



## PERSONNEL COMMISSION

Class Code: 5039  
Salary Range: 15 (C1)

### DANCE ACCOMPANIST

#### JOB SUMMARY

Under close supervision, provide piano accompaniment for dance classes and a variety of performances and rehearsals; perform related duties as assigned.

#### EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

*The classification specification does not describe all duties performed by all incumbents within the class. This summary provides examples of typical tasks performed in this classification.*

- Play the piano from scores, lead sheets or from memory to accompany class units on modern, ballet, interpretive, folk, aerobic, jazz and social dance. ***E***
- Improvise keyboard music in various meters and styles such as 3/4, 4/4, 5/4 and 6/8 tempos, narrative music, classical, impressionistic, 20<sup>th</sup> century and pop for warmup exercises, combinations, across-the-floor exercises and compositions; compose music for special assignments. ***E***
- Consult with instructor regarding upcoming activities; research and plan appropriate music for dance classes. ***E***
- Sight-read music to find appropriate music for specific composition assignments. ***E***
- Maintain files of sheet music and recordings and preserve them in good condition. ***E***
- Copy music within copyright laws. ***E***
- Record music pieces for instructor and student use in dance choreography. ***E***
- Assist in the coordination of and participate in student group activities related to music education; attend after-school auditions, performances and rehearsals as directed. ***E***
- Arrange for piano tuning and repairs as needed; make minor repairs to tape recorders. ***E***
- Perform a variety of general clerical duties relating to classroom and student activities including assisting the instructor with paperwork and filing and maintaining records; make locker assignments and issue locks to students as directed. ***E***
- Operate a variety of office equipment such as a computer and assigned software. ***E***

*Note: At the end of some of the duty statements there is an italicized ***E*** which identifies essential duties required of the classification. This is strictly for use in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.*

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

The Dance Accompanist classification provides piano accompaniment for dance classes and a variety of performances and rehearsals. Incumbents must be able to improvise music in a variety of styles and provide music which reflects and supports dance movements. Positions in this classification are typically found at high school sites.

**EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS**

**Knowledge of:**

Music theory, harmony, composition techniques and their application.

Musical forms and phrase structure.

Musical styles and keyboard literature from various historical periods.

Modern dance technique and standard movements and how these translate into musical energy, tension and release.

Interpersonal skills using tact, patience and courtesy.

Basic record keeping techniques.

Oral and written communication skills.

Operation of a variety of office equipment including a computer and assigned software.

**Ability to:**

Read from sheet music or play from memory a wide variety of music.

Improvise a variety of musical styles.

Adapt rhythm patterns for creative modern dances creating the desired effects/moods for the performance.

Play piano at an advanced level and sight-read musical scores.

Plan, observe and simultaneously play the keyboard freely.

Create abstract sounds, color effects, mood and energy sensations at the keyboard.

Recognize the phrase structure of a piece of music and modify the music to fit the phrase structure of the choreography.

Watch dance movements and play music that reflects and supports the energy or dynamic of the movements.

Assist dance instructors with reinforcing instruction to individuals or small groups of students.

Understand and carry out oral and written instructions.

Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others.

Maintain routine records.

Operate a variety of office equipment including a computer and assigned software.

Demonstrate a willingness to work collaboratively as an educational team member.

**Education and Training:**

Consistent with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 and other related legislation,

candidates for this classification must meet the following standards:

The equivalent of graduation from high school and one of the following:

1. Completion of at least two years of study (48 semester units or 60 quarter units) at an institution of higher education; Or
2. Attainment of an Associate of Arts degree or higher degree; Or
3. Meeting a rigorous standard of quality by receiving a passing score in an examination administered by the Personnel Commission which demonstrates the knowledge and ability to assist in instructing reading, writing and mathematics.

In addition to the above standards, applicants must provide proof of completion of college-level coursework or advanced private training in piano and music theory.

**Experience:**

One year of musical accompaniment to dancing classes.

Any other combination of training and experience that could likely provide the desired skills, knowledge or abilities may be considered, however, experience cannot substitute for the required minimum education.

**WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

Classroom or gymnasium.  
Evening or variable hours.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

Dexterity of hands and fingers to play the piano.  
Seeing to read music and observe dance movements.  
Hearing and speaking to listen to music and exchange information.  
Sitting for extended periods of time.

***AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT***

Persons with certain disabilities may be capable of performing the essential duties of this class with or without reasonable accommodation, depending on the nature of the disability.

**APPOINTMENT**

In accordance with Education Code Section 45301, an employee appointed to this class must serve a probationary period of six (6) months during which time an employee must demonstrate at least an overall satisfactory performance. Failure to do so shall result in the employee's termination.

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