

Alagappa Performing Arts Academy Program Guide

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1. INTRODUCTION

Students of Indian classical performing arts spend years learning the art form and perfecting the art through rigorous practice to perform the 'Arangetram' or the formal initiation of the student to perform on stage. This preparation of the student can take six to seven years and if the same students were to pursue academic studies during that time, they would be able to complete post graduate collegiate education. However, in the pursuit of learning performing arts, students are not awarded academic degrees or certifications for their accomplishments. In an effort to reward students for their efforts Alagappa Performing Arts Academy based in California, USA and Chennai, India in collaboration with Alagappa University, Karaikudi, Tamilnadu, India has developed a novel structured learning program wherein students of performing arts can obtain a degree in these arts, namely

- ***Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts (Bharathanatyam)***
- ***Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts (Vocal Music)***
- ***Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts (Instrumental Music)***

2. ALAGAPPA PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY (APAA)

APAA, an integral part of the Alagappa group of institutions founded in 2005 has designed a comprehensive curriculum in performing arts to demonstrate the repertoire of culture that is embedded in these classical arts. These structured learning programs have been designed with specific course work and practicals that a student has to successfully complete to get the respective certification. Effective detailed aids have been developed to enhance the learning process with the comprehensive review of the various aspects of the art. From an overview of the various dances in India, to the rudiments of dancing, to clearly depicting the exquisite language of gestures, postures and rhythmical delivery, a student is guided through the various phases of this intricate art with textbooks that concisely explain its relevance and interactive DVDs that vividly describe the precise execution of the art. These valuable learning aids enhance comprehension and make this a valuable exercise for students to understand the depth and versatility of this art with theory and practicals integrated in a format similar to academic programs.

The primary focus now being on Bharathanatyam, other classical dance forms of India such as Mohini Attam, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Kathak and Manipuri will be added on later. These programs are offered through APAA Authorized Certification Centers (APACs) worldwide to enable students to obtain undergraduate and post graduate degrees in performing arts. The vision of APAA is to obtain accreditation for this program from renowned Universities in the world, propagate and bring prominence not only to Indian performing arts but also to all other dance and music art forms by offering structured learning programs to students worldwide.

3. ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

The Alagappa University owes its existence to its founder, Dr. RM. Alagappa Chettiar, a successful business entrepreneur, who was knighted by the British Government in 1945 at the age of 37 and was conferred the distinction of Padma Bhushan by the Indian Government on January 26, 1956. In 1947, answering Prime Minister Nehru's call to industrialists to help educate India, he acquired a thousand acre parcel of land in his native place, Karaikudi. Within a span of two decades, he demonstrated his versatility as a successful business tycoon, an intrepid academician with a vision to change the mere scrub jungle of Karaikudi to an impressive galaxy of educational institutions. When he died prematurely at the age of 48, Dr. Alagappa Chettiar had redefined philanthropy and contributed more to the betterment of education in Tamil Nadu than any other person of eminence had done until then.

Listed below are the various Alagappa educational institutions:

- * *The Alagappa College of Technology (1942) in Madras*
- * *Alagappa College of Arts & Science (1947) in Karaikudi*
- * *Dr. Alagappa Chettiar Training College (1950) in Karaikudi*
- * *Dr. Alagappa Chettiar Training College Model High School (1951) in Karaikudi*
- * *Alagappa Chettiar College of Engineering & Technology (1952) in Karaikudi*
- * *Alagappa Montessori School (1953) in Karaikudi*
- * *M. CT. M. Chidambaram Chettiar Memorial. Prep. School (1954)*
- * *Alagappa Primary School (1954) in Karaikudi*
- * *Alagappa Polytechnic (1955) in Karaikudi*
- * *Alagappa Preparatory School (1955) in Karaikudi*
- * *Alagappa School of Music (1956) in Karaikudi*
- * *Alagappa College of Physical Education (1956) in Karaikudi*
- * *Alagappa University (1985) in Karaikudi*

Alagappa University is recognized by the University Grants Commission (U.G.C.), Government of India, has 14 full-fledged departments offering regular postgraduate, M.Phil. and Ph.D programs. (Education, Physical Education, Institute of Management. Bank Management, Corporate Secretaryship, International Business and Commerce, Tamil, Women's Studies, Biotechnology, Computer Science and

Engineering, Industrial Chemistry, Mathematics, Oceanography and Coastal Area studies. The Directorate of Distance Education established in 1992 offers Under Graduate, Post Graduate & M.Phil. Programs in the disciplines of Management, Computer Applications, Science, Education, Languages and Performing Arts.

4. APAA ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Program in Dance

Initial focus will be on Bharathanatyam with the program leading to a Bachelor's Degree being completed in 4 to 6 years

<i>Certificate in Performing Arts</i>	<i>1 to 3 Year duration</i>
<i>Associate Degree in Performing Arts</i>	<i>1 year after Certificate</i>
<i>Diploma in Performing Arts</i>	<i>1 year after Associate Degree</i>
<i>Bachelor's Degree in Performing Arts</i>	<i>1 to 2 years after Diploma</i>

Program in Music

Vocal and Instrumental Music Program

This structured learning program in Performing arts for Vocal Music, Tabla, Mridangam and Veena allows students to be awarded with certifications based as follows:

<i>Certificate in music</i>	<i>1 to 3 year duration</i>
<i>Diploma in music</i>	<i>2 to 3 year after Certificate</i>
<i>Bachelor's Degree in music</i>	<i>2 year after Diploma</i>

4.1 Program in Performing Arts

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

- CEB 01 ***Introduction to Bharathanatyam–Theory***
History of Bharathanatyam, Treatises on Bharathanatyam, Traditional concepts of Bharathanatyam, Theoretical Concepts of Bharathanatyam, Basic Foot Steps: Adavu, Repertoire of Bharathanatyam.
- CEB P1 ***Introduction to Basic Footsteps – Practical***
Basic exercises for flexibility, various types of adavus, hasthas, movements of head, neck & eyes.
- CEB 02 ***Fundamentals of Bharathanatyam – Theory***
Elements of Abhinaya, Hand gestures, Technical Concepts of Bharathanatyam, Essential qualities, Scope for Bharathanatyam, Relevance of Bharathanatyam in present context

- CEB P2 ***Fundamentals of Gestures – Practical***
Alarippu and Shabdham
- CEB P3 ***Introductory Course in Performance – Project***
Specific report on select dance topics

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM

- ADB 01 ***Basic Expression in Bharathanatyam – Theory***
Sthanas, Angas, Padha bedhams Thandava (dance for men) Lasyam
(dance for women)
- ADB P1 ***Divine Expressions of Dance Forms – Practical***
Kavuthuvam and Jathiswaram
- ADB 02 ***Essential Expressions in Bharathanatyam***
Elements of Angika Abhinaya, Study of Indian Temples, Elements of
Aharaya Abhinaya, Fundamentals Components of Dramatic presentation,
Dancer’s Accompanist, Vachika Abhinaya
- ADB P2 ***Versatile Usage of Body Etiquette – Practical***
Keerthana, and Kavadi Chindu
- ADB P3 ***Foundation Course in Dance Compositions - Project***
Specific report on select dance topics

DIPLOMA PROGRAM

- DIB 01 ***Techniques in Bharathanatyam Theory***
Satvika Abhinaya, Bhavas, Anubhavas, Vibhavas (Determinants),
Nayaka and Nayaki bedhas, Dharmi, Vritti and Pravritti
- DIB P1 ***Advanced Techniques in actions and reactions– Practical***
Padam & Varnam,
- DIB 02 ***Advanced Techniques in Bharathanatyam Theory***
Samanya Abhinaya, Ashtanayaki Navarasas, Sancharis Harmonious
representation Importance of satva, Varied representations, Music & it’s
components in dance
- DIB P2 ***Intensive and Expressional Dance Store***
Thodayamangalam / pushpanjali & Thillana
- DIB P3 ***Essentials of Bharathanatyam - Project***
Specific report on padam and varanam
- DIB P4 ***Principle of dance forms - Project***
Specific report on select dance topics

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- BSB 01 ***History of Bharathanatyam - Theory***
History of Units in Repertoire, History of Dance, Styles in Bharathanatyam, History of Nattuvanars &, Devadasis tradition
- BSB P1 ***Bharathanatyam Repertoire – Practical***
Pushpanjali, Varnam, Thillana, Jawali and its nattuvangam
- BSB A1 ***Certificate course in music***
Introduction to South Indian Music and Fundamentals of Music
- BSB 02 ***Aspects of Bharathanatyam - Theory***
Text related to Rasa in Tamil and Sanskrit Tradition, Silapadikaram, Graphical representation of Adavus), Notations for Talam & Gestures
- BSB P2 ***Analysis of Dance Course - Practical***
Mallari, Jathiswaram, Ashtapathi, Thevaram, Tirupughaz, Thallattu and its nattuvangam
- BSB A2 ***Yogasanas for Dancers***
Suryanamaskaram, 10 asanas, Pranayama.
- BSB P3 ***Project***
Research thesis on any one Indian folklore
- BSB P4 ***Project***
Research thesis on any one Classical Dance Form

4.2 Details of programs in Music:

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- CEM 01 ***Introduction to South Indian Music - Theory***
Greatness of Indian Music, Technical terms, Basics of Rhythm, Notation used in carnatic music, Raga classifications, abhyasa gaanam (musical forms for exercises.)
- CEM P1 ***Basic exposure to Talam - Practical***
Sarali varisai, jantai varisai, upper sthayi varisai , dakku sthayi varisai, thattu varisai, Alankaras
- CEM 02 ***Fundamentals of Music and Instruments – Theory***
Lakshanas of the musical forms, Descriptions of various instruments, Biographies of the composers and contributions, voice culture & Thalas
- CEM P2 ***Fundamentals of Musical Forms- Practical***
Geethams, Jathiswaram, Thevaram, Thiruppukazh, Divya Prabandham, Divyanama Keerthanas of Tyagaraja
- CEM P3 ***Project*** - Research thesis on Indian classical music and Instruments

DIPLOMA PROGRAM

- DIM 01 ***Ragas and Thalas- Theory***
Technical terms, Raga classification system, Composers and compositions
- DIM P1 ***Techniques of Musical Forms- Practical***
Geethams, Swara Jathi, Nee arulayo, Samba Sivaya, Abhakara nindhai
- DIM 02 ***Musical Compositions and Renowned Composers- Theory***
Ada tala Varnam, Two adi tala varnams - Kriti, Keerthanai, Padam, Javali & Thillana, Devotional songs, Musical composers
- DIM P2 ***Intensive Musical Forms - Practical***
Thevaram, Divya Prabhandam, Varnam, Keerthanai, Thirupugazh, Kavadi Chindu
- DIM P3 ***Project*** - Research thesis on Thalasa

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- BIM 01 ***Facts of Musical Scales and Great Composers- Theory***
72 Melakarta System, Advance Notation Writing, Isai Anigal and Dhasavitha, Gamakas, Raga alapanai, Thanam, Pallavi, Niraval & Kalpana swaras
- BIM P1 ***Advanced Techniques of Musical Forms- Practical***
Brief alapanam and Kalpana swaras for major ragas Sankarabaranam, kambhoji, Thodi, Mohanam, kalyani, Ragamalika krithi. Padam, Javali
- BIM A1 ***Any one of the Indian instruments — Allied -1***
Violin, Miruthangam, Veena, Tabla or Bharathanatyam
- BIM 02 ***Unique Ragas and Indian Instruments- Theory***
Raga lakshanas, Description of Instruments, Brief Biographies of the Composers and Musicians of 20 th century
- BIM P2 ***Aspects of Indian Music- Practical***
Keerthanai, Thillana, Complex ragas and talas, Varnam, Javali
- BIM 03 ***Project*** - Research thesis on Composers and Compositions

5. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

A student must be 10 years of age to enroll in the program. Students should be able to read and comprehend the prescribed textbooks and write their exams independently. In special cases on recommendation of APAC where a student is less than 10 years of age and has demonstrated the ability to comprehend the prescribed textbook a student may be admitted to the program. APAA will review and reserve the right to admit any student. A student must be at least 16 years of age to obtain a bachelor degree.

6. APAA AUTHORIZED CENTERS (APAC)

APAA Academic programs are offered through established dance or music academies that are directed or administered by accomplished dancers and termed as Alagappa Performing Arts Academy Authorized Certification Centers (APAC's). These centers are at first evaluated for their accomplishments and competence in teaching this art. Once they fulfill the required criteria they are certified to offer the APAA programs.

6.1 Student Enrollment

Interested students can enroll in the program by filling out the downloadable form from the website (www.alagappaarts.com). All students will have to begin with the Certificate Program. Students must submit their photo along with the applications form (Appendix 1).

- Once the application forms are received by APAA along with payments for the corresponding tuition fees, students will be assigned a Student ID.
- Once a student enrolls, the APAC should update the Student Profile Master (Appendix 1) to inform APAA immediately of the new enrolment.
- APAA will send study materials either directly to students or to APAC for distribution as per the suggestion of the APAC. Each course generally has three components. The theory portion is identified as 01 and 02 and the practical portion as P1 and P2, and a researched written project

6.2 Functions of APAC

- APAC teachers should highlight the essential aspects of the theory and performing art.
- APAC can supplement the study materials given by APAA with additional non-contradictory material to enhance the learning process.

- APAC will conduct quarterly and mid-term exams. Final examinations for all courses will be set and corrected by the University.
- To fulfill the practical component of the program a DVD of the student's performance for the academic program must be recorded by the APAC and sent to APAA.
- APAC should maintain a folder for every student that should contain an attendance register, student's answer papers for the examinations and relevant information on the student. A copy should be provided to APAA for final grading and assessment of student's performance.

6.3 Theory For Students Of Bharathanatyam

- APAC should dedicate at least three quarters of the scheduled student's time for practical and one quarter for theory. The first one third of the book for Quarterly, the second one third will be for midterm, and the last one third for the final.
- APAC are recommended to conduct theory classes for all levels of students together so that time schedules for exams can be maintained.
- APAC should conduct weekly tests for students from the syllabus. Sample questions from APAA are also available on the website. The complete syllabus is recommended for the final examinations for all the courses.

6.4 Practical Classes

- APACs are free to follow their own dance style or adopt the style recommended by APAA for the practical classes.
- APAC can schedule separate classes for regular and fast track students to complete the prescribed syllabus by APAA. The APAC is free to charge the students for extra classes taken.
- Girls should wear salwar kameez or a short saree and boys should wear kurtha and Pyjama.

6.5 Internal Examination and Student Attendance

Each student in general should attend atleast one class of 1 hr/week to complete the course within the prescribed time frame. Each class shall be taken as a unit for the purpose of calculating attendance.No student shall be eligible to move to the next course unless they have passed the previous examination as prescribed by regulations.

6.6 Syllabus

- The syllabus shall be updated by APAA / University on a as needed basis.
- The Advisory Board shall periodically review the syllabus and recommend such changes as it considers necessary.

7. Fast Track Program

- The FAST Track Program has been set up to enable students who have prior knowledge in Bharathanatyam to obtain rapid certification (Certification and Associate Degree).
- A student enrolled in the fast track program can appear for the certificate exam 3 months from the date of enrollment of the certificate program. On completion of the certificate and application of the Associate program the student can appear for the exams 3 months of the date of enrollment to the Associate program. This is permitted within a 12 month period.
- A mandatory 1 year residency is required for the Diploma Program, on completion of Diploma program a 1 year mandatory residency is required from the date of enrollment to degree program.

7.1 Fast Track Program to Degree for Dance Teachers

Summary:

Particulars	Associate Degree	Diploma	Bachelor's Degree
Duration	2 months from date of enrollment	4 months after completion of Associate Degree	1 year after completion of Diploma
Eligibility	10 years of experience in teaching bharathanatyam	Same as Associate Degree	Same as Associate Degree
Practical requirements	Submission of following 1. 2 of your student arangetrams DVD with program contents 2. Choreography of a recent performance 3. Spot choreography based on syllabus	Same as Associate Degree	Same as Associate Degree

Theoretical requirements	1. Online examination	Online examination	<p>1. Online examination will be provided. The examination pattern will be an essay type questions based on the syllabus.</p> <p>2. Research report on a particular theme based on your own interest in (about 2000 words). Prior approval on the topic from APAA is required.</p>
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8 EXAMINATION SYSTEM (In person & On line)

- Each student will be evaluated on a quarterly, midterm and a final basis.
- The exams which will test the theoretical aspect will be offered in a multiple choice format, fill in the blanks, Match the following, Short answers and long answers with a duration of 1½ hrs for Certificate, 2 hrs for Associate Degree, 2½ hrs for Diploma and 3 hrs for Degree program.
- The examination schedule will be published on the student record on the APAA website.
- APAC will send the list of students appearing for the examination one month prior to the final exam date.
- The Examination in each paper shall be for a maximum of one hundred marks. Continuous assessment marks will be added to the final examination. Final examination will have objective and subjective questions from all chapters from the respective texts.

8.1 Testing Process

8.1.1 In Person

- Students should produce their practical test requirement in front of a proctor in a video or in DVD format and submit it to APAA.
- Students can perform either based on their original styles taught by the dance center or from what they learn from the DVDs. Any one item from the dvd is compulsory for Certificate, and Associate any two item from the dvd is compulsory for Diploma and Degree Programme.
- The DVDs will be forwarded to APAA for correction and evaluation.

8.1.2 On line

- Students appearing for exams online will be notified in advance on the time and date of exam by email and through APAC.
- Students would be required to log in with the username and password and access the exam
- The exam will be a timed offering during which student should answer all questions within prescribed time limits.
- Practical test requirements will have to be completed and submitted to APAA.
- Sample test are available online for student to practice.

8.2 Guidelines For Theory Exams

- APAC should announce the topic prior to the theory class, so that the students can come prepared to discuss the topics.
- Theory chapters that have practical to be done could be covered during the regular classes. Theory questions will be based on contents from text books
- Final exams will be a more comprehensive format.
- The project papers and DVDs should be submitted together.

8.3 Guide Lines For APAA Practical Examinations

- All prescribed scores for each program should be recorded in one DVD properly labeled with the student's name and id.
- The quality of the music should be good, for evaluation purposes
- Performance with Sorkattus or with music can be presented.
- The recording should be made with adequate lighting to understand expressions.
- The dancer should perform each dance score completely.
- The preferable costume is short saree or salwar kameez for girls, kurtha & pyjama for boys. Waist belt / dupatta should be tied around the waist, hair groomed well
- It is compulsory for students to wear Salangai (bells)

Certificate	Associate	Diploma	Degree
Hashtas , Adavus	Kavuthuvam	Padam, Varnam	Pushpanjali, Varnam Mallari, Jathiswaram
Adavus, movements of head, neck and eyes,	Jathiswaram	Varnam	Varnam,Thillana Ashatapathi, Thevaram
Alarippu	Keerthanai	Thodayamagalam/ Pushpanjali	Thillana,Javali Thirupughazh, Thallattu
Shabdham	Kavadichindu	Thillana	Nattuvangam

A student is required to demonstrate knowledge of the following for practicals:

- CEB - P1 5 to 10 minute recording of any eight classifications of adavus with any three varieties in each in all three tempos. Hashtas, movements of head, neck & eyes.
- CEB - P2 Any three korvais (combination of adavus) in adi thalam, Alarippu - 5 to 7 minutes of performance in any tala & Shabdham – 5 to 7 minutes in any language should be demonstrated.
- ADB - P1 Kavuthuvam - 4 to 5 minutes which includes sorukkatus followed by lyrics praising any deity. Jathiswaram - 7 to 10 minutes
- ADB - P2 Keerthana – 7 to 9 minutes in praise of any deity.
Kavadichindu – 5 to 7 minutes
- DIB - P1 Varnam should be performed in full length, starting with thrikala jathi.
Padam – 7 to 9 minutes in praise of any God.
- DIB - P2 Thodaya Mangalam / Pushpanjali - 5 to 6 minutes on any deity on any language. Thillana –8 to 10 minutes with sahithyam
- BSB - P1 Thillana – pallavi could be given, and students should be told to prepare their own korvai of 5-6 combinations.
Nattuvangam is taught for adavus and jathis.
One complete Bharathanatyam Repertoire should be completed.
Pushpanjali, Mallari, Jathiswaram, Varnam, Thillana,
All items should be performed in full length.
- BSB - P2 The meaning of Astapathi's, Tirupughaz, Thevaram, Thallatu and Javalis should be explained to students so that the concepts could be elaborated through Abhinaya. All items should be performed in full length.

8. 4. Written project evaluation for students

Students must send a written project on any one of the following themes

Certificate

Written project on any one of the assigned practical topics within 2 to 3 pages.

- How can the hastas be used in day to day life?
- What are the different adavus used in Korvais?
- Write a short note on the charis.

Associate Degree

Written project on any one of the assigned practical topics within 5 to 8 pages

- Write a note on the various kalams used in Alarippu- any talam
- Give a comparative outline on Jathiswaram.
- Give a short note on the Kavuthuvam you learnt (for more details please refer APAA DVD)

Diploma

Written project on any one of the assigned practical topics within 10 to 12 pages.

- What is the significance of Pada Varnam?
- Write a conceptual note on Oothukadu's padam.
- The communication of meaning in the medium of movements.

Bachelor's Degree

Written project on any one of the assigned practical topics not exceeding 12 pages.

- Kummi, Kolattam, Kavadi, Bangra & Karagam
Pinnal Kollattam, Dandia, Garba & Thiruvathira Kali.
- Kathak, Kathakali, Mohini Attam, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Odissi & Satriya

8.5. Guidelines for APAA Project papers

- Students should research the assigned topic and report concisely
- Students can write the essay with the introduction, relevant descriptions, and relevant pictures if any or if required, conclusion and reference
- Students will be questioned on project through an online questioning.

9. EVALUATION

- Students will be evaluated by accomplished faculty.
- Students are required to pass both theory and practical for each course.
- A consolidated score for theory, practical and project will be considered as final grade for course.
- APAA reserves the right to amend the rules for the evaluation system.

9.1 Students will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Adavus should be performed in perfect Aramandi. Natyarambam should be at shoulder level, with palms pointing and elbows kept turned according to the student's anatomy. Students should bend at the waist for an adavu, not from mid-spine but down from the base.
- Hand gestures must be distinct, well trained and communicative in abhinayam. Talam, Layam is compulsory.
- Presentation, Total involvement, Steadiness, Swiftiness well emphasized

9.2 Scheme of Evaluation for Dance

Name of the Examination	Papers	Marks
CEB01/ ADB 01/DIB01/BSB01	Theory	100
CEB02/ ADB 02/DIB02/BSB02	Theory	100
CEB P1&P2/ ADB P1& P2/ DIB P1&P2/BSBP1 /BSBP2	Practical	100
CEB03/ ADB 03/DIB03/BSB03	Project	50
Mid term	Internals	15
Quarterly	Internals	15
Attendance	Internals	20
Total		400

9.3 Scheme of Evaluation for Music

Name of the Examination	Papers	Marks
CEM 01/ DIM 01/BIM 01	Theory	100
CEM 02/ DIM 02/BIM 02	Theory	100
CEM P1 & P2/ DIM P1 & P2/ BIM P1 & P2	Practical	100
CEM 03/ DIM 03/BIM 03	Project	50
Mid term	Internals*	15
Quarterly	Internals*	15
Attendance	Internals*	20
Total		400

10. GRADING

A+ = 97 and above	B+ = 87 to 89	C+ = 77 to 79	D+ = 67 to 69
A = 93 to 96	B = 83 to 86	C = 73 to 76	D = 63 to 66
A- = 90 to 92	B- = 80 to 82	C- = 70 to 72	D- = 60 to 62

11. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VALUE OF PROGRAM IN DANCE

What is the Value of getting certification from this program?

Students of Bharathanatyam spend years learning the art and perfecting the practices and mostly perform the “Arangetram” which is a graduation performance. This process might typically take about 6 to 7 years for a student. If a student were to pursue studies during this time, they should be able to complete postgraduate studies. However in the pursuit of learning Bharathanatyam, dancers are not awarded degrees or receive certifications for their accomplishments.

To reward students for their efforts, APAA has designed a comprehensive curriculum in Bharathanatyam along with Alagappa University in India, to offer step-wise certification programs to meet the students’ needs. The Alagappa University certification will certainly enhance the student’s achievements while applying to universities for collegiate education.

Is this certification given only by Alagappa University from India or is it affiliated with universities in the USA as well?

Currently the degrees are given through Alagappa University. However we are working with the US department of Education to get the program accredited as actively seeking affiliation with established US universities. We hope to receive the affiliation by next year.

What is the value of accreditation to US universities?

It shows recognition of the student’s hard work over the past years learning the art and obtaining credits towards a degree program at the University. It will also make the student’s resume more impressive.

What types of learning aids are supplied?

On enrollment in a specific program:

Specific text books will be provided that elaborate on the various concepts and techniques of Bharathanatyam. Additionally interactive DVDs are provided to enhance the practical aspects studied through the books. The DVDs vividly describe the precise execution of this art and provide a valuable aid to help students practice what they have learnt at the dance centers.

Is a particular dance style forced onto students who join the course?

The Curriculum has been designed in cooperation with a group of eminent dance teachers with varied dance styles. Therefore no particular style is forced on the student.

What are the roles of APAA Authorized Certification Centers (APAC)?

To provide training and guidance to enrolled students to fulfill requirements of the respective program. The APAC will also help students prepare for the examinations. To conduct proctored examinations and send test papers to APAA. To record on DVD the practical exams and send to APAA for evaluation.

Can a student withdraw from a course after enrollment?

If a student withdraws from a course no refund will be provided. If a student does not rejoin a course within a one year period, registration has to be completed again.

What are the requirements to enroll in the Certificate program?

Enrollment in the Certificate Program is open to all students, but to obtain a Certificate within one year a student would be required to have 2 to 3 years prior experience in Bharathanatyam, as the practical requirement for the Certificate program requires knowledge in specific dance routines such as Alarippu, Kavithuvam and Sabdham.

Can a student register for the Degree program directly if he / she has completed Arangetram?

No, in accordance with University guidelines a student is required to complete and pass all the required courses in the Certificate Program and then complete the same in the Associate Degree Program.

To acknowledge time spent learning the art and staging an Arangetram, students are permitted to take the courses on a FAST TRACK basis so that they can complete the Certificate and the Associate Degree in a shorter time period (for example in 6 months)

On successful completion of the coursework, which includes all theory exams, a student will be accepted in to the Diploma program and will be exempt from practical work provided they are able to demonstrate knowledge of the required practical work for the Certificate and Associate Degree programs

Where are the programs offered?

The APAA programs are offered through APAA Authorized centers (APAC), which have been previously evaluated by APAA based on their stringent guidelines and certified to offer the program. All such centers are stated and updated on the APAA website on a regular basis.

Who will teach the textbook material?

Dance Centers (APACs) will set up a study outline. It is up to the students to interact with the dance center and complete the study materials before the exams. Any questions can be asked to the teachers in the dance center or the students can ask questions online and our professional staff will respond to queries.

Can I get the model question papers?

Yes, sample questions have been sent on the APAA website to provide students a flavor of questions that will be asked in the exams. User ID, you can login and access to the sample questions.

If we relocate to another city are the credits transferable?

As long as the students decide to stay within the APAA system, all the credits are transferable to APAA authorized dance centers all over the country. It is our fervent goal to establish authorized dance centers in all the major cities.

I am not able to complete the practical for the Certificate course in 1 year? What do I do?

For students who are not able to complete the dances within the 1 year time period, they can work with the dance center at a slower pace and complete the requirements.

What if I don't want to pay for the DVD's in each of the courses?

The DVD's are mandatory. It is part of the coursework and it provides a basic outline of what is required of students in the practical exams. Any one item should be performed from the DVD for certificate and Associate program and any two item should be performed for Diploma and Degree Program.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VALUE OF PROGRAM IN MUSIC

What is the Value of getting certification from this program?

Students of instrumental and vocal music spend years learning the art and perfecting the practices to perform their "Arangetram". This process might typically take about 6 to 7 years for a student. If a student were to pursue studies during this time, they should be able to complete post-graduate studies. However in the pursuit of learning music, students are not awarded degrees or receive certifications for their accomplishments.

To reward students for their efforts, APAA has designed a comprehensive curriculum in instrumental and vocal music along with Sangeetha Swara Laya and Alagappa University to offer a comprehensive academic program. Obtaining a certificate from a renowned University enhances the student's achievement portfolio and remains an asset for the student while applying to universities for collegiate education.

What are the requirements to enroll in the Certificate program?

Enrollment in the Certificate Program is open to all students, but to obtain a Certificate within one year a student would be required to have 2 to 3 years prior experience in Music. The practical requirements for the Certificate program are Sarali, Jantai, Dhatu varisai, Alankarams and Geethams.

What do I do if I disagree with the Classical Style or have found something that doesn't appear to be covered?

Bring it to the attention of APAA at customersupport@alagappaarts.com. This will be investigated by a panel of members and a response will be provided.

When the language is not understood are their reference books elsewhere?

Yes though the terms are generally universal but musical terms translations should be available. Enquire with your teacher.

Do you take beginners and also what age students do you take?

Yes we do take beginners. In fact, most of the students are beginners and have not had any music lessons before. Students of all levels and ages are welcome. The Minimum age to enroll in the Certificate program is 8 years old.

A student must be capable of comprehending the text books by themselves and answer the questions in an examination. APAA will review and reserve the right to admit the student.

Do you need your own personal instrument to practice on like Veena, Mridangam and Violin in the home?

Yes it is certainly preferable to have an instrument of your own. Please check with your music center if they provide other facilities.

Can a student register for the Degree program directly if he / she has completed the practical requirements for the Diploma Program ?

No, in accordance with University guidelines a student is required to complete and pass all the required courses in the Certificate Program and then complete the same in the Diploma Program.

Is there an accelerated program for experienced students?

Yes, it is known as the FAST TRACK program. To enter this program the teacher should recommend and the student should provide their Arangetram DVD or performance DVD. APAA reserves the final right to admit a student to the FAST TRACK program.

Students enrolled in the FAST TRACK program can complete the Certificate program in 3 to 6 months but must pass the written and practical examinations for the course. The Diploma and Degree require mandatory 2 year duration to graduate.

Appendix 1

Student Application form

1. Personal Details :

Name Last : _____ First : _____

Age : _____ Male : _____ Female : _____

Address : _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country : _____

Phone : _____ Alternate : _____

E-mail ID _____

2. Academic Background (State current level of education)

Level : _____

Name of the institution: _____

City _____ State _____

Country _____

Experience in Bharathanatyam: _____ Months: _____ Years _____

Special accomplishments(if any) : _____

Name of your Guru : _____

Name of the Dance Institution : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country : _____

Phone : _____ Alternate : _____

3. Credentials & Awards : _____
