



Classical vs. Neoclassical

This comparison chart can be a helpful tool in decision making for dancers. Check out the features and qualities of classical and neoclassical ballet and use these to guide your own class and rehearsal goal-setting.

KEY COMPARISON POINTS	CLASSICAL TECHNIQUE	NEOCLASSICAL STYLE
Plié	Strength, Control, & Speed	Flexibility, Aesthetic, & Depth
Tendu	Maintain Axis, Leverage	Weight Shift, Counterbalance
Relevé	Expression of Leverage	Aesthetic of Foot
Priorities	Placement & Body Mastery	Poses & Pushing Limits
Highlights	Stability & Precision	Speed & Musicality
Energy & Movement	Minimalism & Efficiency	Athleticism & End-Range
Common Denominator	Technique	Body/Look
Arms	Simple Lines, Understated & Elegant Allongé	Expressive Angles & Articulations
Head	Subtle, Charming	Exaggerated, Dramatic