



2025-26 Pre-Professional Program Student Handbook Extension

Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Dance.

Welcome to Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy (MBSA), the only professional studio school for classical dance in the Midwest. MBSA's robust Pre-Professional Program educates, trains, and prepares students for a career in professional dance.

Intended for recent high school graduates and current high school students with alternative academic study options, the program offers daily intensive training led by senior faculty member and Head of Training for Academy and Pre-Professional Divisions Tatiana Jouravel-Malinkine.

This packet is designed to supplement the MBSA Student Handbook and to help answer specific questions regarding policies for the Pre-Professional Program. Review the Student Handbook and this packet thoroughly and direct questions to your instructor or to the staff. The policies, rules, and regulations set forth will be strictly followed.

Faculty will use their best judgment while enforcing all Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy policies. If you have questions or concerns, please first see your instructor. If you feel your needs have not been met, please then contact the School & Academy Director regarding instruction on artistic matters or administrative issues.

Admission & Retention

Students must audition for consideration for admission into the Rolando Yanes Pre-Professional Program through stand-alone audition dates, Experience Days, video audition submissions, and invitation to audition through Summer Intensive or other recruitment opportunities. Students typically progress through the Pre-Professional Program on a two-year track, although exceptions may be made due to age and individual student needs. Students are in general aged 15 to 21; however, admittance into the program is subject to the discretion or recommendation of School & Academy Director and/or Head of Training for Academy and Pre-Professional Divisions.

Retention criteria include but are not limited to student achievement in both class work and performance, attendance, comportment, and adherence to MBSA policies and procedures. Students found to be deficient in any of these categories will be notified before or during their bi-annual evaluations and conferences so that they may either rectify their performance within the program, or, if no improvements are made, be withdrawn from the program.

Transfers

MBSA is unable to accept and recognize credits from other institutions. Credits earned from MBSA may not be accepted and recognized by other institutions; however, MBSA will make every effort to provide student transcripts and curricular information to students wishing to transfer their credits to another institution.

Attendance & Grading

Attendance is taken in all Pre-Professional Program classes, including Pilates, ballet technique, dance history, and other style classes. Students are expected to consistently attend every class scheduled, making every effort to schedule personal appointments outside of their daily class schedule. Students missing over 5% of any class section will be notified and may not earn credit hours or be awarded successful completion of the class. This policy pertains to both excused and unexcused absences. Special exceptions may be made at the School & Academy Directors discretion regarding injury, illness, or special student circumstances. Accommodations may be made for these students by facilitating make-up classes within School & Academy offerings. Such accommodations must first be approved by the School & Academy Director. For a detailed report of the number of allowed absences for any particular class section, please contact the School Office to receive further clarification.

Each instructor completed grading for their respective classes. Students will be graded each semester on a pass/fail scale. Components of the grading requirements consist of completion of student learning objectives, attendance, participation, and showcase performances or other summative assessments.

Grievances and Appeals

Artistic Staff and faculty will use their best judgment while enforcing all Milwaukee Ballet II policies. If you have questions or concerns, please first see your MBII Director. If you feel your needs have not been met, please then contact the School & Academy Director regarding instruction on artistic matters or administrative issues.

Appeals Procedure

Within 15 days of the action/decision that prompted the appeal, the student appeals to the faculty or staff member responsible for making the initial decision. This appeal must be made in writing and should contain substantiating reasons for the appeal, a request for a specific remedy, and a rationale for the remedy sought. If the outcome is negative and the student requests written notification, the faculty member or body must provide the student with a written statement of the reason for the adverse decision.

If the above outcome is negative, the student may, within 10 days of receiving the decision, appeal to the School & Academy Director. The appeal must be made in writing and should contain the reason for the appeal, substantial evidence in support of the appeal, and the solution sought and be submitted to the School & Academy Director. The School & Academy Director has final decision making and may reverse any consequential decision making based on evidence found after a thorough investigation.

Progress Reports & Conferences

Students are provided with instruction and mentorship regarding job placement, audition materials preparation, and career development. Specific classes and course units are provided in both Year One and Year Two course schedules. Students may also meet informally with their instructors for additional guidance.

Following completion of the program, graduates go on to secure jobs within the dance field throughout a variety of pathways including trainee and apprenticeships with international and national ballet companies, contracts with second companies including our own Milwaukee Ballet II Program, local theater companies, prestigious dance university programs, and various commercial dance opportunities. Students are supported in their endeavors to find job placements within the dance community and networks.

At the end of the fall semester and spring semester, conferences for each student will be held with their instructor(s). Student academic performance and career advisement will take place during such conference meetings. Dates and more details will be announced in advance.

Injury or Illness

Students suffering from injury or illness that prevents them from fully participating in class or rehearsal but does not require them to be sent home must complete a Medical Log form. If student cannot participate in multiple classes or rehearsals on a single day, all relevant instructors must sign the form. Along with the form, students should clearly communicate all injuries and/or illnesses to their instructor(s) at the start of class. A new Medical Log form must be completed each day applicable and turned into MBSA staff at the end of each day.

Students who have injuries sustaining beyond one week are required to seek medical care and have an established care and recovery plan. This plan, accompanied by a doctor's note, must be shared with the MBSA Office who will also distribute details to your instructors. Significant injuries sustained beyond a 6-week period will require a meeting with the School Director to identify any opportunities for accommodations, modifications, or potential withdrawal from the program. Efforts will be made to the best of MBSA's ability to accommodate injured students' successful completion of the program.

In cases of urgency, students may receive athletic training services and care Froedtert Sports Medicine Center and Medical College of Wisconsin team on site at the Baumgartner Center for Dance. To consent to such services, students and their parents/guardians must complete and submit the consent form provided.

MBSA recommends that students with dance-related injuries seek care through Dr. Craig Young and Dr. Laura Gottschlich and their team at the Froedtert Sports Medicine Center in Wauwatosa, WI. Students and their families are fully responsible for scheduling appointments and providing their medical information as necessary, as insurance will be applied. First-time patients will first be asked to pre-register at 414-955-5399 before scheduling an appointment through Sports Medicine Medical Assistant Matt at 414-805-8657.

Parking

Student parking in the Baumgartner Center for Dance lot is prohibited. Abundant, free street parking is available in the area, as well as monthly and flex parking passes in the Italian Community Center parking lot (located just steps from the studio) through [Interstate Parking](#). Parking in Milwaukee Ballet's lot may be available after 6pm and on weekends, but during regular business hours, this parking is reserved for staff.

THIS HANDBOOK MUST BE SIGNED FOR ADMISSION INTO MILWAUKEE BALLET SCHOOL & ACADEMY.

By signing below, I hereby release Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy, its agents and employees, from all liability for personal injury, illness or property damage occurring on or off Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy premises, whether or not caused by the negligence of the Milwaukee Ballet Company and School, its agents or employees. I have read the complete student handbook and this supplemental packet and understand the School's policies as outlined. I understand that I am responsible for tuition payments as described. I certify that I am in good health and capable of participating in all school activities and classes. I hereby give permission to the Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy to take photographs or video of me/my student to be used in Milwaukee Ballet and Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy promotional materials.

Student Name Print

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name Print

Parent Signature

Date

Required if student is under 18 years old.

Pre-Professional Program

Curricular Table | National Association of Schools of Dance

as of September 2025

Class Name	Age	Hours/Week	Weeks/Year	Total Hours/year	Total Hours in 15 weeks	Avg Hours per week/3 for determining credit equivalent	Semester Credit Hour Equivalent*
Classical Ballet Technique	15+	7.5	35	262.50	18.0	6	6
Pointe	15+	5	35	175.00	12.0	4	4
Hip Hop	15+	2	35	70.00	5.0	2	2
Contemporary	15+	2	35	70.00	5.0	2	2
African/Flamenco	15+	1	35	35.00	2.3	1	1
Jazz	15+	1	35	35.00	2.3	1	1
Character	15+	1	35	35.00	2.3	1	1
Musical Theater	15+	1	35	35.00	2.3	1	1
Variations	15+	1	35	35.00	2.3	1	1
Dance History/Seminar**	15+	3.6	35	126.00	8.4	3	3
Repertoire***	15+	5.9	35	207.00	14.0	5	5
Pilates	15+	2.75	35	96.25	6.4	2	2
Partnering	15+	1	35	35.00	2.3	1	1
				Total Annual Clock Hours	1216.75	Total Credit Hour Equivalent	30

*Semester hours of credit represent at least 3 hours of work each week, on average, for a period of 15 weeks. Achievement shall be consistent with the understanding that credit is earned only when curricular, competency, and all other requirements are met, and the final assessment or equivalent is satisfactorily met.

**Dance History/Seminar is a lecture class.

***Repertoire includes production and performance hours.

Successful completion of the Pre-Professional Program consists of four semesters of 30+ clock hours each.

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