



Ignite Pre-Pro

AT BALANCE DANCE STUDIOS

2024-2025

COMPANY INFO PACKET

balancedancestudios.com/ignite-audition-info/



Mission About Us

By offering a comprehensive and empowering program, we aim to nurture and guide young dancers to be the best version of themselves, on and off the stage. By catering to each dancer's individual needs and fostering a supportive environment, our program sets the foundation for a successful and fulfilling future in the dance industry and beyond.

Vision

Dancers will cultivate their passion and talent for dance, while also developing essential life skills such as discipline, perseverance, leadership and creativity. Our vision is to create a strong community of dancers who support each other and collaborate towards a common goal of excellence. We train our dancers to treat our studio as a laboratory, a safe space to take risks.

Values

Passion for Dance

Empowering students' passion for dance by providing them with inspiring choreography, dynamic performances, and challenging repertoire.

Growth Mindset

Instilling a growth mindset while leading our students to continually evolve and grow as dancers & employable humans to society.

Integrity

Creating an environment that values integrity, respect, and inclusivity, where each student feels valued and supported by, not only the directors, but company dancers as a whole.

Community & Collaboration

Offering space & opportunities for dancers to collaborate and build relationships in a supportive environment.

WHO WE ARE

Meet the Team

Mandy Anstey
director



Mandy is an intentional dance educator, choreographer, and performer with a strong commitment to promoting self-love, thought-provoking experiences, and character development, through the art form of dance. She is an educator of all ages, a choreographer for various styles, and an animated performer onstage. Mandy graduated with a BFA in Dance Education from the University of South Florida. As an educator, she has produced, choreographed, and directed many dance concerts, recognizable full-length dance stories, and musical theater productions, over the past 17 years. Mandy has been the lead Dance Director for dance academies, dance studios, and Performing Arts Middle Schools & High Schools, including building dance programs from ground zero to 100%. Her career in dance education values movers of all levels and promotes character-building through the vehicle of dance.

Kate Mccann
assistant director



Kate fell in love with dance at an early age. The way that movement and music creates its own unique form of artistry has had an unparalleled impact on her life, both in and outside of the studio. She has been working with children since the age of 14, and has found that one of her greatest joys is being able to share her passions with a younger generation. Because Kate didn't start her formal dance training until high school she is a huge proponent of self discipline, and regards dance as the medium which taught her that all things are achievable through hard work and diligence. It was at Balance Dance Studios she cultivated this understanding, as she is one of our very own Push Dance Company alumni. Kate looks forward to teaching, training, and exploring movement with you!

Melissa Best
creative consultant



Melissa Best began dancing at age 2 and has studied dance across the world from New York City to Germany. Her dance career has been very active in the local Austin community since 1999, teaching in numerous dance studios and Drill Teams in around the country. She is certified as a pre-school teacher where she is educated and trained in early childhood development and has spent the most of her adult life inspiring a love of life and dance in her students. From 2013-2020, she co-owned Evolution Dance Center and created a nurturing home for professional seeking dancers with the award winning EVOLVE Dance Company. In 2020 she began directing Rise Dance Collective where she has helped guide her dancers into the professional dance world as well as gain National recognition. Melissa is passionate about cultivating an environment that is safe and explorative for dancers, challenging them to set goals, take risks, and make change.

WHAT YOU CAN

Expect from Us

✓ Excellence In Dance Education

We strive to provide the highest quality dance education and training, ensuring that our students receive a solid foundation in technique, artistry, and performance. Dancers will discover their own artistic voice & graduate from our program being employable humans. Regular assessments and feedback sessions will be provided to dancers to monitor their progress and address any concerns or areas for further improvement. Feedback will be constructive and focused on growth, helping dancers identify their strengths and areas for development.

✓ Professional Exposure

We provide opportunities for our students to perform & train at dance conventions, exposure to diverse master teachers, and professional and community dance performances. This exposure will allow dancers to dive into the world of professional dance and explore options for their future.

✓ Professional Development

We assist our students in navigating the professional dance world, providing them with guidance and resources. We cater each dancer's education to their individual goals/needs in the dance industry. The program will include workshops, master classes, performances and mentorship sessions, focused on personal development skills such as communication, goal setting, time management, and stress management. These sessions will help dancers navigate challenges, make informed decisions, and develop strong character.

✓ Health and Well-Being

Dancers well-being is of paramount importance, and our program will incorporate wellness activities, nutrition education, and self-care practices, in order to help dancers maintain a healthy body, a positive mindset, and a balanced lifestyle.



Audition Day

ages 9-12

MAY 20TH | 5PM-9PM | AUDITION

ages 13+

MAY 21st | 5PM-9PM | AUDITION

AUDITION JAZZ CLASS

An intermediate/advanced jazz routine will be taught and rehearsed for dancers to perform during the audition. This routine will also be sent out via email to anyone registered for auditions and cannot make classes below. \$20 drop in rate for those not already enrolled in the jazz class.

Ages 8-12 | Jazz Audition Class

Monday, May 13th, 5pm & 6pm
&

Wednesday, May 15th, 6pm

Ages 13+ | Jazz Audition Class

Monday, May 13th, 7pm & 8pm
&

Wednesday, May 15th, 7pm & 8pm

Audition and Casting

Step 1: Dancers/Parents will submit the audition application, dancer questionnaire and register for auditions through Studio Director, (\$25 to audition).

Step 2: The week before auditions, dancers will learn an intermediate/advanced jazz routine to be performed at auditions.

Step 3: Dancers will attend an audition time based on their age, unless directed otherwise by a Director. Auditions will consist of:

-Ballet Center Barre

-Contemporary/Improv Routine (taught during auditions)

-Jazz Routine (previously taught)

Step 4: Dancers/Parents will receive results, via email by Friday May 24th...

Evaluation

Balance Dance Studios faculty will evaluate auditioning dancers. For returning company members, attendance, work ethic, attitude, and performance quality will be considered. Judges and directors will share feedback after auditions and collaborate to determine the decision best suited to dancers' abilities, commitment level (time, attitude and financial), and dancers' expressed goals

Clothing

All black, form fitting dance wear is required. Dancers should have ballet shoes & jazz shoes. Hair should be in a professional bun or slicked back ponytail. No jewelry or accessories, please.

Results

Dancers will be notified of their audition results via email by Friday May 24th. At this time, you will be asked to review all company paperwork and complete the necessary steps, to prepare for an individual planning meeting with your Director, to sign up for summer classes and intensives as well reviewing fall classes.

Fall & Spring Training

Weekly Schedule:

6+ hours required, based on casting

- 3 hours Ballet
- 3 hour rehearsal block (group dance rehearsal, masterclasses/workshops, technique class, 1:1 mentorship, choreography opportunities)
- 1-2 hours of suggested classes based on catered instruction for dancer & group dance piece genres

Required Routines:

2 to 5 group routines, based on casting and availability

Solo/Duet/Trio:

Dancers may request approval to add a solo, duet, or trio, to take to conventions.

Required Conventions/Competitions:

4 required conventions

Additional Commitment:

Choreography Week

Team Retreat

Photoshoot (includes headshot, action shot and team photo)

Holiday Party

Spring Showcase

Student Choreography Showcase

Spring Recital

Spring Banquet

Occasional Saturday rehearsals

Professional & Community Dance Performances



Summer Training & Intensives

Ballet Intensive | June 10-14th

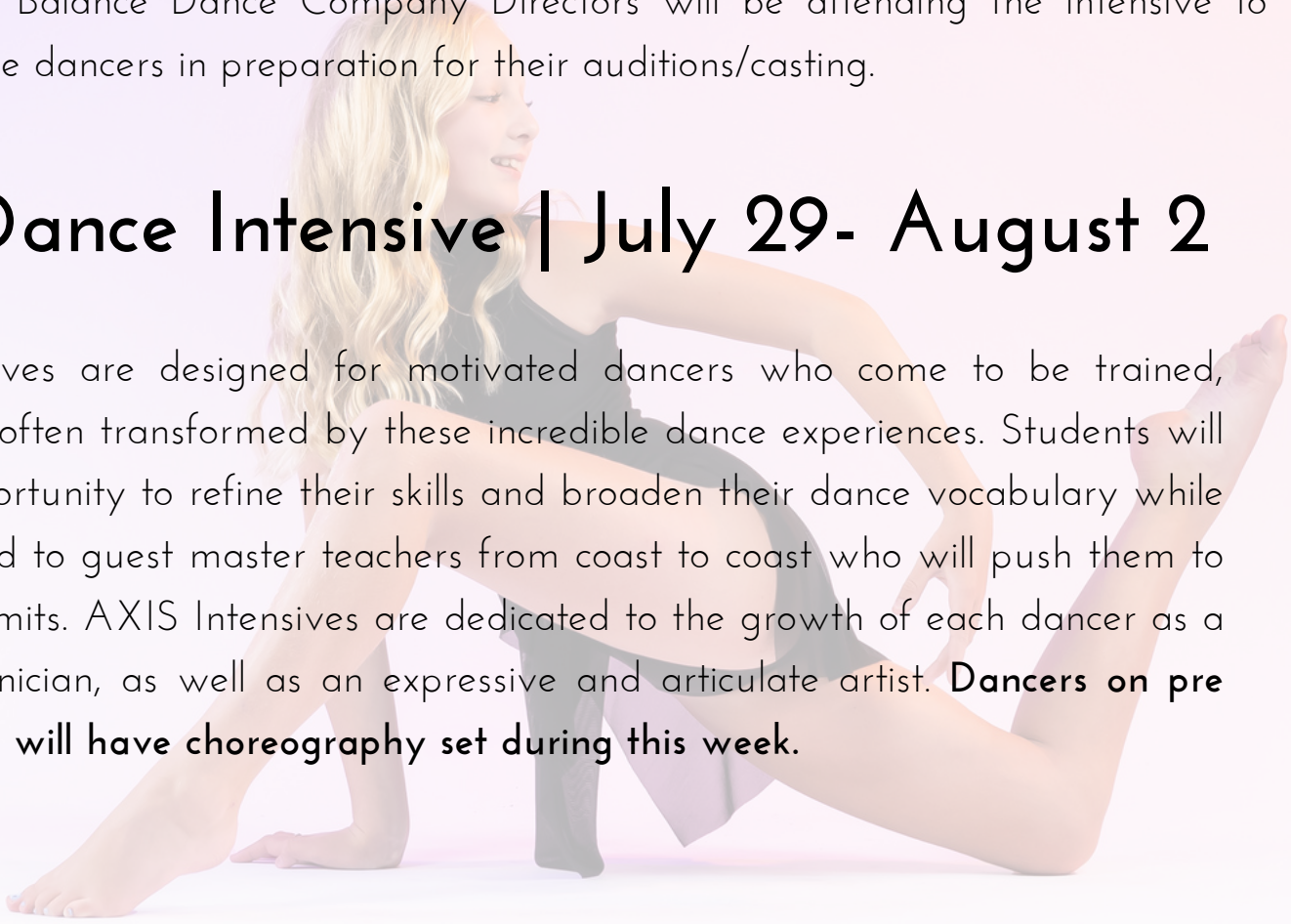
The ballet intensive curriculum focuses on strong technique rooted in the traditions of classical ballet with elements of contemporary movement. It is designed to help advanced dancers in the development of solid technique and artistic style through the challenging combinations and variations presented in each class. In each class, dancers will have the opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for dance and movement, while growing in athleticism, artistry, clarity, grace, speed, and musicality.

Emerge Dance Intensive | May 28-30

Emerge Dance Intensive purpose is for our dancers to grow their artistry and emerge as the best dancer and human they can be. EmERGE is a 2 track intensive, all styles and hip hop, with combined classes in each room for all tracks. Balance Dance Company Directors will be attending the intensive to observe dancers in preparation for their auditions/casting.

AXIS Dance Intensive | July 29- August 2

AXIS Intensives are designed for motivated dancers who come to be trained, inspired and often transformed by these incredible dance experiences. Students will have an opportunity to refine their skills and broaden their dance vocabulary while being exposed to guest master teachers from coast to coast who will push them to unexplored limits. AXIS Intensives are dedicated to the growth of each dancer as a physical technician, as well as an expressive and articulate artist. **Dancers on pre pro company will have choreography set during this week.**



Financial Commitment

12-MONTH COMPANY INSTALLMENTS

Annual Company Fee	\$1,200
Company Retreat Fee	\$165
Photoshoot/Video Fee	\$90
Social/Banquet Fee	\$90
Spring Show Fee	\$50
Convention Fees	\$1,210
Coaching/Travel Fee	\$234
Minimum Installment Total	\$3,039
Monthly Installment (12-Month)	\$253

12-MONTH TEAM GROUP PIECES INSTALLMENTS

CHOREO, COSTUME AND COMPETITION FEES TO 4 CONVENTIONS (2 GROUP PIECES)

Choreo Fee	\$400
Costume Fee	\$200
Competition Fees	\$520
Total for 2 Group Pieces	\$1,120
Monthly Installment (12-Month)	\$93

Additional group piece pricing will vary based on choreographer rates and will add approximately \$49-\$53 to your monthly installment plus the cost of class tuition in the genre of your additional competition dance if not already registered.

Company Installments:

12 monthly installments will be auto charged/drafted on the 15th of the month June 2024-May 2025.

Financial Commitment

OPTIONAL SOLO (10-MONTH INSTALLMENTS)	
Optional Solo (4 Conventions)	\$670
Solo Installment (10-Month)	\$67

OPTIONAL DUET/TRIO (10-MONTH INSTALLMENTS)	
Optional Duet/Trio (4 Conventions)	\$362
Duet/Trio Installment (10-Month)	\$36.20

*Competition and convention fee estimates are based on 2023-24 rates, average choreography rates and estimated team size to cover coaching and travel fees. The most current rates will be used when setting up installments and any actual cost deviations from installment estimates will be reconciled and reflected as a credit or charge in the May 15th 2025 installment.

Summer 2024

SUMMER 2024	
Summer Tuition (total for 8 week session)	\$342 - \$428
*Ballet Intensive	\$375 - \$425
*AXIS Summer Intensive	\$195-\$415
*EMERGE Audition Intensive	\$200
Summer Class/Intensive Financial Commitment	\$1,112 - \$1,468

Summer class tuition is paid in two summer installments (1/2 June 1st and 1/2 July 1st)

*All intensives may be split into 12 month installments (\$64.17-\$86.67/month for all three)

Fall/Spring 2024-25

FALL REGISTRATION & TUITION 2024	
Fall Registration Fee (annual fee)	\$55
Fall/Spring Monthly Tuition (minimum required hours)	\$451+

Registration fee due upon registration.

^Prorated August tuition due on August 19th and on the 1st of the month September-May.