Texas A&M University Dance Program
Observation Policy

Dance is a physical activity that requires practice. A student must be present and participating in class to reach their technical goals and proficiency. Continued practice is important to master the technique to move onto the next level. When a dancer becomes injured or ill participating in technique class can be difficult. The following procedures are in place to ensure that dancers are returning to dance in a safe way as well as learning something about their injury as they heal.

A few notes:
1. Observations may or may not be consecutive. An observation day is an observation day whether it is an illness at the beginning of the semester and an injury at the end of the semester. For example if you are sick the second week of class and take one observation day and later in the semester need to observe again, you will be starting with observation two.
2. A student must participate in class at least 80% of the time to receive a grade in the course. You must take an incomplete if you miss more than 20% of the class.
3. You are expected to attend each class period even if you are unable to participate fully, unless the student is too ill to attend class and they should bring a doctor’s note the following class. If you are out for more than one observation you will observe class while doing a specific exercise program on the side. If approved by your instructor, you may also work in the Pilates lab if the studio is available. This exercise program can consist of a conditioning program set by your doctor or if you need to avoid the injured area all together, it should consist of other areas of weakness.
   a. Example: If you have a second-degree ankle sprain and you are in a temporary cast you can work on abdominal exercises, back exercises, arms, etc.

Observation Forms:
All papers should be completed in full.
1. Observation form #1 applies to all technique classes.
2. Observation form #2 applies to ballet technique classes.
3. Observation form #3 applies to all technique classes.
4. Observation form #4 applies to all technique classes.
5. Observation form #5 applies to modern technique classes.