

Is the Competitive Dance Program Right for Your Child? (And For You!)

All That Dance Studio – Competitive Program Overview

★ Our Values

We are committed to a standard of excellence in dance training. We believe in teaching children in a caring, encouraging manner to strive to achieve their personal best in a team focussed environment.

🦸 What to Expect from the Program

- Ongoing technical training in regular classes
- Choreography begins in **November** and continues throughout the season
- Intensive focus on cleaning and refining routines
- Continued training and performance improvement after each competition
- The season concludes with visible growth, confidence, and achievement

Dancers gain:

- ✓ Self-confidence
 - ✓ Physical and artistic development
 - ✓ Social and team-building skills
 - ✓ Time management skills
 - ✓ A sense of pride and accomplishment
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🎯 What Is Required to Be in the Competitive Program?

Anyone is welcome to **audition** for the competitive team. However, all placements are made **by invitation only**.

The audition process evaluates students in Jazz, Acrobatics and Tap which form the foundation of our basic competitive program.

Please note:

If a dancer does **not have reasonable experience in Jazz**, we do not recommend auditioning at this time. That said, you are **always welcome to contact us** if you're unsure. Our team is happy to guide you.

Part Time or Full Time Competitive?

Part Time dancers train **5 to 6 hours per week**, attending classes **twice weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays**. They take each dance subject only once per week—**so attendance is crucial** to stay on track. Dancers train in jazz, ballet, tap, acrobatics, hip hop and lyrical. All subjects are required.

Full Time dancers train between **9 to 12 hours per week, three days a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays**. Dancers train in jazz, ballet, tap, acrobatics, hip hop, lyrical and contemporary. All subjects are required.

Novice dancers for the 2025 -2026 season will train 4 hours per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at our South Location. They will train in jazz, acro, tap, ballet and hip hop. All subjects are required.

What Is the Level Expected for Each Dancer?

Competitive dancers are placed into groups known as “**companies**”, such as *Mini Company* or *Intermediate Company*. Each company’s level is determined by the **average age** of the dancers, which also dictates the competition category.

ATD typically has **5 to 6 companies**, starting with our youngest dancers aged **5–6 years**. There is always some **age overlap** (e.g., a 12-year-old might qualify for Junior or Petite Company), and placement is based on **skill level**, not just age.

To be placed in a company:

- A dancer must be performing **at the technical level of the group**.
- If a student is **not at par**, they may struggle to keep up and won’t be able to focus on improving and may hold the group back.
- We carefully assess placement to ensure the best experience for **both the individual and the team**.

Placement & Expectations

New students are enrolled on a **6-week trial basis**. During this time, dancers must demonstrate:

- Commitment to attendance and punctuality. Attendance is mandatory
- Respectful behaviour and ability to be coachable
- Positive mindset and strong work ethic

We do not re-audition annually, however, each dancer's conduct, progress, attendance and commitment throughout the year serve as their "audition" for the following season.

Competition Commitment

- Weekly scheduled classes and rehearsals
- Team stage rehearsal prior to competition
- **4 competitions** from March to May
- Locations may include Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Guelph, Brantford and more
- Competitions run **full days (8am–10pm)** and may span from **Thurs–Sun**
- **Full attendance is mandatory** – no schedule accommodations can be made
- Competition dates are shared by November; detailed schedules arrives 2–3 weeks before each event
- Classes continue after competitions to prepare for the **year-end recital**, which is also mandatory

Note: Competitions are rarely canceled—even in bad weather. Please plan ahead for travel and accommodations.

Additional Expenses - in addition to tuition and costumes

- **Competition Team Fee (\$400 +hst for Part Time and \$725+hst for Full Time)** – covers off-site competition expenses, team photoshoot, stage rehearsal, and guest teachers throughout the year
 - **Entry Fees** – approx. \$60 per group dance per competition. Billed in November
 - **Hair & Makeup Kit** – each dancer is required to have their own
 - **Shoes/Tights** – specific items per dance may be required
 - **Travel/Hotel** – families are responsible for all out-of-town travel costs
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Parent Responsibilities

- Ensure your dancer is on time and fully prepared
 - Foster a positive attitude and team-first mindset
 - Support staff, policies, and studio decisions
 - Direct serious concerns directly to the office
 - Avoid negative comments or public complaints—these affect the entire team
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No Exceptions

If you commit to this program, you commit to **all** policies and scheduled events. Personal preferences, missed rehearsals, or absences cannot override team requirements.

Attendance Policy

- **Mandatory attendance** at all classes, competitions, stage rehearsal, and year-end show
- Absences for mandatory school events must be **approved in advance**

- Absences for vacations, parties, or other personal priorities are **not permitted**
 - Repeated absences may lead to removal from choreography, competition or the program
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Stay Informed

We communicate primarily via **email**. Make sure your contact information is current—we rely on you to stay up to date. Mark everything on your calendar as soon as we give you the information.

“I didn’t know” is not an acceptable excuse.
