

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

Diploma Level-1

Theory

Unit -1

- Study of Indian Classical Dance Forms.
- Natyotpati (Origin of Natya).
- The Village and the Dance (History of Kuchipudi)
- Sabha Griha Lakshana
- Natya,Nritta and Nruthya.

Unit – 2

- **Introduction to Abhinaya**

Aangika Abhinaya - shiro bedhas, drishti bedhas, greeva bedhas

1. Hastas- Asamyuktha hastas, Samyuktha hastas and Nritta hastas. (Shlokas and viniyoga according to abhinaya darpana)

2. Pada Bhedas (Feet moments)

Aharya Abhinaya - (Anuroopa, Roopanuroopa, and Viroopa (Jewellery used in Kuchipudi style)

Vachika Abhinaya

Sathvika Abhinaya

Unit-3

- Origin and history of Indian Music.
- Technical terms of carnatic music.
- India Classical Music. (Carnatic and Hindusthani Music)
- Life Histories: Siddendra Yogi, Vedantham Lakshmi Narayana Shastry, Chinta Venkata Ramayya, Musical Trinities and Purandara dasa.

Practicals

Unit-1

- Vyayama - warmus- Loosening exercise, Jumping strengthening exercise,simple Yogasanas)
- Natyaarambha shlokas.
- Dhyana shloka.
- Traditional adavus (connects with six advus/ adaguls in three speeds- onti ,chowkamu,Jaradagu, Pakkanattu,Kartharinattu, and Guppi adagu.)
- Reciting the Paata-aksharas for the adavus/ adagulu.

- Compositions: Swarajathis, Shloka Abhinaya, Pushpanjali/Pooja Nruthyam, Poorva rangam with stuti, Jathiswara _ Atana Raga, Kauthvam- (Jeyam Jeyam tha nana) and Ramayana Shabhdham.

Unit -2

- Introduction to Tala and Laya.
- Sarale varase, Janti varase, Dattu varase, Mandara Sthayi varase , Geetham 1 and Geetham 2.

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Diploma Level-2

Theory

Unit -1

- Eleven aspects of Natya Shastra
- Evolution of Kuchipudi
- Tandava and lasya.
- Sabha griha lakshana
- Patra and apatra and kinkini lakshana

Unit – 2

- Compositional forms in Carnatic music
- Vaaggeyakaras (Dr. Muthayya Bhagavadhar, oothukadu venkata subbaiyer, Akka Mahadevi, Basavanna)
- Musical instruments (reference to Natya shastra).

Practicals

Unit-1

- Introduction to Sapta Talas.
- Madhya Sthayi Varase, Tara Sthayi Varase, Alankaram, Geetham 3 and 4.

Unit -2

- Hastas- Asamuktha, samuyktha, Nritta Hastas according to Natyashastra.
- Traditional Kuchipudi Jathis (chaturasra Jaathis)
- Compositions: Natesha Kauthvam, Astakam- (Shiva, Linga, madhura, Lakshmi etc.,)Annamacharya / Ramasasu Keerthana, Devarnama, Manduka Shabham.

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Diploma Level-3

Theory

Unit -1

- Origin and History of eight classical art forms.
- Comparative study of Natya shastra and Abhinaya dharapana
- Introduction to folk, regional and ritual art forms.
- Importance of Music in dance
- Brief Introduction to Margi and Desi aspects of dance.

Unit – 2

- Importance of Kuchipudi Flag
- Veni Vrthantham
- The Kuchipudi Reportires

Unit – 3

- Life histories - Vedantam Prahalada sharma
- Vedantam Satyanarayana sharma
- Laya Bramah shree vempati venkatanarayana shastry.
- Bharatha kala prapoorna shree chinta krishna moorthy.
- Narayana Teertha.

Practicals

Unit-1

- Jathis adapting pancha jaathis
- Hastas - Devatha hastas.
- Dashaavthara hastas.
- Compositions: Mandooka shabdham
- Dashavathara shabdham.
- Devarnama
- Thillana.

Unit -2

- Basic lessons

- Geetham - 5 and 6
- 2 swarajathi

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Diploma Level-4

Theory

Unit -1

- Introduction to Rasa and Bhava.
- Kuchipudi Yakshagana an overview.
- Introduction to the Dramaturgy of Kuchipudi.
- Kuchipudi contributions.
- Kuchipudi Family.

Unit – 2

- Difference between Keerthana and krithi.
- Difference between jathiswaram and swarajathi.
- Introduction to Varnams.
- Padams and Javalis in Kuchipudi.

Practicals

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

Unit-1

- Swarajathi 3 and 4
- Shankarabaranam raagam - Varnam.

Unit -2

- Navagraha hastas
- Baandhavya hastas
- Compositions:
- Swarajathi (Vasantha)
- Krishna shabdham.
- Tharangam - Neelamegha / Bala gopal krishna.
- Javali

- Padam

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.