

Frequently Asked Questions about The Academy . . .

WHAT ARE 'TERMS'?

A 'Term' is an 8-week session. There are five (5) Terms in our academic dance year, beginning in August/September and ending in June.

DOES THE ACADEMY OFFER A SUMMER INTENSIVE?

Yes! A five (5) week Ballet and Dance Intensive runs July through Mid August each year. Master Guest Instructors, extra specialty classes and a Young Children's Workshop Program and Dance Camps are just a few of the highlights of The Academy Summer Intensive Ballet and Dance Programs.

IS THERE A DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION?

Registration is on-going throughout the year. There is a once per year registration fee that is charged when you register (\$40.00/student and \$60.00/family). You do not have to re-register your child every Term. Once a student has been registered for a class(es), he/she will have a place in the class through Term V. **If for some reason your child will not be continuing on to the next Term, we ask that you inform the Front Desk.**

WHEN IS TUITION DUE?

We do not mail out Invoices! Tuition is due the first week of each Term. The Academy has a "Payment Guarantee" policy that is required of all Academy clientele. This ensures timely payment of all purchased Tuition and Costume Fees. If a payment (by cash, check, or credit card) is not received by the end of the 2nd week of a Term, your balance due will be automatically charged on your credit card that is required to be kept on file for the entire school year (no Debit Cards, please). Clientele may also request "Auto-Pay" each Term if they so desire for their convenience. "Auto-Pay" means The Academy Front Desk Staff has your Credit Card on file and uses it for Tuition Payments when they become due – every 8 – weeks. **It is your responsibility to keep up with tuition payments. Please see the Front Desk to pick up a dated payment schedule.**

ARE THERE DISCOUNTS FOR FAMILIES?

Yes, families that have two students registered at the Academy will receive 10% off each Student's Tuition each Term. Families with 3 or more registered students will receive 20% off the students' combined hours each Term. (*Workshops, Camps, Stretch and Strengthening, Pas de Deux, and Adult classes do not apply.*)

VACATIONS AND SPRING BREAK...

The Academy will not refund Tuition for classes missed due to family vacations or schedule conflicts. Registered students may make up class at their convenience.

CAN MY CHILD MAKE UP A MISSED CLASS?

Yes! We do not offer refunds for missed classes. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of all missed classes and then to make them up. **You must be a currently registered student to do a make-up class.** Students must make-up in a similar class of the same age/ability level or lower during the Term that the class or classes were missed. **Any class or classes not made up during this time will be forfeited.**

DOES THE ACADEMY HAVE PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES?

Yes, we do. Classes on the schedule that are marked with an asterisk (*) are non-performance classes. All other classes (with the exception of Adult Ballet & Tap) will prepare a piece for the annual Recital. Choreography will be taught during class after Winter Break. It is very important for all Students to be in class each week so that they do not fall behind. Our performances are held in mid-June at a professional theater. Ticket sales are handled by the box office at the theater. Performance information packets will be sent via email (and handed out to those Students without an email address) closer to Recital dates.

DOES THE ACADEMY OFFER BALLET PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITES?

Yes, The Academy Students perform in such original Story Ballets as *Pandora's Lesson, La Boutique Fantastique (The Fantastic Toyshop), Once Upon a Dream*, etc. These beautiful productions are part of The Academy's June Performances and give our Students a wonderful opportunity for stage experience, creativity, and dance performance skills as a character in a Ballet Production.

HOW / WHEN DOES MY CHILD ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL?

Teachers are always evaluating students throughout the year. At the end of Term V, all students receive a written evaluation from their teachers. Evaluations detail student progress and recommended level placement for the Fall. **All level promotions go into effect Term I of the next academic year.** On rare occasion the Artistic Director and/or Staff may promote a Student in the middle of the school year or for the Summer Term.

A student will advance to the next level when the Instructor/Artistic Director feels the student has mastered the necessary skills required of the level. **It is quite normal for a student to remain in the same level for 2-3 years due to the amount of material in the syllabus that must be taught and mastered at each level. The Academy Of Dance Arts will not entertain requests for a student's level to be changed once determined.**

WHAT IS ACADEMY DANCE ALLIANCE COMPANY?

The Academy Dance Alliance Company is the Academy's National Top Award Winning competitive, performing Dance Team. Company Members are selected by annual auditions or invitation only. Academy Dance Alliance Dancers compete on a Regional and National level in Tap, Jazz, Contemporary Jazz, Ballet, Hip-Hop and in Solo, Duet / Trio, Small Group, Large Group, and Production Divisions. The company has received numerous 1st Place Overall awards regionally and nationally. Many of the Academy Dance Alliance Company soloists have won coveted regional and national Dance Competition Scholarships and Titles. Academy Dance Alliance information packets may be picked up at the Front Desk or sent out by request. Auditions are held during our summer program. Please contact the Front Desk for more information.

WHY IS BALLET SO IMPORTANT?

Classical Ballet is the foundation of all the Dance Arts.

Learning the discipline and art of classical ballet is extremely demanding but also very rewarding. Any professional dancer or master instructor in any of the dance arts will tell you that without a good, solid ballet foundation, technical skills will not be developed to their fullest potential. Without supplemental ballet training, progress is inhibited, technical skills are less refined, and core muscle strength is not developed to sustain more advanced level work in any of the dance arts including ballet.

To those of you who are saying to yourself, "But I (or my child) don't want to take Ballet," consider for instance that the great Jazz innovator and Master Teacher Luigi's initial dance training included a strong foundation in Classical Ballet, which he used as the basis for his world-renowned Jazz Technique and teaching method. The great innovative Jazz choreographer, Bob Fosse, who was a true genius of Jazz and Theatrical movement, demanded that all his dancers have an extremely strong Ballet technique so that his choreography would have proper technical form and artistic nuance of port de bras (carriage of arms) and épaulément (usage of head and shoulders).

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were the greatest dance team in the history of film, combining dance movements from Vaudeville, Ballroom, Tap, and Soft Shoe all with an underlying, solid Ballet foundation. This gave their dancing the integration of arms and legs, beautiful leaps, flawless coordination and an amazing physicality to their world renowned performances.

Gene Kelly, another Tap Master and Jazz great, utilized so much of his Ballet background and technique which he incorporated into his dynamic choreography and bold, masculine dancing. He was the first film producer/choreographer to incorporate a full balletic work into the storyline of the film masterpiece, "***An American in Paris***" which earned him an Oscar for this fabulous work of art.

Football greats, Lynn Swann (Steelers wide receiver) and Willie Gault (Chicago Bears wide receiver and 1986 Super Bowl Champion) studied Ballet before and during college and throughout their careers. Both of these gifted athletes were proud to credit Ballet in enabling them to have fluidity of movement and help fine tune their tremendous leaping abilities and coordination skills.

Lynn Swann sees so many parallels between sports and Ballet. "Certain dance movements are fundamental to the movements you need in sports," he explains. "A basketball player can't jump without doing a Plié. It may not be graceful and deep with your feet turned out, but it's the same thing. All my classes in Tap, Jazz, and especially Ballet greatly enhanced my athletic skills. If one movement flows to another, you're going to be able to be evasive on the field and a good football player. Dance in itself is a sport, and an incredible art form."

Sherry Moray
Artistic Director, The Academy of Dance Arts