

Professional Certifying Examinations - USISTD

Professional Examinations are the true heart of the Imperial Society. The standards of the examination program are exacting and require months of preparation. The degrees are graduated relative to one's experience, and are designed to provide dance teachers with a logical and systematic language for explaining movement in words. They also provide a means for achieving the ability to give a high quality practical demonstration of the fundamental figures of each dance. Therefore, all examinations require both practical demonstrations, theory, and technical analysis.

Professional Examinations are given for Student Teacher, Associate, Licentiate, and Fellowship levels of membership in the Society for the various styles of dance.

Progression of levels for the Professional Examinations

Student Teacher

Minimum age: 16 years. Candidates gain no qualifications in the Society, may not vote, and may not advertise as a member, but are permitted to attend meetings and to receive member discounts and publications. This level is an excellent preparation for higher level examinations. It is especially useful for new, or potential, teachers and for candidates who are also learning the figures, or who are studying for an examination in a style that is not their forte. The candidate is tested on their knowledge of the Student Teacher figures.

Associate

Minimum age: 17 years. Candidates with many or less than two (2) years of experience as a teacher of dancing in a responsible position may examine for the Associate degree. On passing the Associate exam, the candidate becomes a member of the USISTD, and ISTD if tested in either International Ballroom or Latin styles of dance. The Associate qualification is a provisional teaching qualification of the Society. The candidate is tested on their knowledge of the Student Teacher and Associate figures. The candidate must demonstrate good teaching abilities along with an understanding of the technique used in partnership dancing. This usually, is the first exam taken by an experienced dance instructor.

Licentiate

Minimum age: 21 years. Candidates for these examinations must have completed two (2) years of experience as a teacher of dancing in a responsible position. The Licentiate qualification is a provisional adjudication qualification of the Society. The candidate is tested on their knowledge of the Student Teacher, Associate, and Licentiate figures. The candidate must also demonstrate excellent teaching abilities and a higher understanding of the techniques used in partnership dancing.

Fellowship

Candidates for these examinations must have held Licentiate status in the Branch concerned for at least three (3) years. The Fellowship degree is the highest standard of qualification for the

teacher to achieve. The candidate is tested on all of the figures of the particular style in which the exam is taken. In addition, the candidate must also have a greater knowledge of dance principals and techniques used in partnership dancing.

Student Teacher, Associate, Licentiate, and Fellowship Exams are offered in each of the following styles of dance: International Standard, International Latin, American Smooth, American Rhythm and Theater Arts. One-dance examinations are also available in Peabody, International Viennese Waltz, Argentine Tango and Salsa.

When preparing for examinations, candidates frequently train with an Examiner or a Society member who specializes in examination preparation, referred to as Trainers. All necessary manuals, support videos and books containing potential examination questions and their answers are available through the USISTD Publications Department. The following documents would be helpful in your preparation:

Examination Handbook
How to Train for your USISTD Exam
The Ten Commandments of Exams
Rhythm Dancing

Contact our Exam Department for more details: exams@usistd.org

Read what studio owners have said about the Examination Process and how it affected their teachers and students:

"Dear Peter Billett,

WHAT AN INSPIRATION YOU WERE!

Thank you so much for visiting our studio and for certifying our instructors. Our experience with ISTD superceded our expectations. All of our staff, especially myself & my husband, were very much impressed with the knowledge and experience you shared with us. So much so we plan to hire you on a regular basis for Associates Training days.

The expertise and skill you shared with us was life changing for us as Dance Professionals and as Studio owners.

Thank you for going above & beyond what was expected of you as President and Examiner of ISTD and for breathing new life into our studio.

See you soon
Sincerely

Angel & Tulane Rivera
Owners: A TIME TO DANCE"

Here's a letter from our newest Associate member of the USISTD. This is what she had to say about her Professional Exam with Lori Woods Gay:

"Dear Lori;

Thank you for my exam. That was great! I had a good time and

learned a lot. I am looking forward to seeing you next time.

Some of my achievements. Am (partner Victor Fung)

2001 world finalist

2001 Blackpool finalist

2001 USA National champion

2002 Professional (partner Giampiero Giannico)

2005 2pl USA national championship

2002 -2004 Blackpool Semifinalist

2003 -2005 International semifinalist

2004 World finalist

2005 Blackpool finalist

If you need some more information, please let me know!

Thank you!

Ieva Pauksena"

Let the USISTD do the same for your studio. We offer Medal Tests for Students and Professional

Exams for all levels and styles.

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