

western Arkansas **BALLET**

4701 Grand Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72904-7141
(479) 785-0152
www.waballet.org



Ages 2 to Adult

Ballet | Pointe | Modern | Jazz | Tap | Hip Hop

Faculty & Staff

Jared Mesa, Artistic Director
Amy Willadsen, Executive Director
Brianna Mesa, Associate Artistic Director
Dagny Chastain, Dance Instructor
Allison Strasser, Dance Instructor
Kortney Marsden, Administrator

Visit our website www.waballet.org for more detailed biographical information on all of our faculty and staff.

Photo credit: Kim Singer Photography



CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND DRESS CODE

Dance With Me is a 30-minute class that meets once a week for 2-3 year olds (must be 2 at time of enrollment). This class introduces young children movement through music building motor skills, coordination, and confidence. Required attire for girls is a pink leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes and for boys black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes. Requires participation with a parent, grandparent, guardian, caregiver, etc.

Creative Movement is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for ages 4 & up. It develops the musicality, motor skills, rhythm, and coordination of young dancers. Required attire for girls is a pink leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes and for boys black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes.

Ballet I is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 6 & up. Beginning Ballet Technique is taught, as well as the development of coordination. Required attire is a light blue leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes for girls and black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes for boys.

Ballet II is a 75-minute class that meets once a week for ages 8 & up. Basic Ballet Technique is taught as well as self-discipline. A second ballet class is recommended. Required attire is a lavender leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes for girls and black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes for boys.

Ballet III is a 75-minute class for ages 10 & up. Basic Ballet Technique and the ability to take correction are the main focuses of this level. A second ballet class is highly recommended. Required attire is a red leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes for girls and black shorts or tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes for boys.

Ballet IV is a 90-minute class for ages 11 & up. Ballet Technique and the ability to take correction are the main focuses of this level. A second ballet class is strongly suggested. Pointe Technique is offered for those given permission by the faculty. The faculty will place dancers at this level. Required attire is a dark green leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes for girls and black tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes for boys.

Ballet V is a 90-minute class for ages 12 & up. High-Intermediate Ballet Technique along with the ability to dance in a group are the focuses of this level. Pointe Technique is offered for those given permission by the faculty. Three classes a week are strongly suggested. The faculty will place dancers at this level. Required attire is a black leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes for girls and black tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes for boys.

Ballet VI is a 90-minute class for ages 13 & up. Advanced Ballet Technique This level focuses on advanced level combinations mixed with artistry. Required attire is a black leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet shoes for girls and black tights, a white fitted t-shirt, and black ballet shoes for boys.

Beg. Adult Ballet & Adult Ballet requires exercise pants and a fitted t-shirt or leotard and tights. Pink or skin tone ballet shoes for women and black ballet shoes for men.

Beginning Adult Ballet is a 60-minute class for ages 15 & up that meets weekly for sessions (Mondays 7:45-8:45). Fall Session is Sept. 9 - Nov. 11, 2024. The Spring is divided into two sessions. The 8-week Session is Jan. 13- Mar. 3, 2025 and the 6-week session is March 31 - May 5, 2025.

Adult Ballet is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for sessions (Wednesdays 8:00-9:00). Fall Session is Sept. 11 - Nov. 13, 2024. The Spring is divided into two sessions. The 8-week Session is Jan. 15 - Mar. 5, 2025, and the 6-week session is Apr. 2 - May 7, 2025. Dancers with training experience or by permission from our Artistic Staff.

Pre-Pointe is a 30-minute strengthening class, designed as a preparation for Pointe Technique for ages 10 & up.

Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Pointe classes are by invitation only, and require enrollment in at least two ballet classes per week in addition to Pointe class. Required attire is the same dress as Ballet III-VI with the addition of pointe shoes. Pointe shoes must be checked by the faculty before sewing on elastic and ribbon.

All Tap classes require the same leotard and tights as your ballet class (if not enrolled in ballet a solid color leotard will be acceptable) and black tap shoes. Tap shoe elastics are strongly recommended. Black jazz pants (hemmed to the appropriate length) or shorts are optional.

Tap I is a 30-minute class that meets once a week for ages 6-8. Basic Tap Technique is taught as well as sound recognition. The faculty recommends Ballet I (or up) immediately before or after to assist in the connection between ballet and tap.

Tap II is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for ages 9-11 or is invited by the Artistic Staff. This class teaches basic Tap Technique, sound recognition, and the ability to tap in unison are the main focuses. The faculty recommends Ballet II (or up) immediately before or after to assist in the connection between ballet and tap.

Tap III is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 12 & up. This class builds upon basic tap technique, introduces advanced tap steps, and incorporates complex rhythm and intricate footwork. Students must be invited to enroll in this class.

All Jazz Classes require a solid color leotard (prefer the same color as your ballet level), pink tights, and black jazz shoes. Black jazz pants (hemmed to the appropriate length) or shorts are optional.

Beginning Jazz is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for ages 8-10. Basic Jazz Technique and basic routine choreography are taught at this level. The faculty strongly recommends dancers in this level take at least one ballet class (Ballet II) in addition.

Intermediate Jazz is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 10 & up. Jazz Technique and routine choreography are the main focuses. The faculty strongly recommends a prerequisite of at least one year of ballet class, in addition to current ballet class (Ballet III or IV) enrollment.

Advanced Jazz is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 12 & up. Advanced Jazz Technique in addition to monthly routines are the main goals. The faculty strongly recommends a prerequisite of at least three years of ballet class, in addition to current ballet (Ballet V or VI) enrollment. The faculty will place dancers at this level.

All Hip Hop classes require appropriately fitted dance clothing that is easy to dance in and black jazz shoes or dance sneakers (sneakers must not be worn outside of the studio).

Hip Hop I is a 45-minute class that meets once a week for ages 8-10. Basic Hip Hop Elements are introduced. A ballet and/or jazz class is strongly recommended in addition to Hip Hop.

Hip Hop II is a 60-minute class that meets once a week for ages 11 and up with previous experience. Expands on the original Hip Hop Elements. A ballet and/or jazz class is strongly recommended in addition to Hip Hop.

All Modern requires leotard, convertible or footless tights, leggings, shorts, or jazz pants, & bare feet.

Beginning Modern is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for ages 10 & up. Designed to introduce a new style of movement to dancers also, the principles of contemporary movement technique will be the focus, as well as improvisational skills to strengthen their movement vocabulary. The faculty strongly suggests one year of ballet training as a prerequisite.

Intermediate Modern is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for ages 12 & up. Principles of contemporary movement technique will be the focus, as well as improvisational skills to strengthen their movement vocabulary. The faculty strongly suggests two years of ballet training as a prerequisite.

Advanced Modern is a 60-minute class that meets weekly for ages 14 & up. Principles of contemporary movement technique will be the focus, as well as improvisational skills to strengthen their movement vocabulary. The faculty strongly suggests two years of ballet training as a prerequisite.

Drill Team Prep is a 60 minute class that meets once a week for ages 11 & up. This class teaches and refines intermediate to upper level dance team technique found in the styles of kick, pom, jazz, and hip-hop. This class is designed to prepare dancers for the excitement and rigor of middle school or high school drill team tryouts. The faculty recommends 1 year of previous dance experience as a prerequisite.

2024-2025 ACADEMY TUITION

**Registration Fee:
\$50 per family**

**Online Registration is available at
www.waballet.org beginning June 15, 2024**

**Registration will be accepted on a first come,
first served basis through January 31, 2025.**

To calculate tuition:

1. Choose the classes you are enrolled in and add the number of minutes for each class from the Class List Chart
2. Based on the number of class minutes per week, look at the tuition chart to determine your tuition based upon how you will pay: annually, by semester, or monthly.

Example: Sally is enrolled in the following classes: **Ballet III**, two classes per week (75 min. x 2 days = **150 min.**), **Pre-Pointe**, one class per week (**30 min.**), **Beg. Jazz**, one class per week (**45 min.**). Add the minutes per class for each class to find the total minutes per week as below:

150
30
+45

225 TOTAL Minutes per week

225 min. per week = **\$1394.00** **Annually**
 \$654.00 **Fall Sem.**
 \$818.00 **Spring Sem.**
 \$172.00 **Monthly**

Class List	Minutes Per Class
Dance with Me	30
Creative Movement	45
Ballet I	60
Ballet II	75
Ballet III	75
Ballet IV	90
Ballet V	90
Ballet VI	90
Pre-Pointe	30
Beginning Pointe	90
Intermediate Pointe	90
Advanced Pointe	90
Beginning Modern	60
Intermediate Modern	60
Advanced Modern	60
Tap I (6-8 years old)	30
Tap II (9-11 years old)	45
Tap III (12 & up)	60
Beginning Jazz	45
Intermediate Jazz	60
Advanced Jazz	60
Hip Hop I (8-10 years old)	45
Hip Hop II (11 years and up)	60
Drill Team Prep (11 & up)	60
Beginning Adult Ballet (Fall Session- 9/9-11/11/24) (Spring Session 1/13-3/3/25 & 3/31-5/5/25)	Session \$175
Adult Ballet (Fall session - 9/11-11/13/24) (Spring Session - 1/15-3/5/25 & 4/2-5/7/25)	Session \$175

Minutes of Class per Week	Monthly Tuition	Fall Semester Tuition with 5% Discount	Spring Semester Tuition with 5% Discount	Annual Tuition with 10% Discount
30	\$58	\$222	\$278	\$473
45	\$65	\$246	\$307	\$524
60	\$75	\$285	\$356	\$608
75	\$87	\$331	\$414	\$706
90	\$100	\$380	\$475	\$811
100	\$108	\$411	\$514	\$876
105	\$110	\$419	\$524	\$894
120	\$124	\$470	\$587	\$1,001
135	\$128	\$487	\$608	\$1,037
150	\$136	\$517	\$647	\$1,103
165	\$143	\$544	\$680	\$1,159
180	\$145	\$551	\$689	\$1,175
210	\$161	\$610	\$763	\$1,301
225	\$172	\$654	\$818	\$1,394
270	\$201	\$764	\$955	\$1,628
315	\$235	\$891	\$1,114	\$1,900
330	\$246	\$934	\$1,167	\$1,990
420	\$308	\$1,172	\$1,465	\$2,498
450	\$326	\$1,238	\$1,548	\$2,640
525	\$369	\$1,404	\$1,755	\$2,993
600	\$408	\$1,550	\$1,938	\$3,305

The Academy is in session for nine months (4 Fall months & 5 Spring months) and all tuition is based on the total annual cost of the program. Payments may be made annually, by semester, or by month.

There is a discount for payments made annually or by semester. Discounts are not provided for absences, vacations, academy holidays or snow/inclement weather closures.

Checks should be made payable to Western Arkansas Ballet or WAB. Monthly payments are due on the **first day of the month**. A \$25 late fee is charged after the 5th of the month. **A student whose account is 30 days past due will be asked to observe rather than participate. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE is \$25. Enrollment in auto-pay will be required if tuition is paid after the 5th of the month for two consecutive months.**

It is understood that a student who is admitted to the Academy is to be enrolled for the entire 9-month-term. If it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw, **communication or written notice from an adult/guardian to the Administrator is required**. If the written notification of withdrawal is submitted by the 15th of the month (without class attendance), there will be no charge for the month. Above policies are explained in your Academy Handbook.

western Arkansas BALLET

2024-2025 Calendar

June

2-7 Lorraine Cranford Summer Dance Workshop
6 Company Meeting @ 6pm
10-14 Nutcracker and Coppélia Summer Dance Camps
17-20 Cinderella Dance Camp
17-21 Elevé Dance Workshop
22-23 Adult & Junior Tennis Tournaments

August

5-9 WAB Company Class & Choreography
12-16 WAB Company Class & Choreography
15 Guild/ALL Company Parents Meeting-5:30 p.m.
18 Dancewear Pop-up Shop
19-23 WAB Class & Choreography
19-23 WAB II Class & Choreography
26-29 WAB/WAB II Class & Choreography
28 WAB/WAB II Pictures
29 WAB Board of Directors Dinner
30-31 No Class/Rehearsal

September

11-2 No Classes
3 Academy Classes Begin
6 Levitt Amp Series Performance
15 Thrilling Performance Audition/Rehearsals Begin
20-22 RDA/SW Board Meeting-Fort Smith, AR
21 RDA/SW Fall Workshop-WAB Studios
28 The Nutcracker Ballet Auditions

October

7-10 Bring a Friend to Class week
10 Guild Meeting @ 6:45 p.m.
12 Fall Ballet at King Opera House-2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
19 Nutcracker rehearsals begin
25 Thrilling Performance-Downtown Van Buren
14- Company Poinsettia Sales
Nov. 15

November

Parent Observation Month
To 15 Company Poinsettia Sales
17 Nutcracker Pictures
24 Sugar Plum Fairy Tea (setup 11am and event 2-4pm)
25-Dec 1 Closed for Thanksgiving Break

December

TBD Poinsettia Delivery
17-18 The Nutcracker Rehearsals ArcBest PAC
19 Nutcracker School Performances (Thurs) ArcBest PAC
19-20 The Nutcracker Dress Rehearsals ArcBest PAC*
21 The Nutcracker Performance 7:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC
22 The Nutcracker Performance 2:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC
22-Jan 5 Closed for Christmas Break

January

6 Academy classes resume
10-12 Guild RDA Meeting @ 6:45 p.m.

February

6 Guild RDA Meeting
16 RDA Adjudication

March

13-15 RDA/SW Festival hosted by WAB-Fort Smith, AR
24-28 Spring Break

April

1 Dance Fusion Rehearsals Begin
6 Spring Pictures (All Academy)
13 Mad Hatter Tea Party

May

3 Dance Fusion
8 Company Prospective Meeting
15 Last day of Academy classes
17 Spring Dance Concert Rehearsal-VBFAC
18 Spring Dance Concert Performances-VBFAC
21 WAB II Company Auditions
22 WAB Company Auditions

June 2025

1-6 Lorraine Cranford Summer Dance Workshop
TBD Elevé Dance Workshop
TBD Summer Dance Camps (Ages 4-9)
TBD WAB & WAB II Company Meeting 6:00 p.m.



Contact us:

Western Arkansas Ballet
4701 Grand Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72904

Phone: 479-785-0152

Email: info@waballet.org

Website:
www.waballet.org



***Please note that some classes may be rescheduled or cancelled the week of Dec. 16-19, 2024, and March 13-15, 2025 due to productions and festivals.**

Holidays

The Academy of Western Arkansas Ballet will observe the Fort Smith Public Schools calendar for **Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break schedules ONLY**. Notification of weather-related closures will be made via email and text as well as posted on our voicemail, website, Facebook and Instagram. Make-ups are available during other class times of the same level (Example: Ballet III Monday class may be made up during the Ballet III class offered on Wednesdays). If another class is not available for the level, a make-up will be scheduled with notification provided at the next class.

Western Arkansas Ballet is a non-profit organization. This program is supported, in part, by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Parks, Heritage, Tourism, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Western Arkansas Ballet is a performing company member in Regional Dance America/Southwest, an association of regional ballet companies.

The Board of Directors has set forth the following mission for the organization: **To create a community dedicated to the Fine Arts through quality dance education, training, and performance.**

Chris Hedrick, President
Aubrey Ziegler, Vice President
Amber Bryant, Secretary
Jared Mesa, Artistic Director
Amy Willadsen, Executive Director
Brianna Mesa, Associate Artistic Director
Allison Strasser Instructor
Kortney Marsden, Administrator