

# western Arkansas **BALLET**

4701 Grand Avenue  
Fort Smith, AR 72904-7141  
(479) 785-0152  
[www.waballet.org](http://www.waballet.org)



**High Quality Dance Education & Training in a Non-Competitive Environment  
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  
Kortney Marsden, Administrator  
Allison Strasser, Dance Instructor



**Register Here**

Visit our website [www.waballet.org](http://www.waballet.org) for more detailed biographical  
information on all of our faculty and staff.

*Photo credit: Kim Singer Photography*



**Scholarship Information**



# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND DRESS CODE

## Dance With Me

This class introduces young children movement through music building motor skills, coordination, and confidence. Requires participation with a parent, grandparent, guardian, caregiver, etc.

## Creative Movement - Ballet III

These levels teach your dancer the discipline of on how to take a dance class. As well as develop their coordination, musicality, and basic ballet technique.

## Ballet IV-VI

Transforming the basic ballet technique by learning how to combine the steps into more complex combinations and focusing on the artistry of movement. Two classes a week is recommended.

## Adult Ballet

Recreational classes for learning the basics of ballet technique to help improve strength and stability. Beginning is open to anyone, no experience needed. Intermediate needs approval by the staff.

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

## Beginning - 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 Levels

Tap teaches you musicality, sound recognition, and bridges into complex rhythms and intricate foot work.

## All Jazz Levels

Jazz class blends classic techniques with contemporary styles, focusing on rhythm, coordination, and performance.

## All Hip Hop Levels

Hip Hop teaches you the fundamentals of Hip Hop, including grooves, footwork, isolation, tricks and freestyle skills.

## All Modern Levels

Modern classes are designed to introduce a new style of movement to dancers, the principles of contemporary movement technique and improvisational skills to strengthen their movement vocabulary.

## Dance Team Prep

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 one year of previous dance experience as a prerequisite.

Class & Age Requirement	Dress Code	Class Minutes Per Week
Dance with Me (2-3 years old)	Any color leotard with tights or shorts	30
Creative Movement (4-5 years old)	Pink Leotard	45
Ballet I (ages 6-7 years old)	Light Blue Leotard	60
Ballet II (8-9 years old)	Light Purple Leotard	75
Ballet III (10 & up)	Red Leotard	75
Ballet IV (11 & up)	Dark Green Leotard	90
Ballet V (12 & up)	Dark Blue Leotard	90
Ballet VI (13 & up)	Black Leotard	90
Adult Ballet (17 & up)	Fitted t-shirt, leggings, or leotard & tights, pink or black ballet shoes	<b>*By Session</b>
Pre-Pointe	Color-level leotard	30
All levels of Pointe <b>By Invitation Only</b>	Color-level leotard	90
Beginning Modern (10 & up)	Leotard, convertible or footless tights, leggings, shorts or jazz pants, bare feet	60
Intermediate Modern (12 & up)	Leotard, convertible or footless tights, leggings, shorts or jazz pants, bare feet	60
Advanced Modern (14 & up)	Leotard, convertible or footless tights, leggings, shorts or jazz pants, bare feet	60
Tap I (6-8 years old)	Solid colored leotard, tights, dance pants, black hard sole tap shoes	30
Tap II (9 & up)	Solid colored leotard, tights, dance pants, black hard sole tap shoes	45
Tap III (13 & up) <b>By Invitation Only</b>	Solid colored leotard, tights, dance pants, black hard sole tap shoes	60
Beginning Jazz (8-9 years old)	Solid colored leotard, pink tights, black jazz pants, jazz shorts black jazz shoes	45
Intermediate Jazz (10 & up)	Solid colored leotard, pink tights, black jazz pants, jazz shorts black jazz shoes	60
Advanced Jazz (12 & up) <b>By Invitation Only</b>	Solid colored leotard, pink tights, black jazz pants, jazz shorts black jazz shoes	60
Hip Hop I (8-10 years old)	Fitted athletic wear-dance sneakers only (not to be worn outside)	45
Hip Hop II (11 & up)	Fitted athletic wear-dance sneakers only (not to be worn outside)	60
Hip Hop III (13 & up) <b>By Invitation Only</b>	Fitted athletic wear-dance sneakers only (not to be worn outside)	60
Dance Team Prep (11 & up)	Fitted athletic wear and jazz shoes	<b>*By session</b>

**All levels of Ballet - Hair must be back in a tight bun. Pink tights & pink ballet shoes.**

**All dance shoes are only to be worn in the studio.**

**Dancers must wear something over their leotard when arriving and leaving studio.**

## \*Session Dates

**Beg Adult Ballet & Adult Tap**

**Fall Sept. 8 - Nov. 10, 2025**

**Spring Jan. 12 - Mar 16, 2026**

## Interm. Adult Ballet

**Fall Sept. 10 - Nov. 12, 2025**

**Spring Jan. 14- Mar 18, 2026**

## Dance Team Prep

**Fall Sept. 9- Nov. 11, 2025**

**Spring Jan. 13 - Mar. 17, 2026**

# 2025-2026 ACADEMY TUITION

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

**Online Registration is available at  
[www.waballet.org](http://www.waballet.org) beginning  
June 16, 2025**

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	\$60	\$227	\$283	\$483
45	\$66	\$251	\$314	\$535
60	\$77	\$291	\$363	\$620
75	\$89	\$337	\$422	\$719
90	\$102	\$387	\$484	\$825
100	\$110	\$419	\$523	\$892
105	\$112	\$427	\$534	\$911
120	\$126	\$479	\$599	\$1,021
135	\$131	\$497	\$621	\$1,060
150	\$139	\$529	\$661	\$1,128
165	\$146	\$556	\$695	\$1,186
180	\$149	\$565	\$706	\$1,205
210	\$165	\$627	\$783	\$1,336
225	\$177	\$672	\$839	\$1,431
270	\$204	\$774	\$968	\$1,651
315	\$238	\$903	\$1,129	\$1,926
330	\$249	\$947	\$1,183	\$2,018

**\*All Session Classes are \$180 per session.**

## 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 =**

**\$1431.00**

**\$672.00**

**\$839.00**

**\$177.00**

**Annually**

**Fall Sem.**

**Spring Sem.**

**Monthly**

## Scholarships Available

Scholarships to assist with monthly tuition and class uniforms are available click the QR code for information or contact the studio at [info@waballet.org](mailto:info@waballet.org) or 479-785-0152



## Western Arkansas Ballet Annual Fees

\$50 registration fee (one per family)

Monthly tuition (Sept-May) per dancer at rate stated above

\$30 Spring Dance Concert fee (one per family)

\*\*\*\*\*Academy dancers pay no additional costume fees, choreography fees, or additional ticket sales for the Spring Dance Concert\*\*\*\*\*

All class periods are dedicated to one discipline of dance (ballet, tap, jazz, etc.) and lead by experienced trained faculty.

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. A discount applies 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**. Automatic payments may be set up in your Studio Pro payment portal. 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.** 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## 2025-2026 Calendar

### June

5 Company Meeting 6pm  
9-12 Swiftie Jazz Camp  
9-13 Elevé Dance Workshop  
16-20 Barbie & Wicked Ballet Camps  
21-22 Adult & Junior Tennis Tournaments

### August

4-8 WAB Company Class & Choreography  
11-15 WAB Company Class & Choreography  
14 Academy Open House 4:30-6:30, Guild Meeting 6:30  
18-21 WAB Class & Choreography  
18-22 WAB II Class & Choreography  
22 WAB Company No class or Rehearsal  
23-25 No class or Rehearsal  
24 Dancewear Pop-up Shop-Location TBD  
26 WAB/WAB II Pictures 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
27-29 WAB II Class & Choreography  
27-30 WAB Guest Choreography

### September

2 Academy Classes Begin  
6 Costume Fundraiser at US Marshal's Museum 6 p.m.  
27 The Nutcracker & Spring Ballet Auditions  
28 Thrilling Performance Audition/Rehearsals Begin

### October

4 \*Fall Ballet at King Opera House 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
6-9 Bring a Friend to Class week  
9 Company Parent Meeting 6:45 p.m.  
11 Nutcracker rehearsals begin  
24 Thrilling Performance-Downtown Van Buren  
10-11/11 Guild/Company Poinsettia Sales

### November

3-8 Parent Observation Week  
11 Guild/Company Poinsettia Sales End  
16 Nutcracker Pictures  
23 Sugar Plum Fairy Tea Fundraiser  
24-30 Closed for Thanksgiving Break

\*Fall Ballet- Patterns in the Dust an Evening with Simon and Garfunkel

### December

6 Guild/ Company Poinsettia Delivery  
9-12 The Nutcracker Rehearsals ArcBest PAC  
12 The Nutcracker School Performances (Fri) ArcBest PAC  
13 The Nutcracker Performance 7:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC  
14 The Nutcracker Performance 2:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC  
16 & 18 RDA Rehearsals  
19-1/4 Closed for Christmas Break

### January

5 Academy classes resume

### February

1 Dance Fusion  
2-7 Parent Observation Week  
5 Company Parent Meeting (RDA) 6:45 p.m.  
7 Spring Ballet Rehearsals Begin  
TBA RDA Adjudication

### March

15 Snow White's Tea Party  
23-27 Spring Break

### April

9-11 RDA/SW Festival Albuquerque, NM  
19 Spring Pictures (All Academy)  
28-5/1 Spring Ballet Rehearsals ArcBest PAC

### May

2 \*Spring Ballet Performance 7:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC  
3 \*Spring Ballet Performance 2:00 p.m. ArcBest PAC  
7 Company Prospective Meeting  
14 Last day of Academy classes  
16 Spring Dance Concert Rehearsal-Location TBD  
17 Spring Dance Concert Performances-Location TBD  
18 WAB II Company Auditions  
19 WAB Company Auditions  
31-6/5 Lorraine Cranford Summer Dance Workshop

### June 2026

1-5 Lorraine Cranford Summer Dance Workshop  
4 WAB & WAB II Company Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
TBA Summer Dance Camps & Workshops (Ages 4-12)

\*Spring Ballet- Snow White and A Midsummer Night's Dream



**Contact us:**

**Western Arkansas Ballet**  
**4701 Grand Avenue**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72904**

**Phone: 479-785-0152**

**Email: [info@waballet.org](mailto:info@waballet.org)**

**Website:**  
**[www.waballet.org](http://www.waballet.org)**



**\*Please note that some classes may be rescheduled or cancelled the week of Dec. 9-12, 2025, and April 28-May 1, 2026 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