



TAMILNADU COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

Approved by International Council for Open & Distance Education (ICDE), Oslo, Norway

Internationally Recognized Institution Registered under Tamilnadu Govt Act

Diploma in Bharatanatyam Syllabus (One Year – ODL)

Examination Scheme

S.No.	Subject	Marks
1	Practical Bharatanatyam	100
2	Theory of Bharatanatyam	100
3	History and Heritage Studies	100
4	Project Work	100
Total		500

Subject I – Practical Bharatanatyam (100 Marks)

Technique

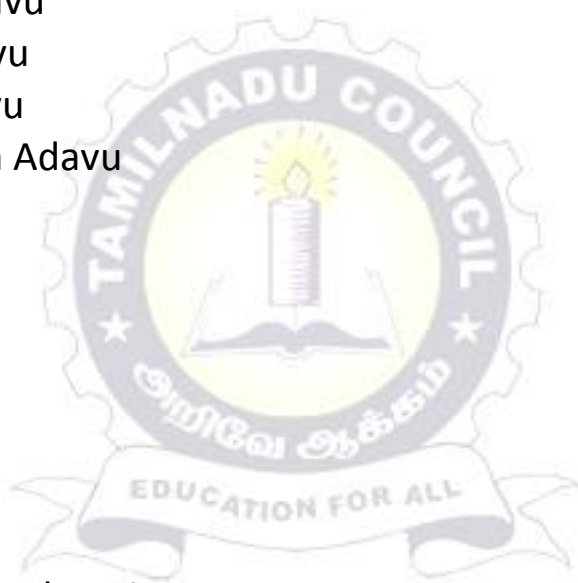
- Tatta Adavu
- Natta Adavu
- Visharu/Paraval Adavu
- Tatti-Metti Adavu
- Korvai Adavu
- Kuditta Mettu Adavu
- Sarukkal Adavu
- Sarikkal Adavu
- Paychal Adavu
- Kartari Adavu
- Mandi Adavu
- Teermanam Adavu
- Mei Adavu

Repertoire

- Alarippu
- Jatiswaram
- Shabdam
- Varnam
- Padam / Keerthanai
- Thillana
- Mangalam

Abhinaya

- Navarasas
- Sanchari Bhavas
- Character portrayal



Performance Skills

- Araithandi
- Anga Shuddham
- Rhythm and coordination
- Stage presentation



Subject II – Theory of Bharatanatyam (100 Marks)

Unit I – Introduction to Natya

- Origin of Dance
- Natya, Nritya and Nritya
- Tandava and Lasya

Unit II – Abhinaya

- Chaturvidha Abhinaya
- Navarasas
- Sthayi and Sanchari Bhavas

Unit III – Hastas

- Asamyuta Hastas
- Samyuta Hastas
- Nritya Hastas
- Viniyogas

Unit IV – Bhedas

- Shiro Bhedas
- Drishti Bhedas
- Greeva Bhedas
- Pada Bhedas

Unit V – Tala and Margam

- Sapta Talas
- Angas of Tala
- Structure of the Margam



Subject III – History & Heritage Studies (100 Marks)

Unit I – History of Indian Dance

- Dance in Vedic and Epic periods
- Natya Shastra and its significance

Unit II – Evolution of Bharatanatyam

- Sadir tradition
- Devadasi system
- Revival of Bharatanatyam

Unit III – Temple Heritage

- Dance sculptures in temples
- Chidambaram
- Brihadeeswarar Temple
- Other important dance temples

Unit IV – Great Contributors

- Rukmini Devi Arundale
- E. Krishna Iyer
- Balasaraswati
- Tanjore Quartet

Unit V – Heritage and Preservation

- Gurukula tradition
- Modern institutions
- Documentation and preservation of dance



Subject V – Project Work (100 Marks)

Project Report (70 Marks)

Candidates shall undertake **any two projects** from the list below.

List of Project Topics

Group A – Dance Theory & Literature

1. Study of the Navarasas in Bharatanatyam.
2. Comparative study of Natya Shastra and Abhinaya Darpana.
3. Nayika and Nayaka classifications in classical dance.

Group B – History & Heritage

5. Evolution of Bharatanatyam from Sadir to the modern stage.
6. The Devadasi tradition and its contribution to dance.
7. Dance sculptures of the Chidambaram Temple.
8. Dance heritage of the Brihadeeswarar Temple.

Group C – Personalities & Contributions

9. Life and contributions of Rukmini Devi Arundale.
10. Life and contributions of Balasaraswati.
11. Contribution of E. Krishna Iyer to the revival of Bharatanatyam.
12. The Tanjore Quartet and the development of the Margam.
13. Contribution of a distinguished Bharatanatyam Guru of the candidate's choice.

Group D – Repertoire Studies

14. Detailed study of Alarippu.
15. Detailed study of Jatiswaram.
16. Detailed study of Shabdam.
17. Detailed study of Varnam.
18. Detailed study of Thillana.
19. Significance of Mangalam in the Bharatanatyam Margam.

Group E – Sanskrit & Tamil for Dance

20. Study of Nataraja Dhyana Shlokas.
21. Sanskrit terminology used in Bharatanatyam.
22. Thiruppugazh and its place in dance.
23. Tamil devotional literature and dance traditions.

Group F – Creative & Field-Based Studies

24. Documentation of a Bharatanatyam performance.
25. Interview and profile of a Bharatanatyam artist or guru.
26. Costume and jewellery traditions in Bharatanatyam.
27. Nataraja iconography in Indian art.
28. Bharatanatyam in contemporary society.

Viva Voce / Presentation (30 Marks)

- Presentation of findings
- Understanding of the topic
- Ability to answer questions
- Documentation and references

Submission Guidelines

- Each project should be approximately **20–30 pages**.
- Projects may include photographs, illustrations, charts, interviews, notations, and references.
- Candidates must submit **two different projects**.
- A Viva Voce shall be conducted based on both submitted projects.



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RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Eligibility for Admission

- Candidates seeking admission to the Diploma in Bharatanatyam shall have successfully completed the Higher Grade Examination in Bharatanatyam conducted by the Council, an equivalent qualification recognized by the Council or a minimum of 5 years prior training.
- Candidates possessing other recognized dance qualifications may be admitted subject to scrutiny and approval by the Academic Committee.
- Admission shall be granted only after verification of the prescribed application form, supporting documents, and payment of the requisite fees.
- The decision of the Council regarding eligibility and admission shall be final and binding.

2. Duration of the Programme

- The Diploma Programme shall be of **one academic year** duration.
- The programme shall be conducted under the **Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Mode**, enabling students to pursue studies through self-learning, practical training, assignments, and project work.
- Students shall complete all prescribed academic requirements within the duration specified by the Council.

3. Course Structure

The Diploma Programme shall consist of the following subjects:

Subject	Marks
Practical Bharatanatyam	100
Theory of Bharatanatyam	100
History & Heritage Studies	100
Sanskrit & Tamil for Dance	100
Project Work	100
Total	500

4. Academic Engagement and Attendance

- As the programme is conducted under the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode, regular classroom attendance is not mandatory.
- Students shall actively participate in all prescribed academic activities, including:
 1. Assignments
 2. Project Work
 3. Practical Training
 4. Workshops, Seminars, Demonstrations, or Orientation Programmes (where applicable)
- Candidates shall complete all mandatory academic requirements prescribed by the Council before becoming eligible to appear for the final examination.
- The Council may require candidates to submit a Practical Training Record, Guru Certification, Learning Log, or any other evidence of academic engagement wherever deemed necessary.

- Failure to complete prescribed academic requirements may result in withholding of examination eligibility.
 - Students are encouraged to maintain regular contact with their Guru, mentor, or instructor throughout the duration of the programme.
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5. Study Requirements

- Students shall devote adequate time to self-study, practical practice, assignments, and project work throughout the academic year.
 - Practical training shall be pursued under the guidance of a qualified Guru, teacher, or instructor.
 - Students shall maintain records of assignments, project work, and practical activities whenever required by the Council.
 - The Council may organize academic interactions, workshops, seminars, demonstrations, or special lectures from time to time.
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6. Internal Assessment System

- Internal Assessment shall form an integral part of the evaluation process.
- Internal assessments will be conducted **once every two months**.
- An assignment will be issued at the **beginning of the first month** of each cycle.
- The completed assignment must be submitted **on or before the 15th day of the second month**.
- Late submissions may be accepted only with valid reasons and approval from the faculty, subject to penalty or reduced marks.
- Internal Assessment may include:
 1. Assignments
 2. Written exercises

3. Practical demonstrations
 4. Periodic evaluations
 5. Participation in academic activities
 6. Discipline and academic conduct
- Failure to submit assignments may result in the loss of internal assessment marks.
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7. Independent Work Requirement

- All assignments, written submissions, practical records, project work, presentations, and related academic activities shall be completed independently by the student.
 - Parents, guardians, relatives, friends, or any other individuals shall not prepare, execute, or complete academic work on behalf of the student.
 - Gurus, teachers, and mentors may provide guidance, instructions, references, and clarification of concepts but shall not undertake the actual preparation of assignments or projects.
 - Any work found to be copied, plagiarized, fabricated, or substantially prepared by another person shall be liable for rejection.
 - The Council reserves the right to award zero marks, require resubmission, or take disciplinary action in cases of academic misconduct.
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8. Project Work

- Project Work shall carry **100 marks**.
- Every candidate shall undertake **two projects** from the list of approved topics prescribed in the syllabus.

- Project work shall demonstrate the candidate's ability to conduct independent study, research, documentation, analysis, and presentation.
 - The Council shall notify the schedule and procedure for project submission.
 - Projects submitted after the prescribed deadline may not be accepted except under special circumstances approved by the Council.
 - Viva Voce shall be conducted based on the submitted project work.
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9. Examination Regulations

- Candidates shall appear for all examinations according to the schedule prescribed by the Council.
 - Examination schedules once announced shall ordinarily not be altered except under extraordinary circumstances.
 - Candidates shall produce valid identification and other documents as required during examinations.
 - Hall Tickets or Examination Eligibility Certificates shall be issued only to candidates who have fulfilled all academic and fee requirements.
 - The Council reserves the right to appoint examiners, moderators, inspectors, and observers for conducting examinations.
 - Practical examinations shall be conducted by duly appointed examiners.
 - Written examinations shall be evaluated according to the approved scheme of assessment.
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10. Examination and Evaluation Scheme

A. Practical Bharatanatyam

Component	Marks
Internal Assessment	20
External Practical Examination	80
Total	100

B. Theory of Bharatanatyam

Component	Marks
Internal Assessment	30
External Examination	70
Total	100

C. History & Heritage Studies

Component	Marks
Internal Assessment	30
External Examination	70
Total	100

D. Sanskrit & Tamil for Dance

Component	Marks
Internal Assessment	30
External Examination	70
Total	100

E. Project Work

Component	Marks
Project I	35
Project II	35
Viva Voce	30
Total	100

11. Passing Requirements

- A candidate shall secure a minimum of **40% marks in each subject.**
- A candidate shall secure a minimum aggregate of **50% marks** in the Diploma Examination.
- Separate passing shall be required in each subject.
- Candidates failing to secure the prescribed minimum marks shall be declared unsuccessful in the respective subject(s).

12. Classification of Successful Candidates

Aggregate Percentage	Classification
75% and Above	Distinction
60% – 74%	First Class
50% – 59%	Second Class
40% – 49%	Pass

13. Reappearance and Improvement

- Candidates who fail in one or more subjects may reappear for the failed subject(s) during subsequent examinations conducted by the Council.
- Marks secured in subjects already passed shall be retained.
- Candidates may apply for improvement of performance in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Council.
- The highest marks obtained under approved improvement regulations may be considered for final certification.

14. Examination Discipline

- Candidates shall maintain discipline and decorum during examinations.
- Possession or use of unauthorized materials, communication devices, electronic gadgets, or any unfair means during examinations shall constitute malpractice.

- Any candidate found guilty of malpractice may have the examination cancelled and may be subjected to further disciplinary action.
 - The decision of the Examination Board regarding malpractice, moderation, and assessment shall be final and binding.
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15. Code of Conduct

- Students shall conduct themselves in a manner befitting the dignity and traditions of Indian classical arts.
 - Respect towards Gurus, examiners, faculty members, fellow students, and institutional authorities shall be maintained at all times.
 - Any act of misconduct, indiscipline, harassment, defamation, or damage to institutional property shall invite disciplinary action.
 - Students shall uphold academic honesty and ethical standards in all aspects of the programme.
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16. Leave and Communication

- Students shall inform the Council or the concerned authority regarding any prolonged inability to participate in academic activities.
 - Requests for extension of assignment or project submission deadlines shall be considered only upon submission of valid reasons and supporting documents where applicable.
 - The Council reserves the right to approve or reject such requests.
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17. Fee Regulations

- All prescribed fees shall be paid within the stipulated period.
 - Examination registration shall be processed only after settlement of all dues.
 - Late payment of fees may attract penalties as prescribed by the Council.
 - Fees once paid shall ordinarily not be refundable.
 - The Council reserves the right to revise fees whenever necessary.
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18. Award of Diploma

- Candidates who successfully complete all academic requirements and pass all prescribed subjects shall be awarded the **Diploma in Bharatanatyam**.
 - Diplomas shall be issued only after verification of examination results and fulfilment of all institutional requirements.
 - The Diploma shall bear the seal and authority of the Council.
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19. Powers of the Council

- The Council reserves the right to modify, revise, amend, interpret, or update the syllabus, examination scheme, rules, regulations, and administrative procedures whenever deemed necessary.
- In matters not specifically covered by these regulations, the decision of the Council shall be final and binding upon all candidates.