make someone successful in your company or organization?
- How does your group approach collaboration and communication?
- What does the rehearsal process typically look like?

- What opportunities exist for growth or mentorship?
- How would you describe your company or organizational culture?
- What performances or projects is your organization most excited about right now?
- What does success look like in this role?

USING AI TO PREPARE

AI tools like ChatGPT can help you prepare more effectively. Try prompts like:

- “Act as a dance director interviewing me for a performance role.”
- “Generate interview questions for a dance internship.”
- “Help me explain my rehearsal process more clearly.”
- “What questions are common in dance interviews?”
- “Help me practice behavioral interview questions for dance careers.”

You can also upload a job or audition description and ask AI tools to identify:

- ✓ likely interview questions
- ✓ desired technical or performance skills
- ✓ employer expectations
- ✓ and audition or rehearsal priorities

FINAL TIPS

- ✓ Arrive prepared and professional
- ✓ Focus on collaboration and reliability
- ✓ Show openness to feedback and direction
- ✓ Demonstrate professionalism in rehearsal discussions
- ✓ Practice talking about your experiences out loud
- ✓ Remember that preparation and teamwork matter in dance environments

In dance careers, employers are often hiring people they will spend long hours rehearsing, performing, teaching, and collaborating with.

You do not need to sound perfect—you need to sound prepared, collaborative, professional, and authentic.