



**2024-25
COMPANY HANDBOOK**

OVATION COMPANY DANCERS

ODA Company Dancers are dancers ages 5 to 18 who have decided to dedicate themselves to becoming the best dancer they can be!

The first step in becoming a successful dancer is making a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient and class is where you develop that technique. Come to each class ready to learn and without personal distractions. Class time is your chance to focus on yourself, so try to leave your concerns or worries at the studio door. True progress is made when you look at each class, rehearsal and performance as an opportunity to become better at what you love to do. Dance full out, stretch a little further, become more aware of your technique, and make the most out of every chance you get to dance.

Our goal as a Company is always to give our personal best. Your teachers and choreographers will commit to giving their best when training and preparing you for performances and competitions. While we require our dancers to be the best they can be, we recognize that competitive dance is subjective. Therefore, we realize the real success at competition is not whether we win or lose, but rather that we see progress and growth as individuals and a team.

Please consider becoming a Company Dancer only if you are ready to make your dance training and team a top priority!

2024-2025 CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Company dancers must participate in our six week summer session- attending at least four of the six classes. Class requirements are outlined below. See summer schedule for specific days/times. Please inquire with Miss Alex for summer class recommendations if your dancer is not a returning Company Dancer.

- 23-24 Petites:
 - Required (at least two hours):
 - Combo II Tap/Ballet and/or Combo II Tap/Jazz
 - At least one additional class- Hop and Roll or Tumbling
- 23-24 Minis:
 - Required (at least three hours):
 - Tap/Jazz I and/or I/II
 - Ballet I and/or I/II
 - Lyrical I/II, Musical Theatre Dance I, and/or Hip Hop I
- 23-24 Juniors:
 - Required (at least five hours):
 - Ballet II

- Tap/Jazz II
 - Lyrical II (Tuesdays) or Intermediate Lyrical (Wednesdays)
 - Intermediate Leaps and Turns
- Recommended:
 - Intermediate Hip Hop (Monday or Wednesday)
 - Beginning Modern
 - Stretch and Strength
 - Tumbling
- 23-24 Pre-Teens
 - Required (at least six hours):
 - Intermediate Ballet
 - Intermediate Tap
 - Intermediate Jazz
 - Intermediate Leaps and Turns
 - Intermediate Lyrical (Monday and/or Wednesday)
 - Intermediate Modern
 - Recommended:
 - Intermediate Hip Hop
 - Stretch and Strength
 - Tumbling
- 23-24 Teens and Seniors
 - Required (at least six hours):
 - Advanced Ballet
 - Advanced Modern
 - Advanced Tap
 - Advanced Jazz
 - Advanced Leaps and Turns
 - Advanced Lyrical
 - Recommended:
 - Stretch and Strength
 - Advanced Hip Hop
 - Teen/Senior Company Tumbling Skills

24-25 Company class requirements will be sent out via email in July, and outline the classes required both individually and by Company. In order to remain in good standing as a member of the Ovation Dance Academy Company, dancers may not miss more than FIVE of any one class in the entire season. This means dancer will have a minimum attendance requirement of 85% before disciplinary action is taken. Any attendance issues that arise will be brought to the attention of the dancer and/or parent(s) and an action plan will be created by the instructors and director. This action plan could involve makeup classes or removal from routine(s) and/or removal from Company. **Dancers removed from Company due to attendance issues, withdrawal, or as a means of any other disciplinary action will be required to pay all remaining competition fees, recital fees, and monthly tuition. Dancers will also be subject to a re-staging fee of \$50 per dance.**

Dancers must be in attendance in all classes and rehearsals the week leading up to a performance. If a dancer is not in attendance in the classes immediately preceding a performance, they may not be eligible to perform.

Company dancers will be required to attend ONE in studio convention in the fall. Additional master classes may be scheduled for the dancers.

Injured dancers should always attend and observe classes as their injury permits. Injured dancers should bring a notebook and record notes while observing classes.

Injury or illness that will require a dancer to be out for an extended period will require a doctor's note. Dancers may also need to provide a doctor's note releasing them to dance when returning from an extended injury or illness.

Dress Code

It is important that all Company dancers adhere to the Company/Ovation dress code. Uniforms and proper attire allow instructors to ensure dancers are using proper technique and help instructors when cleaning routines. Company Uniforms are a top obtained by the studio and black booty shorts obtained by the dancer. Company Uniforms will take several weeks to arrive. Dancers should wear fitted dancewear (leotard, tank top, crop top, booty shorts, etc) on uniform class days until the tops arrive. Dancers should adhere to the dress code for every class. Jackets, t-shirts, hoodies, pajama pants etc are not allowed in any dance classes. Company dancers are permitted to participate in spirit weeks!

Hair should always be secured tightly with an elastic (no claw clips), away from the face, and off the neck. **Buns are preferred.** Braids or a neat ponytail are acceptable. Dancers **should not need to redo their hair during class.** Jewelry is not allowed. Apple/Smart Watches are allowed at the discretion of the instructor. Dancers wearing jewelry and/or distracted by smart watch will be asked to remove the items and place them in the pocket of a hanging organizer in the studio. It is the responsibility of the dancer to retrieve these items from the pocket at the end of class. If you wish to avoid lost items, please ensure your dancers is not wearing a watch and/or jewelry to class.

- **Ballet:** All female dancers must wear a **leotard and tights** for all ballet classes. Tank tops, t-shirts, leggings, etc. are not allowed in ballet classes. Dancers may opt to wear a skirt with their leotard.

ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS

Routine requirements for each Company are listed below. **These may be subject to change upon auditions and Company selections.** Competition routines will be performed in recital in addition to “recital only” routines. Solos will not be performed in recital.

Dancers may submit requests for additional routines (solos, duets/trios, small groups, etc) at auditions. Dancers will be chosen for these routines based on their dance and performance strengths as well as previous attendance, participation, attitude in class and work ethic. Dancers chosen for extra routines must maintain excellent attendance and attitude in all classes and rehearsals. If a dancer’s participation in extra routine inhibits their ability to perform in their required team routines, they will be removed from the specialty routine. Dancers must be present at ALL performances for ALL routines. If a dancer is unable to meet the requirements for participation in a Specialty Routine, an alternate will be placed in their position. Dismissed dancer will be expected to cover all financial obligations and re-staging fees for alternate. Team routines and classes will remain the top priority for all Company dancers.

Throughout the season there may be an occasion for parents to film practice videos, or the instructor will take a video and send it out to the class. These videos will only be taken with the permission of the instructor and used for the purpose of practicing at home. **Please refrain from taking unauthorized videos during class**, as it can be distracting to the dancers and instructors. Practice videos should never be posted publicly. If you wish to post performance videos for family and friends to see, please wait until the season has concluded, and credit the dance studio and choreographer. For safety reasons, **dance competitions DO NOT allow the recording of personal videos during the performances.** Most competitions will allow parents to purchase videos following the performance. Please do not take personal videos during the competitions.

Petite Company Routines

- Competition routines- Jazz and Tap
- Recital routines- Ballet, Opening, Finale

Mini Company Routines

- Competition routines- Jazz, Tap, Production (TBD)
- Recital routines- Ballet, Opening, Finale

Junior Company Routines

- Competition routines- Jazz, Tap, Production
- Recital routines- Ballet, Opening, Finale

Pre-Teen Company Routines

- Competition routines- Jazz, Lyrical, Tap, Production
- Recital routines- Ballet, Modern, Opening, Finale

Teen Company Routines

- Competition Routines- Jazz, Lyrical, Tap, Production
- Recital routines- Ballet, Modern, Opening, Finale

Senior Company Routines

- Competition Routines- Jazz, Lyrical, Tap, Production
- Recital routines- Ballet, Modern, Opening, Finale

A one time Production fee will be assessed for Mini, Junior, Pre-Teen and Senior Company dancers. This will cover choreography and rehearsals. Production rehearsals typically begin in early October on Saturdays. We rehearse more frequently to learn the routine with the goal of completing all choreography before winter break. After winter break we will re-view choreography and begin cleaning. The rehearsals become less frequent as performances begin and the dancers become more confident in the routine. A rehearsal schedule will be sent out via email. It is imperative we have strong attendance at these rehearsals, as we need all dancers present to rehearse formations and staging.

A one time Recital Opening fee will be assessed for all Company dancers to cover the recital opening rehearsals and a performance top.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

All Company Dancers are expected to be at all scheduled performances. Every performance is an opportunity to become more comfortable and confident on stage and in front of a crowd. It is also a great way for instructors to see strengths and weaknesses in order to help each dancer improve. **A full performance schedule will be included in the Company Handbook distributed in August.** It is imperative all conflicts are reported to Miss Alex immediately so arrangements can be made.

Dancers unable to attend a performance will be expected to pay all performance fees and additional rehearsal fees for an alternate to be placed in the routine or to allow for re-staging of routines. If an alternate is placed in the routine, dancers must provide their costume for the alternate to wear for the performance.

Dancers missing ANY required Company performances will NOT be eligible for Specialty Routines for the 25-26 year.

Performances will be local (Kansas City area). We will attend a semi-local National in the summer of 2025.

Dancers will wear Company makeup and earrings at each performance and Company jackets over their costumes. Hairstyles and costume requirements will be communicated prior to performances. Uniform hair and makeup are required for all performances. Dancers and parents are expected to learn the proper makeup/hairstyles to help create a uniform appearance. Company makeup will be purchased online from Lover Cosmetics. Lover Cosmetics provides clean, cruelty free and affordable products safe for our dancers of all ages!

Competitions typically release their schedules one to two weeks in advance. **Dancers are asked to block off the entire competition weekend, as we have no way of predicting the schedules until they are communicated by the competitions.** Any scheduling information will be communicated to all Company families via email as soon as it is made available.

Dancers must be at their performances AND awards ceremonies for each competition. Dancers are encouraged to attend other Ovation Company performances to support when possible!

Competition/Performance fees:

- Fees vary based on the competition and the number of routines your dancer is participating in. Competition fees may be subject to changed based on 24-25 season rates. The following are rates from the 23-24 season. **A full spreadsheet with competition fees and due dates will be distributed October 10.**
 - Solo fees- \$120-175 per competition
 - Duet/Trio fees- \$65-95 per dancer per competition
 - Group fees- \$55-75 per dancer per competition
- There will be a performance fee for the Company Showcase.

Company Behavior Expectations

Company dancers are considered representatives of Ovation Dance Academy, and should behave in a manner that is reflective of this important role inside and outside of the studio. Ovation Dance Academy is committed to being a safe place for ALL. Any instance of bullying, mocking, and/or gossiping are unacceptable. Dancers are expected to treat all Ovation Dance Academy students, staff, parents, and property with respect at all times. Dancers are also expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and respectable manner on social media and while engaging in text/group messaging.

Guidelines for Behavior

- Leave any personal negativity at the door when entering the studio.
- Arrive at least five minutes before the start of any class or rehearsal.
- Proper dancewear and shoes are required for all classes and rehearsals. Hair must be pulled back from face and off shoulders during all classes and rehearsals.
- Choreography should not be questioned.
- Decisions regarding class and routine placements are final. Should you wish to receive feedback regarding class and routine placement, you may request a conference with the director and/or instructor(s). Please be ready and open to receiving constructive feedback at this time.
- Finish every class or rehearsal with a “thank you” to the choreographer and/or instructor.
- When wearing your studio apparel, be sure your activities and behavior reflect positively on Ovation Dance Academy whether or not you are at a studio event.
- Appreciate the Critique— listen to all corrections given, whether it is directed at you or another dancer. A correction is an honor as it shows your instructor cares about your progress as a dancer. Always thank the instructors offering constructive criticism and apply the correction immediately.

For Dancers and Parents

The dancers and parents involved in the ODA Company participate in many activities outside of the studio, all of which reflect on Ovation Dance Academy. Please keep in mind the following...

- We will not speak negatively about teachers, dancers, or parents from Ovation or any other studios.
- We will not create conflict with directors, judges, or other competitors at the events in which we participate.
- Our studio director will handle all communication with the directors/staff at any events we participate in.
- We will always treat other members of the ODA Company, staff and their family members with kindness and respect. We are one team!
- We are all representatives of Ovation Dance Academy and will commit to maintaining a positive image and attitude.

For Parents

Parents play an important role in their child's dance training and success. The most valuable role a parent can play is their dancer's number one fan!! Parents may encourage practicing, stretching, and rehearsing choreography outside of the studio, but should allow all coaching to come from instructors. This allows parents to remain a supportive figure and instructors to carry the role of coach.

Competition weekends can be long, tiring, and full of emotions. Dancers may need to be reminded that they are loved and supported unconditionally regardless of the outcome. In the rehearsals following the performances, instructors will give the dancers feedback and allow them to hear feedback from the judges. Dance is very subjective, and competitive dancers should always remember the results from each competition are the opinions of three individuals on that particular day. A different day or set of judges can yield different results. At Ovation, we are focused on personal progress, doing our best, and making improvements every time we step on stage. Some dancers may want to reflect on their performance immediately following the competition or performances. Allow your child to decide if and how they wish to reflect after a performance. Good questions to ask to guide these conversations are:

- *What went well?*
- *Tell me about...?*
- *How did you feel when...?*

These questions allow you to talk about your family values and what competition teaches you through highs and lows. You also get to explore the value of personal development beyond winning and placements.

Great things to tell your child after their performance are:

- *I love watching you perform!*
- *You've worked so hard! I am so proud of you!*
- *I love watching you light up the stage with your passion and joy!*

Required Supplies

Company dancers must obtain the required supplies. Additional items are available for purchase as well.

- Company Uniform top- to be worn in Company classes- approximately \$60- purchased through ODA (dancers should provide their own black dance shorts to wear with their uniform)
- Company Jacket (Juniors, Pre Teens, Teens, Seniors)- \$125- purchased through ODA
- Company Jacket (Petites, Minis)- \$75- purchased through ODA
- Makeup- Purchased at the following link: https://www.lover-cosmetics.com/product/ovation-kansas-city/371?cp=true&sa=false&sbp=false&q=false&category_id=12
- Earrings- please specify if you need clips-ons. \$18- purchased through ODA
- Company star headpiece- \$18- purchased through ODA
- Backpack (optional)- \$65- specify name for personalization
- Optional spirit wear will be available for dancers and families via an online store.

Shoes

When purchasing shoes we recommend *The Dance Shop* at 4833 W. 119th St.

- **Color of shoes required could change depending on costume or routine selections. Final color requirements for shoes will be sent out in October.**
- Petite: tan Mary Jane tap shoes, tan Bloch Pulse jazz shoe
- Mini/Junior: tan oxford style tap shoe, tan Bloch Pulse jazz shoe
- Pre-Teen: oxford style tap shoe (color TBD), tan Bloch Pulse jazz shoe
- Teen/Senior: black oxford style tap shoe, tan Bloch Pulse jazz shoe
- All female dancers will need pink ballet shoes for ballet class. Male dancers will need black ballet shoes.

Costumes

- Costumes will be purchased for each routine.
 - Competition costumes will be \$85-125 per costume (including rhinestones and accessories)

Specialty Dances

A limited number of duets, trios, and solos are available to eligible dancers. Eligible dancers have participated in at least one year of Company at Ovation. Dancers must have filled out the request form to be considered. Specialty routines are extra routines rehearsed and performed in addition to group dances. Rehearsal schedule will be set by the choreographer- typically occurring on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Additional choreography and rehearsal fees will be assessed for these routines. Placement is decided by ODA staff, and decisions are final.