

**HONEYCOMB MAJORETTE DANCE TEAM**

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Harris-Stowe State University Fall 2009 Tryouts

**What is a Honeycomb?**

A Honeycomb is a Harris-Stowe State University dancer who participates in University-related events, including, but not limited to parades, basketball games, talent showcases, homecoming events, community events, etc. Many times, Honeycombs perform with the HSSU Drumline, during which we are all considered one unit. So, technically, a Honeycombs' responsibilities are two-fold.

In addition, a Honeycomb is a young lady (or man) attending Harris-Stowe who loves to express herself through the art of dance. It's not someone who's just looking for something to do or just something to be a part of, and does not take the organization seriously. She is articulate, classy, respectful, looks the part and most importantly, committed to the TEAM because she is a team player. She is not loud and obnoxious. She does not engage in inappropriate conversation, inappropriate behavior on or off campus and she is respectful of herself and others. She always looks presentable and takes care of her appearance, and is mindful of her surroundings, so that she is always presenting herself at her best and representing HSSU in and out of school activities.

**What we are not...**

We are not rump shakers and street dancers. Our style of dance is diverse and fits the various types of performances that we do each year. It is not up to you to tell either me or the choreographer that you don't like a certain style of dance or routine...we do them all! If you feel that you will face challenges with splits, turns, kicks, pointing your toes and dancing to unique music that isn't always what you hear on the radio, then this may not be the team for you. Dancing is a way of life...it isn't what you always see everyone doing on the videos or elsewhere.

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**Requirements:**

- Must maintain a 2.0 GPA
  - Grades are extremely important on this team! Please do not think that you will be performing poorly with your academics, but still dancing on my team, because you will not!
  - I check grades at the midterm point, and everyone, whether you're doing well or not, will receive a letter of progress at that point to let you know what is going on and what you need to do to stay on the team if you're in jeopardy of being kicked off due to grades.
  - If, by the end of the first semester, you have not performed well academically, you will be asked to turn in your uniform.
- Must be an HSSU student
  - No, you cannot join Honeycombs if you are still in high school.
  - If you are dropped from ALL of your classes at any point for any reason during the school year, please notify me immediately. I would hate for you to be embarrassed because you were dismissed from the team for not attending class or not even being enrolled in class.
- Must attend all clinic dates and come prepared to dance.
  - That means, you must look the part and dress in appropriate dance attire, including shoes during each day that you're in try-out practice, as you will be evaluated daily on your appearance and how well groomed you are.
  - Your hair must be maintained and groomed at all times.
  - When we perform, each dancer will be REQUIRED to wear their hair the same way; NO EXCEPTIONS!

- Once on the team, you will be REQUIRED to wear make up for each performance that is consistent with each dancer. You might want to invest in your complexion's foundation, blush and eyeliner. Lashes are required for each performance.
- If you ever show up to a performance with your hair "jacked up," please know and understand, that you will be pulled from the routine, with no questions asked. Pink, white, extra blonde, red, purple, blue, or whatever other color hair is not permitted on this team.
- Must know how to perform and show out when the music comes on! (smile)
  - A big part of dancing is your face and the expressions that you use while performing. If you are unable to give me what I look for with expressions and maintaining a smile, even when you mess up, we're going to have a problem.
  - Part of dancing is knowing how to work the crowd with your face. Please practice this if this is not your forte.
- Ability to come up with YOUR OWN parade routine that is either 8 counts or 16 counts.
  - This is a college dance team. All choreography is not going to be left up to me and the captains. All of you will contribute to making up dances and routines.
  - A requirement for making the team is for YOU to make up YOUR OWN parade routine. Inability to do so will show a lack of creativity and innovation and will result in you probably not making the team.
  - During the regular season, dancers will be required to come up with dance routines and instruct the rest of the team for certain performances.
- Must be able to commit to practicing THREE times a week, and possibly more if a performance is approaching.
  - It must be an absolute emergency as to why you cannot make a practice. Usually, you receive a performance calendar weeks in advance of scheduled dates, so that leaves you with enough time to notify your jobs, your families, your other extracurricular dealings.
  - Excuses are useless and do nothing for you or the team, so please do not come to me with them.
  - If you miss practice during the week of a performance, you are automatically cut from that performance.
  - If you miss more than three practices a semester, you will be cut from the team.
- Leave your attitude at the door.
  - If you even feel like you're about to come into the dance studio and go off on anyone, you need to remove yourself from practice immediately.
  - If you ever have the desire to talk crazy or be disrespectful to me, other administrators or the captains, just have your uniform in your hand, ready to turn in when you experience that thought.
  - I'm sure you've heard that I have no tolerance for ladies who think that they may know more about dance than the choreographer or me.
  - I will not get into heated discussions with you; I will not defend anything that I've said to you or go back and forth with you about what you're not going to wear, or what you think you ought to be able to do.
  - Sometimes, it won't be up for discussion; therefore, I need you to respect the decisions that the choreographer and I make, and roll with it. After all, you love to dance, so it shouldn't matter!
  - I do not deal with parents. Once you enroll in college, you are an adult. FERPA law protects me from having to explain or talk to parents about your business on my team. Please do not have your parents call me with excuses or reasons as to why you may not be able to do something. If I have problems, I come to you, and I expect the same in return.
- Must have a sense of humor and be ready to have lots of fun!
  - You don't have to love each other, but you do have to get along for the sake of the team.
  - There will be no gossiping, and there will definitely be consequences for doing so, and engaging in all kinds of drama that may impact the team.
  - When you are at practice, I don't want people cliqued up and acting shady toward one another.
  - Practice is for one reason: To make us perfect, so if you're not perfect, you definitely should not be involved in mess.

- I reserve the right to dismiss you for any reason that poses a threat or jeopardizes the standards and image of the Honeycomb Dance Team. Please be on your best behavior at all times, as I have people watching you!
- Please note: I am a commitment junkie. If you have commitment/dedication issues, you will not last on this dance team.
- I am about business and about us looking good and performing well at all times. You're not going to like EVERYTHING that I say or all the rules that I put into place, I understand that, but I will not tolerate attitudes or disrespectful tones or any of that, so choose your words wisely.
- You Must Look the Part.
  - Once you make the team, you must immediately think of yourself as a performer.
  - As a performer, you always want to look the part. Last year, I made up ALL of the girls' faces before each performance. This year, I am NOT doing that. Buy your own makeup. It helps with germ control!
  - It is going to be your responsibility to invest in your facial color's foundation, gold eye shadow, blush, red lipstick and a neutral gloss.
  - Before going on the stage, you must be made up; lips must be glossed.
  - If you come to a performance with grease on your dance tights, holes in your tights, dirt on your uniform or just looking a mess, you will be asked to sit down and will not perform.
  - Makeup is mandatory, it's not a choice that you make before performance, it's a rule!
  - On performance dates, all ladies will have their hair the same. More than likely, you know about performances at least a month in advance. If you do not plan to adhere to the hair policy, you might want to reconsider trying out. **EVERYONE'S HAIR WILL BE THE SAME, OR YOU WILL NOT BE PERFORMING!**
- \$60 first semester; \$25 second semester for dues  
This is a requirement, so that we can keep our petty cash up to par. This money goes toward your boots and your T-shirt. You will be required to buy the proper undergarments and your jazz shoes.  
You will be issued an HSSU bag, uniform and sweat suit.

**Clinic: (Tuesday, September 8, 6-8 p.m.) in the HSSU Dance Studio. DO NOT COME LATE!**

Day 1: Introductions and business  
Stretch exercises and conditioning (20 minutes)  
Technique exercises  
Dance

Remaining time can either be spent on mastering the dance routine or going over the aforementioned movements.

Day 2 (Wednesday, September 9, 6-8 p.m.): On-your-own time to master everything, including the routine, the walk, required movements.

**Tryout: (Thursday, September 10, 6-8 p.m.) It might take longer than 2 hours, depending on how many are actually trying out.**

What are we looking for at tryouts?

We are looking for committed dancers. Individuals who can work it out and nail everything that was learned during clinic.

- You will be judged on appearance, personality, required movements, routine, walk, attitude and ability to work well with others.
- Individually, you will do the required movements and the parade routine that you make up
- In groups of threes, the dance routine will be performed
- Right Kick
- Left Kick
- Split (must actually stand up and go down. We realize that everyone has one good side, but do your best to master both sides.)

**Words of Encouragement:**

Do your best. That's all that we can ask. It may help to buddy up outside of practice to assist with mastering the dance routine. Do not be discouraged because of others around you or because you feel that you lack dance experience. Ultimately, we are forming a team, and the way you work around and with others is a key component to being a Honeycomb. Maintain a positive attitude and practice, practice, practice.

If we feel that you are "workable," you just might make the team, so leave your nerves elsewhere and just relax and be yourself. We are so glad that you chose to become a member of the Honeycomb dance team. We hope that you will enjoy being a part of one of the best organizations on HSSU's campus.