

UMBC Latin Dance Classes, Spring 2017

What is the Latin Dance Club? The Latin Dance Club (LDC or 'Latin Dance' for short) is a student organization for anyone with an interest in learning salsa and/or bachata. More than a place to take salsa lessons, *we're an actual club*. Besides dancing the night away, we talk to each other outside of class hours, share videos of cool dance moves we find on our [Facebook group](#), and go out to dance at least twice a semester! We're a goofy, relaxed group of college students that like to set the floor on fire with our moves.

Do I need dance experience to join? Not at all- at the start of the dance classes we begin with the basics of salsa dancing (foot movement, hand placement, musicality) and revisit them continuously throughout the semester. Practice makes perfect!

What if I have prior dance experience? If you have prior experience in salsa or bachata, or have danced at all, you may find our **Intermediate class** more up to speed. Every class, Beginner or Intermediate, will begin with a warmup exercise of basic moves and/or combinations learned from the week prior.

Do I need to come with a dance partner? No dance partner is necessary. However, if you would like to bring a partner (e.g. a significant other) and prefer to dance with them and them alone, that's more than fine.

Class Schedule: Classes will run every Wednesday starting Wednesday, **March 1** and ending on Wednesday night, **May 10**. Appropriate scheduling actions will be taken around holiday breaks (Thanksgiving break for fall and Spring break for spring semester).

What time? Our Wednesday night classes are broken down as follows:

- **Intro Steps Salsa Class** is from **6:45 - 7:00 PM**. This is a review of basic step, right turns, cross body lead. *Cost: Free!*
- **Beginner Class** is from **7:00 - 7:45 PM**. In this class you'll learn the basics of salsa and bachata. The class will cover basic steps, fundamental combos and etiquette for going out to dance. *Cost: First class free, then pay as you go or pay for the full semester.*
- **Open Dancing** is from **7:45 - 8:00 PM** and again from **8:45 PM onward**. Open Dancing is a set period of time where all dancers, regardless of skill, are welcome to practice their moves and receive extra help from Jeff, our instructor. *Cost: Free!*
- **Intermediate Class** is from **8:00 - 8:45 PM**. In this class we cover more ground at a faster pace, teaching advanced combinations and shine moves. *Cost: First class free, then pay for full semester by 2nd or 3rd lesson.*

Can I attend Beginner and Intermediate Class? Of course— however, we are changing our policy from last semester and **to attend both throughout the semester you must pay for both**. Most people join both to get a feel for the more advanced or refresh on the basics. We recommend that you start off in Beginner if you don't have any dance experience and then switch to attending

our Intermediate class once we've seen you've mastered the Intermediate prerequisites (see "Minimum Prerequisites"). Dancers that choose to attend both classes are given a discounted option (see "Prices and payment").

Where? Salsa class will be on Main Street in the Commons.

What should I wear for class? Any non-restrictive clothing is fine (e.g. casual wear such as jeans, skirts... etc.), but it is important that students have appropriate footwear for dancing. What footwear is this exactly?

The best shoes for dancing are heels (of any inch size and brand) for women and dress shoes (of any brand) for men.

If you don't have these, *sneakers will do*. You just don't want a shoe that fits loosely and is likely to come off. We will be moving a lot on our feet, so it's best to wear something you can quickly move around in. The footwear worn should allow you to spin easily on your heel and not be too bulky or heavy (work boots, for example, would be less than ideal). In short, *you don't need expensive dance shoes*.

What else does Latin Dance do? Twice a semester or more we go out to dance at local clubs for night of fun (and safe) dancing! We also invite local dance instructors, who themselves teach salsa professionally, to teach workshops in a particular area of Latin-American dance. Lastly, we join up with other Latin-American themed student organizations to dance and party at their on-campus events.

Prices and payment method for the salsa class: There are two ways to pay your registration fee (and details for those who would like to attend both classes). You can

- Pay per class: pay **\$3 (for UMBC students) or \$5 (for non-students) per class**, starting with our second day of class on **March 8th**. The first class you take with us is **free!** Please hand in your fee at the start of class! (**If you join us at any point later than **March 1st**, the first time you dance is still free- every time afterwards costs the corresponding fee.)
- Pay a one-time registration fee: **\$27** for UMBC students and **\$45** for non-students. Full payment is due no later than a dancer's second or third class. The later in the semester you join, the less this one-time fee will be (just the same as if you were paying for each class individually). **Non-students: if you agree to pay your full registration fee on March 1st or 8th, you will get a \$5 discount and only have to pay \$40!**
- Dancers that elect to attend both Beginner and Intermediate class get 25% off the total of their two-class fee but must pay the entire discounted fee by their second or third class.

Payment method: Cash or check; please bring the exact amount! Check your specific cost with us via email. Using a check will speed up the registration process on the second day of class (or at any time if you're paying a one-time fee), so a check is the best option.

What does my registration fee pay for?

- **One awesome instructor.** Jeffrey Geroso is a really great guy that enjoys teaching dance, as well as dancing himself. A member of the club for more than three years (and dancing outside of class more than that), Jeff is a real cornerstone of the club.
- **Club T-shirts.** What's a club without a cool t-shirt? Taking in your input on the design, we're going to order printed t-shirts so you can rep your favorite dance club wherever you go. Who knows: you might catch an eye or two and be asked, "Do you salsa?"
- **Advertising & Miscellaneous.** A club's gotta do what a club's gotta do, and we're going to advertise and outreach across campus to bring in new people! This means getting inventive and using our resources to attract new students in engaging ways.
- **Dance Workshops.** We invite local dance instructors, who themselves teach salsa professionally, to teach workshops focusing on a particular aspect of dance. These workshops in shines, combos, and even different styles of Latin American dance help you add a personal flair to your dancing.

Minimum pre-requisites for the Intermediate class: (1) Women should know the cross-body lead with the turn. (2) Men should know how to lead the cross body lead with the turn. (3) Everyone should be able to dance non-stop with at least four partners in a row in the Dancers' Circle exercise. The dancer being circled (i.e. surrounded by other dancers) must be able to dance for the full length of a song (4) Everyone should know the basic salsa step, the right turn and be able to dance on beat.

Minimum pre-requisites for the Beginner class: (1) None! Just bring your body and be ready for fun!

If you have any questions about the club or how the lessons are structured, feel free to email us at umbclatindanceclub@gmail.com! If you're interested in contributing to Latin Dance further as an officer of the club, shoot an email our way and ask for our "Officer Positions & Responsibilities" document to see how you can help!

Thank you for reading up on the Latin Dance Club! We truly look forward to dancing with you!

Latin Dance Club
COME DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!

