



COMPETITIVE COMPANY INFORMATION FOR DANCERS CONSIDERING AUDITIONING

Goal/Purpose of Competitive Company

Thank you for your interest in the PDC Competitive Company! Our goal for the PDC Company is to not only develop artistically in the art of dance, but to instill vital life skills such as teamwork, determination, resiliency, flexibility, and hard work. These lessons are integrated into all that we do, both in the studio and on stage.

DANCERS ASKED TO JOIN THE PDC COMPANY MUST:

- Have a strong desire to grow and develop as a dancer and as a person.
- Have a sense of humor, bright smile and positive attitude.
- Have respect for their team members and our staff.
- Be self-motivated and able to self-evaluate.
- Have solid, and growing, technical and performance skills.
- Show support for the studio, fellow dancers and our teachers.
- Have a supportive family base that always shows respect for the teachers and students.
- Be physically active with an emphasis on healthy mind and body.

PRIMARY GOALS FOR EACH COMPANY MEMBER:

1. Grow in the art of accepting both successes *and* failures.
2. Continue to push themselves and grow in technical and performance skills.

IT'S NOT ABOUT WINNING!

At PDC, we do not focus on winning – we focus on GROWTH. Though competitions will give us rankings, scores, awards and accolades, what is important to the faculty here is what happens when we get back in the studio. How we grow in technique, performance, choreography, and confidence is at the top of our priority list. Dance competitions are extremely subjective and at the hands of the judges each weekend, so it is important to focus on what happens in between. Our primary purpose for attending competitions is to give our Company members additional performance opportunities and develop the skills listed above.

WHY WE FOCUS ON TRAINING AT PDC:

Our training philosophy is rooted in the belief that developing and maintaining proper technique is fundamental to all dance training. We believe it is far better to be “well-trained” versus “well-rehearsed”. Because of this mindset, you can expect the following:

- Technique classes will always be **the most important** avenue for growing as a PDC dancer.
- We will not use technique class time for company rehearsals. All Company rehearsals are scheduled *outside of* technique class times, which means almost all group rehearsals will take place on Saturdays.
- Regular attendance in technique classes is required of all company dancers.
- It is important to understand that dancers grow in technical ability through attending CLASS; not through rehearsals.

Being a member of our company means that you are interested in enhanced training opportunities. These include learning high-level competition dances, but that is just a piece of the training puzzle. A big part of the puzzle is providing Company dancers with opportunities for additional and enhanced training. These opportunities include Master classes, extra conventions, in-house training classes, and programming designed to broaden the technical, mental and physical capabilities of Company members.

THE PDC COMPANY IS NOT A RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

We do not consider our Competitive Company to be a recreational program. It is a very rewarding program, but one that takes hard work, dedication, positive attitude and commitment. We ask parents and dancers to consider the *time, financial, and work commitments* as they evaluate their decision to audition for the PDC Competitive Company.

CASTING PLACEMENTS

How is placement on the competitive team determined?

- All dancers are required to audition at PDC for the Competitive Company.
- Placement on the PDC Competitive Company is based on performance quality, ability and technique as determined by the Platinum Dance Center team of instructors.
- Dancers must audition each year; placement is not transferred from year to year.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION: Placement

Each regional competition that we attend generally has 3 different levels of competition: novice, intermediate and advanced. These levels are based on a variety of factors including the number of technique classes taken weekly, overall dancer ability, and length of time a dancer has been competing.

ALL these factors are taken into consideration to determine the best LEVEL for each of the dances that we create for the Competitive Company. We will cast dances in all THREE of these varying skill levels. Competition entry levels are not negotiable, and these decisions are at the full discretion of the PDC instructor team. We ask that all dancers and parents TRUST these decisions have been made with the goal of giving each dancer/dance the best chance to grow and feel successful.

What are the ages and skill level requirements to audition for Company?

- Our Competitive Company offers opportunities for dancers ranging in age from 6 to 18.
- In general, we recommend that dancers have a minimum of 3-5 years of dance training.
- All dancers should have experience in both ballet and jazz.

Dancers who are interested in Competitive Company should be prepared to take ballet, lyrical and jazz on an ongoing basis, as those classes are required for all Competitive Company members.

To ensure proper technical development and progress, Company dancers are not permitted to take weekly, recreational or technique classes at other studios.

How many dances can Company members expect to be cast in?

- All dancers are required to be in a minimum of 4 group routines (or 5 for Teen & Senior teams).
- At the time of the audition, dancers and parents are asked to consider the maximum financial investment they are willing to commit to for the year. They will also be asked to give their time investment preferences.

The audition application will have a place to make these commitments. When casting our dances, our casting team will take your commitments into consideration and honor them through casting.

- A dancer will never be placed in more dances than the associated financial/time investment indicated on the audition form but may not be placed dances that correspond to the maximum financial/time commitment.
- Casting is not a “pick and choose” situation. Being part of the PDC Competitive Company requires trusting that the staff has the goal of giving as many opportunities as possible to each dancer and choosing opportunities that will give each dancer the best chance to grow and succeed. Therefore, dancers will not have the ability to “opt out” of routines once they are cast.
- **Solo expectations:** Solos are an important part of dance training, especially as a student gets older, but they are not the most important component to a dancer’s training. Dancers must first learn to match and meld with a group before working as a soloist. Solos are not guaranteed.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPANY MEMBERS

What are the class requirements for Company members?

- Dancers ages 6-7: 1 weekly of each: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Flex & Tech
- Dancers ages 8-9: 2 weekly of Ballet, and 1 weekly of each: Tap, Jazz, Lyrical, Flex & Tech
- Dancers ages 10-12: 2 weekly of Ballet, and 1 weekly of each: Jazz, Lyrical, Tap, Flex & Tech
- Dancers ages 13+: 2 weekly of Ballet, and 1 weekly of each: Jazz, Lyrical, Flex & Tech + 2 additional classes of dancer’s choosing (hip hop, acro, contemporary, musical theatre, ballroom, combo rotation)
- **Company dancers are expected to continue training over the summer months.** Because we recognize that vacations, summer intensives, and other factors can make consistent enrollment difficult, the only Competitive Company class requirements over the summer are ballet and jazz. Additionally, we require each Competitive Company member to participate in their Technique Intensive week and participate in two master classes.

Can dancers participate in other extracurricular activities?

- Competitive Company dancers must have a willingness to place dance at the top of their priority list. While we never forbid dancers to participate in other activities, we strongly encourage each dancer to carefully evaluate whether Company makes sense considering all other activities they participate in. *It is impossible to create cohesive dances without consistent attendance.*
- Only **mandatory** school activities will be excused for Competitive Company.
- Almost all of our Competitive Company dances will rehearse on Saturdays, so this should be taken into consideration as **repeated Saturday absences for other extracurricular activities will not be feasible.**
- January-March is prime competition season preparation. Rehearsals during this timeframe are mandatory and cannot be missed in favor of optional outside activities.
- Company members may not miss the rehearsal prior to a performance and expect to participate in the performance.

What is the general time commitment for being on Company?

- In addition to the weekly class requirements, Competitive Company members are required to attend weekly rehearsals during the duration of the Competition season (August-March). Note that there may be some weeks with no rehearsal, depending on how many dances a member is placed in. There may be additional rehearsals for select dances.
- Almost all rehearsals will take place on Saturdays for *group* routines. These rehearsals will be 20-40 minutes in length.
- All choreography for Competitive Company is set in August, while the studio is closed for regular classes, during Competitive Company Camp week.
- Competitive Company members will be required to participate in a variety of master classes, company choreography weeks and in-house conventions in between June and September of 2026.
- Competitive Company members are required to attend a winter intensive the last weekend of Winter Break before school starts back in January 2027.
- Competitive Company dancers are allowed 2 rehearsal absences, per dance, per semester.

Schedule expectations:

- You can expect your dancer to be at the studio two nights per week, and Saturday mornings, if they are taking the minimum number of classes and cast in the minimum number of routines as set forth above.
- Any additional or optional classes not listed above are *not* included in this two-night-per-week schedule and are at the discretion of each family.
- We may use times when the studio is closed for regular classes to rehearse if 75% or more of the participants can attend – this will be communicated separately.
- There may be some Saturdays that we do not have rehearsals, but those will be few!

How many competitions & extra performances are required?

PDC attends 3 regional competitions per season, typically held in February and March. All dancers will be required to attend one convention throughout the season of their choosing.

The PDC Competitive Company will have a Company Showcase separate from the regular annual recital. The date will be dependent upon our 2027 competition schedule.

Company members will be invited to attend various **optional** dance conventions throughout the year as well but are only **required** to attend one. *Select dances may attend additional conventions/competitions.*

We will make our decision regarding which competitions we will attend over the summer. You will have these dates in July 2026. Please note that these decisions will be made **before** prom dates, homecoming dates, grad bash etc. are released, so dancers will need to be prepared for potential conflicts.

Company dancers will have the option to opt-out of recital dances (except for ballet). This is because Company members already spend a great deal of time and money on performances and costumes. Each family/dancer will get to make their own choice regarding recital participation. We will have **some** Company dances perform in the recital and this will be communicated in Spring 2027.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS & POLICIES

Being part of Company is a financial investment that should be carefully considered. Company members will be expected to keep up to date with all Company financial commitments throughout the season, including monthly tuition fees.

NOTE: Monthly tuition is NOT part of Company costs. Because we believe in keeping technique classes our top priority, those fees will be billed separate from Company costs. Due to increased costs and inflation, tuition rates for Fall 2026 may be adjusted to more accurately reflect the increased business costs.

What are the additional Company costs?

- The total financial commitment varies depending on each dancer's casting. Each dance that we cast will generally carry a different cost. The cost of each dance is dependent on the number of dancers in the dance, the choreography rate, the costume selected, props needed etc. *This is why we ask for a maximum total number of routines as a guideline to determine casting for each dancer.*
- The financial commitment also varies depending on the *category* of dance a member is placed in. For example: solos, duos and trios carry a higher financial commitment than larger group dances.
- Once casting is complete and the cost of each dance has been calculated, each dancer will receive a financial contract detailing the following costs:
 - Cost for each dance they have been cast in. The cost for each dance will include choreography costs, costume costs, entry fees for competitions and administrative fees.
 - Costs for mandatory convention registration.
 - Cost for in-studio mandatory events such as the Competitive Company Showcase.
- The above costs can be paid in three ways:
 - (1) 4 equal payments in July, September, November, 2026 and January 2027;
 - (2) 8 equal payments from July 2026-February 2027; or
 - (3) Total balance posted to your account & paid at your convenience, with set due dates. All Company balances must be paid in full by February 1, 2027.
- A \$200 Company Activity fee will be due with your application, which includes a \$100 non-refundable deposit.
- The following is a list of additional costs that are not included in the financial contract described above:
 - Transportation and lodging costs for conventions and competitions.
 - Required shoes in style and color for the style of dance being performed.
 - Company jacket and backpack.
 - Master Classes or other required training opportunities offered by PDC.
 - Company earrings.
 - Company make-up.
 - Monthly tuition fees.
 - Monthly rehearsal fees.
 - Recital costumes.
 - Administrative fees related to staff travel for all events.
- Competitive Company members are required to have a valid payment method on file at all times throughout the season, but may choose to pay via cash or check in advance of all due dates if you wish.
- Failure to pay Competitive Company Fees by the monthly due date may result in suspension from the Competitive Company until paid.

Summer/Fall 2026 Competitive Company Schedule		
Date	Description	Location
June 13 & 14, 2026	Company Auditions	PDC
June 20, 2026	Make-Up Auditions	PDC
June 16, 2026	Casting announced	
TBD – Summer 2026	Master Classes & Guest Choreography	PDC
August 1-8, 2026	Competitive Company Choreo Camp	PDC
August 17, 2026	Fall session begins	

In general, here are anticipated costs for the 2026-2027 dance season:

RECURRING MONTHLY COSTS-7.5 months:	
Small Group Rehearsal:	\$51.00
Large Group Rehearsal:	\$36.00
Production Rehearsal:	\$25.00
Solo/Duo/Trio Rehearsal:	\$94.00/\$48.00/\$32.00
ONE-TIME COSTS:	
Activity Fee:	\$200.00 – due with Company Application
Audition Fee:	\$30.00 – due with Company Application
Annual Staff Travel Fee:	TBD- <i>will be published once final casting has been announced</i>
Small Group Choreography:	\$143.00
Large Group Choreography:	\$72.00
Production Choreography:	\$50.00
Solo/Duo/Trio Choreography:	Solo In House: \$385.00 Solo with Director: \$490.00 Duo: \$221.00 Trio: \$168.00
Costumes:	Up to \$125 per routine
Convention Fee:	\$250-\$400 – price is based on age and event
Entry Fee, per group, per competition:	\$80.00/per dance
Entry Fee, per duo/trio, per competition:	\$95.00/per dance
Entry Fee, per solo, per competition:	\$180.00/per solo
Uniform Fee-All Dancers (including veterans):	Up to \$250 – <i>will be determined by June 2026</i>

NOTE: Platinum Dance Center reserves the right to adjust competition-related fees, costume costs, and other season-specific expenses as necessary throughout the year. While we make every effort to provide accurate estimates in advance, final costs are sometimes determined by third-party vendors such as competition companies, costume suppliers, choreography contractors, and travel-related expenses, which may fluctuate beyond our control. We remain committed to transparency and responsible financial stewardship while maintaining the high standards and opportunities our families expect from PDC.