

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCES TEXAS, USA
CERTIFICATE COURSE IN DANCE - KUCHIPUDI
Academic Year: 2026-27

Beginner Level Course

“Dance is the purest form of expression which leads to spirituality”

Kuchipudi certificate courses introduce beginners to this expressive Andhra Pradesh Classical dance form, with a structured syllabus practical dance training with theoretical insights, tailored for beginners to build foundational skills. Kuchipudi is a dynamic classical dance form with rhythmic footwork, graceful movements, and storytelling through abhinaya. These programs typically cover foundational techniques and theory for aspiring dancers or educators.

The curriculum is designed for Passionate learners typically offers a structured walk-through of dance form starting from the basics to advanced levels.

Theory

Unit -1

- Introduction to Indian Classical Dance (Eight classical art forms)
- The Village and the Dance (History of Kuchipudi)
- Natyothpati (Origin of Natya as per Bharata’s Natya Sastra)
- Natya Mela and Nattuva Mela

Unit - 2

- Evolution of Kuchipudi
- Natya, Nritya and Nruthya
- Treatises of Classical Dance: (Brief Introduction to Natya Shastra and Abhinaya Darpana.)
- Life histories of - Siddhendra Yogi, Bhagavathula Ramaiah and Vedantham Raghavayya.

Practicals

Vyayama -(Warmups- Loosening exercise, Jumping, Strengthening exercise, simple yogasanas)

Unit -1

- Kuchipudi Namaskaram with shloka and explanation – Natya Arambha shlokas (Natya Shastra)
- Dhyana Shloka
- Prathama Pada - Pada Bhedas (Sama pada, Udhgatita, Agratala sancharah, Anchita, Kunchitha and soochi)

- Traditional Adavus (connects with six adavus/ adugulu in three speeds- Onti adavu, Chowkamu, Jaradugu, Pakkanaatu, Kartharinaatu and Guppi adugu)
- To recite the Pataakshara (sollukatu)
- Jathis - Chaturasra
- Introduction to Hastas
- Compositions- Swarajathis - Jathi compositions for swara of any raga)

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCES TEXAS, USA
CERTIFICATE COURSE IN DANCE - KUCHIPUDI
Academic Year: 2026-27

Advance Level Course

Theory

Unit-1

- Origin and History of Eight classical dance forms.
- Eleven aspects of Natya Shastra
- Introduction to Chaturvidha Abhinaya.
- Hastas- Asamyuktha hastas, Samyuktha hastas and Nritta hastas. (Shlokas- AD)
- Shiro Bhedhas, Drishti Bedhas and Greeva Bedhas (Shlokas- AD)
- Introduction to Navarasa.

Unit -2

- Comparative study of Natya Shastra and Abhinaya Darpana.
- Brief Introduction to Margi and Desi.
- Introduction to Folk and Ritual Art forms. (India)
- Importance of Music in Dance.

Unit - 3

- Introduction to Carnatic music - learn basic lessons- Sarale varase, Janti Varase, Dattu Varase, Alankara and Geethe.
- Importance of Musical Instruments used in Classical dance forms.
- Amba Parakau - Prayer on goddess Bala Tripura sundari- Diety of Kuchipudi
- Tala and Laya
- Life histories- Purandara Dasa, Trinities of Music, Kuchipudi Quartet (Chintah Venkataramaiah, Vempati Venkatanarayana, Vedantham Lakshminarayana Sastry and Yeleswarapu Seetharamanjaneyulu.)

Practicals

Adavus.

- Pancha jathi adavus in all three speeds.
- Mukthaya Adavus.
- Adaptation of jaathis in the jathis. (Tishra, Chaturashra, Khanda, Mishra and sankeerna)
- Compositions-Swarajathi, Shloka Abhinaya,Pushpanjali/ Pooja nruthyam, Poorva ranga with Stuti, Jathi swaram (Atana - Ragam) Kauthvam- (Jeyam Jeyam tha nana Tha Jeyam)
- Learn to sing the compositions with tala.