

**A STEP ABOVE DANCE**  
**ACADEMY**

**5 STAR PROGRAMS**  
**2024-2025**



# ELITE GROUP

**Ages:** 9+ (*Must be 9 by January 1, 2025*)

## **What is the Elite Group?**

The Elite Group will be made up of Company Program Dancers that will receive an additional group routine based on audition. This Group is for the dancer who wishes to train and compete at a higher level. In addition to the Company Program schedule, the Elite Group will have one additional technique/choreography class on a separate day. Dancers interested in this Group must attend Company Auditions with 2 recommendation letters. Selections for this program will be based on audition performance, attendance and punctuality from the previous season, experience/skill level, attitude, dedication, work ethic and recommendation letters.

*\*If enrollment of the Elite Group should increase in the upcoming season, the staff is prepared to make it its own program. \**

**Program Selection Form:** Any and all dancers planning to audition for the Elite Group and/or audition for a Specialty Routine, MUST complete the Google Program Selection Form by **Thursday, May 16, 2024**.

**Audition:** To be considered for the Elite Group, you must attend the Company Program Auditions Saturday, June 15, 2024 at ASADA.

**Audition Requirements for Elite Group:** *Dancers interested in auditioning for the Elite Group will follow the audition requirements for the Company Program (please see Audition Requirements for Company Program listed below). Elite Group Auditionees will be given something to wear (i.e. a different colored number or bracelet) to allow the Judging Panel to know they would like to be considered for the Group. There will NOT be a separate audition or separate choreography for the Elite Group Auditionees this season.*

**Recommendation:** To be considered for the Elite Group, you must also bring two Recommendation Letters with you to auditions. One of the two letters must be from an ASADA instructor. Other acceptable recommendations may come from a school teacher, coach, other activity leader as well as another dance instructor. *Recommendations from family members will not be accepted.*

**Audition Requirements for Company Program:** Company Program Auditions will require you to learn a 45 second combination that will be sent (via email) **Sunday, June 9, 2024**. *Dancers will be scheduled based on age as of January 1, 2025*. During your audition time, dancers will be called forward and asked to introduce themselves and answer a question from the panel of teachers. Dancers will then perform the choreography in small groups and may be asked to do so multiple times in various groupings. Each dancer will also be asked to show their splits (Right, Left & Middle), do a Tumbling Trick of their choice and be asked to perform a 15 second improv. *\*Please note that we expect all dancers auditioning for the Company Programs to have the flexibility it takes for all splits and also the strength and training for tumbling.*

**Audition Fee:** \$30.00 per dancer – There will be no additional fee for Specialty Auditions.

**Specialty Audition:** These auditions are for Solos, Duets and Trios and are open to the Advanced/Company Programs and Elite Group. Please prepare a self-choreographed **45-Second** Solo that shows off who YOU are as a dancer/performer. Your audition will consist of performing your own choreographed piece in front of a group of teachers. **There are a limited number of spots available for Specialty Routines so be prepared to show us what you got.** *\*Please note that private lesson time will not be used to help students work on their audition piece.*

**Specialty Auditions will be held immediately following Company Auditions:**  
**Saturday, June 15, 2024**  
**at ASADA**  
**Times: TBD**

**Placement Decision:** Students auditioning for the Elite Group, Company Program and/or Specialty Routines can expect a Placement Decision Letter via email **by Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>** from [asadastaff@gmail.com](mailto:asadastaff@gmail.com). *Upon receipt, Dancers will have 24-Hours to decline program placement.*

**Summer Requirements:** If you are selected to be a part of our Elite Group, you will be required to complete the following amount of dance camps (or the equivalent hours) during the summer months:

THREE 3-Day Camps  
**Elite Day**  
Competition Prep Camp\*  
*\*Mandatory for all Advanced, Company & Elite Dancers\**

Acceptable Summer Requirement Hours are A Step Above Summer Camps/Intensives/Open Gyms/Private Lessons. **NEW THIS SEASON: If you wish to train outside of ASADA for your Summer Requirement Hours, you must receive written approval from the Studio Director. Please submit an email to [asadastaff@gmail.com](mailto:asadastaff@gmail.com) with all information regarding the outside program. A decision will be sent back via email upon review.** You will be given a Time-Sheet to keep track of your hours that will need to be returned to the Front Desk by August 15, 2024.

**Registration:** **Registration will open on JackRabbit Dance on July 15, 2024**

**Class Requirements:** As a student in our Elite Group, you will be required to take the following classes: All of the required classes of the Company Program (Tap, Ballet and/or Pointe, Acro and/or Tumbling, Cardio, Competitive Choreography and Production - in addition to Elite Ballet Technique and Elite Choreography/Technique *(these classes are subject to change base on placements)*). These classes are required and will be a part of the Attendance Accountability for the Elite Group Dancers. *Musical Theatre strongly encouraged to all competitive dancers.*

**Production:** NEW! Production will be a REQUIRED class for the entire 2024 – 2025 Season and will be mandatory for ALL competitive dancers (Advanced, Company & Elite). Production will compete at TWO competitions during the season. Production Class will run as follows:

September – October: Holiday Cabaret Choreography\*

*\*Cabaret will be required for all competitive dancers. If you are unable to participate due to another commitment, we will need to know at the time your Summer Tracker is turned in.*

November – December: Production Choreography will begin – *in addition to learning parade choreography.*

**Competitive Group Routines:** As an Elite Group dancer, you will have 3 group routines as a Company Program Dancer and can expect to have 1 additional Elite Group routine. This does not include Specialty Routines (such as solos/duets/trios), which will be based on audition, or Production, which will compete at two competition this season.

**Competition Placement:** All competition placement will be based on the individual competition’s rules.

**Membership Fee:** This Membership Fee is a **ONE TIME PAYMENT** and includes but is not limited to tentative Holiday Rehearsal, January Dress Rehearsal, Competition Entry Registration, Music Uploads, onsite teacher expenses, etc. This fee is due by Thursday, September 19, 2024, along with the Optional Event Registration Form. *(Optional Event Registration Form will be distributed in August along with the Competition Schedule, Make Up Class Schedule, etc.)*

# of Events Dancer will Attend this Season	2 =	3 =	4 =	5 =	6 =
<b>One Time Fee</b>	<b>\$95.00</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	<b>\$130.00</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

*\*Membership Fee Family Discount: For each addition child, there will be a \$5.00 discount applied. (i.e. first child = full fee; second child = \$5.00 discount; third child = \$10.00 discount, etc.)*

**Competition Schedule:** Please note that this chart is an example of the Elite Program 2023-2024 Season. The 2024-2025 schedule for the Elite Group is subject to change. Full schedule to be provided August 2024.

Workshop Only	Competition Only
2 Mandatory; 1 Optional	6 Mandatory, 1 Optional

*Workshop Only:* These are the events that are JUST workshops (i.e. Bold Dance Project).

*Competition Only:* These are the events that dancers do not need to take a workshop in order to compete (i.e., Beyond the Stars).

*The A Step Above Dance Academy Competition Schedule is confidential and should not be shared on any social media platforms or with other studios.*

**“Big Event” of 2025:** Specialty Routines will be given the opportunity to compete in a Pittsburgh Nationals in Summer 2025. This will be **OPTIONAL** to all Elite, Company and Advanced Specialty Routine Dancers. Competition: TBD

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance requirements will be based on the number of hours you competitively dance per month. This includes any and all required classes for your Group. As a member of our Elite Group, we ask that you complete 96% - 100% of your required hours each month.

*“Make Up” Hours:* You will also be given the opportunity to “make-up” missed hours utilizing the Make Up Class Schedule for 2 weeks after of the day you are absent and/or Private Lessons for 1 month from the date of your absence. *The Make-Up Hours Schedule will be offered from September 2024 – December 2024.*

A list of classes that you may attend for “make-up hours” will be posted on the Bulletin Boards. *Please note that these are the ONLY classes that may be used as Make Up Classes.* Attend one of the listed classes and have the teacher sign off that you were there and return it to the Front Desk. Miss one class, take one class. Miss two classes, take two classes, etc. Private lessons may also be scheduled to make up missed classes. With that being said, make-up lesson time will not be used to review specialty routines. For example, if you miss a tap class, your private lesson will be tap. If you miss a competitive routine, the private lesson will be used to review what you missed.

*“Attendance Bonus”:* Dancers in the Elite Group will have opportunities throughout the season to participate in extra performances and/or training that will count towards an Attendance Bonus. These events are optional with dates TBD. Attendance Bonus Opportunities were created to help dancers make up time/bank time future unexcused misses. *All Attendance Bonus Hours will expire April 30, 2025.*

*“Excused Absences”:* Dancers will be allotted 4 Excused Absences per season.

- These are absences related to sickness/illness/injury.
- Absences are considered “Excused” if a note is provided that has been signed by a doctor.
- For example, if a dancer is sick for a week and turns in a Doctor’s Note for the missed days, that note will count as ONE Excused Absence and will cover the week.
- Once a dancer has utilized 4 Excused Absences, dancers may use Make Up Classes/Lessons or Attendance Bonus for make up for the time missed.

*“Summer Attendance Bonus”:* We will be offering Attendance Bonus Hours starting in Summer 2024. Once you have met your Summer Requirements for the Elite Group, you will be eligible for the following bonus hours by taking additional ASADA Summer Camps and Workshops:

- Ages 13+: 4 Bonus Hours
- Ages 9-12: 3 Bonus Hours
- Ages 8 & Under: 2 Bonus Hours
  - Dancers must log ALL camps and workshops they attend this summer on their Summer Tracker in order for Attendance Bonus Minutes to be accepted. **Private Lessons and outside programs will not be included.**

*Private Lessons:* Dancers will be allotted THREE Private Lessons per month. These lessons may be used for Specialty Routine Review, Additional Training, and/or Make Up Classes. However, the two lessons per teacher policy still remains in place.

*Due to the start of Competition Season and Recital Preparation, beginning in January 2025 through April 2025, the only way to make up classes will be in Private Lessons or classes that do not have recital dances.*

*“Attendance Accountability”:* At the beginning of each month, you will receive your percentage of hours completed for the previous month. This Attendance Accountability will run from Summer Requirements 2024 through April 30, 2025.

If you complete 100 – 96% of your hours for the season, you *have met your Attendance Requirements* for this program and no further action will be taken.

If you have completed 95% of your hours or less, this means you *have not met the Attendance Requirements* for this program. In order to hold students accountable, dancers will be pulled from recital routines based on their end of season average percentage. For example, if the dancer has completed 94% of their hours, they will be asked to perform only 94% of their recital routines. If they’ve completed 90% of their hours, they will be asked to only perform 90% of their recital routines and so on (*decimal numbers will be rounded up to the nearest whole number*). It is the decision of the Director, choreographer and staff that will determine which routines the dancer will perform.

**Competition Accountability:** As a member of the Elite Group, you are required to attend mandatory competitions throughout the year. If you should miss a mandatory competition for any reason (with the exception of health-related issues or family emergencies), the following will occur:

1. If you currently have a Specialty Routine: your routine will be removed from an upcoming competition. If it is the last competition of the season, your Specialty Routine will be removed from the recital. There will be no refund issued.
2. If you do not have a Specialty Routine: you will be removed from one competition dance at recital (Teacher’s Discretion). There will be no refunds issued.
3. Mandatory Workshop hours and Award Ceremonies will be included in your Attendance Accountability.
4. **INJURY:** Dancers must be released/cleared to dance 7 Days prior to a competition in order to compete. Dancer will be considered cleared to dance when a note is received by a doctor. This will allow choreographers to make adjustments (if applicable)

or allow groups to have a full rehearsal prior to competition. If a dancer is not medically cleared to compete 7 Days prior to a competition, competition credits/refunds will vary based on individual competition rules.

The final Attendance Accountability information will be sent to you in May 2025.

**COMPETITION CONFLICT REQUESTS:** Your tentative Competition Schedule will be provided to you in August 2024.

1. If you should have any scheduling conflict requests with any in-house events (rehearsals, picture weekend), these requests must be made 60 days prior to the event date.

2. If you should have any scheduling conflict requests with any outside events (competitions, workshops), these requests must be made by the event payment deadline.

3. All scheduling conflicts made within the proper timeframe to the Studio Owner/Director will be requested. However, this is NOT a guarantee that your requests will be granted.

4. Any and all scheduling requests made after the above timeframe will not be requested.

5. If a dancer has an outside commitment and decides not to attend a mandatory competition, that dancer will be charged a \$25.00 re-blocking fee per routine.

**Team Apparel:** As a member of the Elite Group, you will be required to have a Competitive Team Jacket.

The Team Jackets will be the same jackets we have had in the past. Therefore, if you have been a member of our team in prior years, you are not required to purchase another jacket. New members will be required to purchase a Team Jacket (tentatively \$105.00/jacket).

**Team Fine:** All Elite Group Dancers are expected to uphold the standard that is set from being a Competitive Dancer at A Step Above Dance Academy. This includes arriving to workshops/rehearsals/events on time, wearing the appropriate attire to class and competitions, and following all policies listed above. In the event that a dancer fails to meet these expectations, we will be implementing a \$10.00 fine per violation.

**Bullying Policy:** Bullying, harassing, threatening or causing harm to another ASADA member (as it relates to ASADA's classes, policies, performances and/or events) including in-person, over the phone (texts/calls) and on social media will not be tolerated. If, at any moment, you or your dancer feel bullied, harassed or threatened, please report the incident to [michelle@astepabovedanceonline.com](mailto:michelle@astepabovedanceonline.com). Reported incidents will be further investigated by the Studio Director and will follow a 3-Strike Policy:

- 1st Violation: Verbal Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation: Written Warning
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Violation: Dismissal from ASADA without refund

**Recital 2025:** All A Step Above Dance Academy students will be invited to participate in our end of year Recital (June 2025).

**Picture Weekend:** All Elite Group Dancers are expected to attend Picture Weekend (February 2025).



# COMPANY PROGRAM

**Ages:** 6+ (*Must be 6 by January 1, 2025*)

## **What is the Company Program?**

This program is designed for the dancer who is committed to competition dance as their extra-curricular activity **priority**. Dancers interested in being a part of the Company Program must attend auditions. Selections for this program will be based on audition performance, experience/skill level, attendance and punctuality from the previous season, stage presence, dedication, attitude and work ethic.

**Program Selection Form:** Any and all dancers planning to audition for the Company Programs and/or audition for a Specialty Routine, MUST complete the Google Program Selection Form by **Thursday, May 16, 2024**.

**Audition:** Company Auditions will be held on:

**Saturday, June 15, 2024**

**at ASADA**

**Times: TBD**

**Audition Requirements:** Company Program Auditions will require you to learn a 45 second combination that will be sent (via email) **Sunday, June 9, 2024**. *Dancers will be scheduled based on age as of January 1, 2025*. During your audition time, dancers will be called forward and asked to introduce themselves and answer a question from the panel of teachers. Dancers will then perform the choreography in small groups and may be asked to do so multiple times in various groupings. Each dancer will also be asked to show their splits (Right, Left & Middle), do a Tumbling Trick of their choice and be asked to perform a 15 second improv. *\*Please note that we expect all dancers auditioning for the Company Programs to have the flexibility it takes for all splits and also the strength and training for tumbling.*

**Audition Fee:** \$30.00 per dancer – There will be no additional fee for Specialty Auditions.

**Specialty Audition:** These auditions are for Solos, Duets and Trios and are open to the Advanced/Company Programs and Elite Group. Please prepare a self-choreographed **45-Second** Solo that shows off who YOU are as a dancer/performer. Your audition will consist of performing your own choreographed piece in front of a group of teachers. **There are a limited number of spots available for Specialty Routines so be prepared to show us what you got.** *\*Please note that private lesson time will not be used to help students work on their audition piece.*

Specialty Auditions will be held immediately following Company Auditions:

**Saturday, June 15, 2024**

**at ASADA**

**Time: TBD**

**Placement Decision:** Students auditioning for the Elite Group, Company Program and/or Specialty Routines can expect a Placement Decision Letter via email **by Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>** from [asadastaff@gmail.com](mailto:asadastaff@gmail.com). *Upon receipt, Dancers will have 24-Hours to decline program placement.*

**Summer Requirements:** If you are selected to be a part of our Company Program, you will be required to complete the following amount of dance camps (or the equivalent hours) during the summer months:

THREE 3-Day Camps  
Competition Prep Camp\*

*\*Mandatory for all Advanced and Company Programs and Elite Group Dancers\**

Acceptable Summer Requirement Hours are A Step Above Summer Camps/Intensives/Open Gyms/Private Lessons. **NEW THIS SEASON:** *If you wish to train outside of ASADA for your Summer Requirement Hours, you must receive written approval from the Studio Director. Please submit an email to [asadastaff@gmail.com](mailto:asadastaff@gmail.com) with all information regarding the outside program. A decision will be sent back via email upon review.* You will be given a Time-Sheet to keep track of your hours that will need to be returned to the Front Desk by August 15, 2024.

**Registration:** *Registration will open on JackRabbit Dance on July 15, 2024*

**Class Requirements:** As a student in our Company Program, you will be **required** to take the following classes: Tap, Ballet, Acro and/or Tumbling, Ballet Technique, Technique, Cardio and Production - in addition to your competitive choreography classes. These are the classes that will count towards your Attendance Accountability. *Musical Theatre strongly encouraged to all competitive dancers.*

**Production:** **NEW!** Production will be a **REQUIRED** class for the entire 2024 – 2025 Season and will be mandatory for **ALL** competitive dancers (Advanced, Company & Elite). Production will compete at **TWO** competitions during the season. Production Class will run as follows:

September – October: **Holiday Cabaret Choreography\***

*\*Cabaret will be required for all competitive dancers. If you are unable to participate due to another commitment, we will need to know at the time your Summer Tracker is turned in.*

November – December: **Production Choreography** will begin – *in addition to learning parade choreography.*

**Competitive Group Routines:** As a Company Program dancer, you can expect to have 3 group routines. This does not include Specialty Routines (such as solos/duets/trios), which

will be based on audition, or Production, which will compete at two competition this season.

**Competition Placement:** All competition placement will be based on the individual competition’s rules.

**Membership Fee:** This Membership Fee is a **ONE TIME PAYMENT** and includes but is not limited to tentative Holiday Rehearsal, January Dress Rehearsal, Competition Entry Registration, Music Uploads, onsite teacher expenses, etc. This fee is due by Thursday, September 19, 2024, along with the Optional Event Registration Form. *(Optional Event Registration Form will be distributed in August along with the Competition Schedule, Make Up Class Schedule, etc.)*

# of Events Dancer will Attend this Season	2 =	3 =	4 =	5 =	6 =
<b>One Time Fee</b>	<b>\$95.00</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	<b>\$130.00</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

*\*Membership Fee Family Discount: For each addition child, there will be a \$5.00 discount applied. (i.e. first child = full fee; second child = \$5.00 discount; third child = \$10.00 discount, etc.)*

**Competition Schedule:** *Please note that this chart is an example of the 2023-2024 Season. The 2024-2025 schedule is subject to change. Full schedule to be provided August 2024.*

Workshop Only	Competition Only
1 Mandatory; 1 Optional	5 Mandatory, 1 Optional

*Workshop Only:* These are the events that are JUST workshops (i.e. *Bold Dance Project*).

*Competition Only:* These are the events that dancers do not need to take a workshop in order to compete (i.e., *Beyond the Stars*).

*The A Step Above Dance Academy Competition Schedule is confidential and should not be shared on any social media platforms or with other studios.*

**“Big Event” of 2025:** Specialty Routines will be given the opportunity to compete in a Pittsburgh Nationals in Summer 2025. This will be **OPTIONAL** to all Elite, Company and Advanced Specialty Routine Dancers. Competition: **TBD**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance requirements will be based on the number of hours you competitively dance per month. This includes any and all required classes for your program. As a member of Company Program, we ask that you complete 93% - 100% of your required hours each month.

*“Make Up” Hours:* You will also be given the opportunity to “make-up” missed hours utilizing the Make Up Class Schedule for 2 weeks after of the day you are absent and/or Private Lessons for 1 month from the date of your absence. *The Make-Up Hours Schedule will be offered from September 2024 – December 2024.*

A list of classes that you may attend for “make-up hours” will be posted on the Bulletin Boards. *Please note that these are the ONLY classes that may be used as Make Up Classes.* Attend one of the listed classes and have the teacher sign off that you were there and return it to the Front Desk. Miss one class, take one class. Miss two classes, take two classes, etc. Private lessons may also be scheduled to make up missed classes. With that being said, make-up lesson time will not be used to review specialty routines. For example, if you miss a tap class, your private lesson will be tap. If you miss a competitive routine, the private lesson will be used to review what you missed.

*“Attendance Bonus”:* Dancers in the Company Program will have opportunities throughout the season to participate in extra performances and/or training that will count towards an Attendance Bonus. These events are optional with dates TBD. *All Attendance Bonus Hours will expire April 30, 2025.*

*“Excused Absences”:* Dancers will be allotted 4 Excused Absences per season.

- These are absences related to sickness/illness/injury.
- Absences are considered “Excused” if a note is provided that has been signed by a doctor.
- For example, if a dancer is sick for a week and turns in a Doctor’s Note for the missed days, that note will count as ONE Excused Absence and will cover the week.
- Once a dancer has utilized 4 Excused Absences, dancers may use Make Up Classes/Lessons or Attendance Bonus for make up for the time missed.

*“Summer Attendance Bonus”:* We will be offering Attendance Bonus Hours starting in Summer 2024. Once you have met your Summer Requirements for the Company Program, you will be eligible for the following bonus hours by taking additional ASADA Summer Camps and Workshops:

- Ages 13+: 4 Bonus Hours
- Ages 9-12: 3 Bonus Hours
- Ages 8 & Under: 2 Bonus Hours
  - Dancers must log ALL camps and workshops they attend this summer on their Summer Tracker in order for Attendance Bonus Minutes to be accepted. *Private Lessons and outside programs will not be included.*

*Private Lessons:* Dancers will be allotted THREE Private Lessons per month. These lessons may be used for Specialty Routine Review, Additional Training, and/or Make Up Classes. However, the two lessons per teacher policy still remains in place.

*Due to the start of Competition Season and Recital Preparation, beginning in January 2025 through April 2025, the only way to make up classes will be in Private Lessons or classes that do not have recital dances.*

*“Attendance Accountability”*: At the beginning of each month, you will receive your percentage of hours completed for the previous month. This Attendance Accountability will run from Summer Requirements 2024 through April 30, 2025.

If you complete 100 – 93% of your hours for the season, you *have met your Attendance Requirements* for this program and no further action will be taken.

If you have completed 92% of your hours or less, this means you *have not met the Attendance Requirements* for this program. In order to hold students accountable, dancers will be pulled from recital routines based on their end of season average percentage. For example, if the dancer has completed 92% of their hours, they will be asked to perform only 92% of their recital routines. If they’ve completed 90% of their hours, they will be asked to only perform 90% of their recital routines and so on (*decimal numbers will be rounded up to the nearest whole number*). It is the decision of the Director, choreographer and staff that determine which routines the dancer will perform.

**Competition Accountability:** As a member of the Company Program, you are required to attend mandatory competitions throughout the year. If you should miss a mandatory competition for any reason (with the exception of health-related issues or family emergencies), the following will occur:

1. If you currently have a Specialty Routine: your routine will be removed from an upcoming competition. If it is the last competition of the season, your Specialty Routine will be removed from the recital. There will be no refund issued.
2. If you do not have a Specialty Routine: you will be removed from one competition dance at recital (Teacher’s Discretion). There will be no refunds issued.
3. Mandatory Workshop hours and Award Ceremonies will be included in your Attendance Accountability.
4. **INJURY:** Dancers must be released/cleared to dance 7 Days prior to a competition in order to compete. Dancer will be considered cleared to dance when a note is received by a doctor. This will allow choreographers to make adjustments (if applicable) or allow groups to have a full rehearsal prior to competition. If a dancer is not medically cleared to compete 7 Days prior to a competition, competition credits/refunds will vary based on individual competition rules.

The final Attendance Accountability information will be sent to you in May 2025.

**COMPETITION CONFLICT REQUESTS:** Your tentative Competition Schedule will be provided to you in August 2024.

1. If you should have any scheduling conflict requests with any in-house events (rehearsals, picture weekend), these requests must be made 60 days prior to the event date.
2. If you should have any scheduling conflict requests with any outside events (competitions, workshops), these requests must be made by the event payment deadline.

3. All scheduling conflicts made within the proper timeframe to the Studio Owner/Director will be requested. However, this is NOT a guarantee that your requests will be granted.

4. Any and all scheduling requests made after the above timeframe will not be requested.

5. If a dancer has an outside commitment and decides not to attend a mandatory competition, that dancer will be charged a \$25.00 re-blocking fee per routine.

**Team Apparel:** As a member of the Company Program, you will be required to have a Competitive Team Jacket.

The Team Jackets will be the same jackets we have had in the past. Therefore, if you have been a member of our team in prior years, you are not required to purchase another jacket. New members will be required to purchase a Team Jacket (tentatively \$105.00/jacket).

**Team Fine:** All Company Program Dancers are expected to uphold the standard that is set from being a Competitive Dancer at A Step Above Dance Academy. This includes arriving to workshops/rehearsals/events on time, wearing the appropriate attire to class and competitions, and following all policies listed above. In the event that a dancer fails to meet these expectations, we will be implementing a \$10.00 fine per violation.

**Bullying Policy:** Bullying, harassing, threatening or causing harm to another ASADA member (as it relates to ASADA's classes, policies, performances and/or events) including in-person, over the phone (texts/calls) and on social media will not be tolerated. If, at any moment, you or your dancer feel bullied, harassed or threatened, please report the incident to [michelle@astepabovedanceonline.com](mailto:michelle@astepabovedanceonline.com). Reported incidents will be further investigated by the Studio Director and will follow a 3-Strike Policy:

- 1st Violation: Verbal Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation: Written Warning
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Violation: Dismissal from ASADA without refund

**Recital 2025:** All A Step Above Dance Academy students will be invited to participate in our end of year Recital (June 2025).

**Picture Weekend:** All Company Program Dancers are expected to attend Picture Weekend (February 2025).

# **ADVANCED PROGRAM**

**Ages:** 6+ (*Must be 6 by January 1, 2025*)

## **What is the Advanced Program?**

The Advanced Program is designed for students who wish to train with like-minded and similar skill level students and participate in competitions without the intense training/competitive schedule. This allows our students to grow as a dancer, get competition experience and also be actively involved in other activities.

**Program Selection Form:** Any and all dancers planning to participate in the Advanced Program or audition for a Specialty Routine, MUST complete the Google Program Selection Form by **Thursday, May 16, 2024**.

**Advanced Program Assessment: NEW THIS SEASON!** In order to register for the Advanced Program, you must attend the Advanced Program Assessment.

**Saturday, June 15, 2024**

**at ASADA**

**9:00 – 9:30am**

All Advanced Program Dancers will be asked to show a series of splits, jumps and turns in groups based on age in front of the ASADA Staff. **This Assessment is NOT an audition.** All dancers interested in registering for the Advanced Program **WILL RECEIVE PLACEMENT.** However, this Assessment will be used to help determine the grouping for all dancers.

**Assessment Fee:** \$15.00 per dancer – There will be no additional fee for Specialty Routine Auditions.

**Specialty Audition:** These auditions are for Solos, Duets and Trios and are open to Advanced Program Dancers. Please prepare a self-choreographed **45-Second** Solo that shows off who YOU ARE as a dancer/performer. Your audition will consist of performing your own choreographed piece in front of a group of teachers. There are a limited number of spots available for Specialty Routines so be prepared to show us what you got.

*\*Please note, private lesson time will not be used to help students work on their audition piece.*

**Specialty Auditions will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024:**

**at ASADA**

**Time: Immediately following the Advanced Program Assessment**

**Specialty Audition Fee:** There will be no additional fee for Specialty Routine Auditions.

**Placement Decision:** Students enrolling in the Advanced Programing and those auditioning for Specialty Routines can expect a decision letter via email **by Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>** from [asadastaff@gmail.com](mailto:asadastaff@gmail.com). *Upon receipt, Dancers will have 24-Hours to decline program placement.*

**Summer Requirements:** As a student in our Advanced Program, you will be required to complete the following amount of dance camps (or the equivalent hours) during the summer months:

ONE 3-Day Camp  
Competition Prep Camp\*

*\*Mandatory for all Advanced and Company Programs & Elite Group Dancers\**

Acceptable Summer Requirement Hours are A Step Above Summer Camps/Intensives/Open Gyms/Private Lessons. **NEW THIS SEASON:** *If you wish to train outside of ASADA for your Summer Requirement Hours, you must receive written approval from the Studio Director. Please submit an email to [asadastaff@gmail.com](mailto:asadastaff@gmail.com) with all information regarding the outside program. A decision will be sent back via email upon review.* You will be given a Time-Sheet to keep track of your hours that will need to be returned to the Front Desk by August 15, 2024.

**Registration:** *Registration will open on JackRabbit Dance on July 15, 2024*

**Class Requirements:** As a student in our Advanced Program, you will be **required** to take the following classes: Jazz, Tap, Ballet (based on dancer's age), Acro/Tumbling (this does not include additional classes), one additional choreography class—at which you will learn your Competitive Routine and **Production**. All classes listed will count towards your Attendance Accountability. *Technique and Musical Theatre strongly encouraged to all competitive dancers (based on availability on schedule).*

**Production:** *NEW! Production will be a REQUIRED class for the entire 2024 – 2025 Season and will be mandatory for ALL competitive dancers (Advanced, Company & Elite). Production will compete at TWO competitions during the season. Production Class will run as follows:*

*September – October: Holiday Cabaret Choreography\**

*\*Cabaret will be required for all competitive dancers. If you are unable to participate due to another commitment, we will need to know at the time your Summer Tracker is turned in.*

*November – December: Production Choreography will begin – in addition to learning parade choreography.*

**Competitive Group Routines:** The Advanced Program will be broken into groups based on the dancer's level, not age. Each student should expect to have one group routine in addition to Production, which will compete at two competitions this season. Specialty Routines, such as solos/duets/trios, will be based on audition.

**Competition Placement:** All competition placement will be based on the individual competition's rules.



**Membership Fee:** This Membership Fee is a **ONE TIME PAYMENT** and includes but is not limited to tentative Holiday Rehearsal, January Dress Rehearsal, Competition Entry Registration, Music Uploads, onsite teacher expenses, etc. This fee is due by Thursday, September 19, 2024 along with the Optional Event Registration Form. (*Optional Event Registration Form will be distributed in August along with the Competition Schedule, Make Up Class Schedule, etc.*)

# of Events Dancer will Attend this Season	2 =	3 =	4 =	5 =	6 =
<b>One Time Fee</b>	<b>\$95.00</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	<b>\$130.00</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

*\*Membership Fee Family Discount: For each addition child, there will be a \$5.00 discount applied. (i.e. first child = full fee; second child = \$5.00 discount; third child = \$10.00 discount, etc.)*

**Competition Schedule:** Please note that this chart is an example of the 2023-2024 Season. The 204 -2025 schedule is subject to change. Full schedule to be provided August 2025.

Workshop Only	Competition Only
1 Mandatory	2 Mandatory, 2 Optional

*Workshop Only:* These are the events that are JUST workshops (i.e. *Bold Dance Project*).

*Competition Only:* These are the events that dancers do not need to take a workshop in order to compete (i.e., *Beyond the Stars*).

*The A Step Above Dance Academy Competition Schedule is confidential and should not be shared on any social media platforms or with other studios.*

**“Big Event” of 2025:** Specialty Routines will be given the opportunity to compete in a Pittsburgh Nationals in Summer 2025. This will be **OPTIONAL** to all Elite, Company and Advanced Specialty Routine Dancers. Competition: TBD

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance requirements will be based on the number of hours you competitively dance per month. This includes any and all required classes for your program. As a member of Advanced Program, we ask that you complete 91% - 100% of your required hours each month.

*“Make Up” Hours:* You will also be given the opportunity to “make-up” missed hours utilizing the Make Up Class Schedule for 2 weeks after of the day you are absent and/or Private Lessons for 1 month from the date of your absence. *The Make-Up Hours Schedule will be offered from September 2024 – December 2024.*

A list of classes that you may attend for “make-up hours” will be posted on the Bulletin Boards. *Please note that these are the ONLY classes that may be used as Make Up Classes.* Attend one of the listed classes and have the teacher sign off that you were there and return it to the Front Desk. Miss one class, take one class. Miss two classes, take

two classes, etc. Private lessons may also be scheduled to make up missed classes. With that being said, make-up lesson time will not be used to review specialty routines. For example, if you miss a tap class, your private lesson will be tap. If you miss a competitive routine, the private lesson will be used to review what you missed.

*“Attendance Bonus”*: Dancers in the Advanced Program will have opportunities throughout the season to participate in extra performances and/or training that will count towards an Attendance Bonus. These events are optional with dates TBD. **All Attendance Bonus Hours will expire April 30, 2025.**

*“Summer Attendance Bonus”*: We will be offering Attendance Bonus Hours starting in Summer 2024. Once you have met your Summer Requirements for the Advanced Program, you will be eligible for the following bonus hours by taking additional ASADA Summer Camps and Workshops:

- Ages 13+: 4 Bonus Hours
- Ages 9-12: 3 Bonus Hours
- Ages 8 & Under: 2 Bonus Hours
  - Dancers must log ALL camps and workshops they attend this summer on their Summer Tracker in order for Attendance Bonus Minutes to be accepted. **Private Lessons and outside programs will not be included.**

*Private Lessons*: Dancers will be allotted THREE Private Lessons per month. These lessons may be used for Specialty Routine Review, Additional Training, and/or Make Up Classes. However, the two lessons per teacher policy still remains in place.

*Due to the start of Competition Season and Recital Preparation, beginning in January 2025 through April 2025, the only way to make up classes will be in Private Lessons or classes that do not have recital dances.*

*“Attendance Accountability”*: At the beginning of each month, you will receive your percentage of hours completed for the previous month. This Attendance Accountability will run from Summer Requirements 2024 through April 30, 2025.

If you complete 100 – 91% of your hours for the season, you *have met your Attendance Requirements* for this program and no further action will be taken.

If you have completed 90% of your hours or less, this means you *have not met the Attendance Requirements* for this program. In order to hold students accountable, dancers will be pulled from recital routines based on their end of season average percentage. For example, if the dancer has completed 90% of their hours, they will be asked to perform only 90% of their recital routines. If they’ve completed 87% of their hours, they will be asked to only perform 87% of their recital routines and so on (*decimal numbers will be rounded up to the nearest whole number*). It is the decision of the Director, choreographer and staff that determine which routines the dancer will perform.

**Competition Accountability:** As a member of the Advanced Program, you are required to attend mandatory competitions throughout the year. If you should miss a mandatory competition for any reason (with the exception of health-related issues or family emergencies), the following will occur:

1. If you currently have a Specialty Routine: your routine will be removed from an upcoming competition. If it is the last competition of the season, your Specialty Routine will be removed from the recital. There will be no refund issued.

2. If you do not have a Specialty Routine: you will be removed from one competition dance at recital (Teacher's Discretion). There will be no refunds issued.

3. Mandatory Workshop hours and Award Ceremonies will be included in your Attendance Accountability.

4. **INJURY:** Dancers must be released/cleared to dance 7 Days prior to a competition in order to compete. Dancer will be considered cleared to dance when a note is received by a doctor. This will allow choreographers to make adjustments (if applicable) or allow groups to have a full rehearsal prior to competition. If a dancer is not medically cleared to compete 7 Days prior to a competition, competition credits/refunds will vary based on individual competition rules.

The final Attendance Accountability information will be sent to you in May 2025.

**COMPETITION CONFLICT REQUESTS:** Your tentative Competition Schedule will be provided to you in August 2025.

1. If you should have any scheduling conflict requests with any in-house events (rehearsals, picture weekend), these requests must be made 60 days prior to the event date.

2. If you should have any scheduling conflict requests with any outside events (competitions, workshops), these requests must be made by the event payment deadline.

3. All scheduling conflicts made within the proper timeframe to the Studio Owner/Director will be requested. However, this is NOT a guarantee that your requests will be granted.

4. Any and all scheduling requests made after the above timeframe will not be requested.

5. **If a dancer has an outside commitment and decides not to attend a mandatory competition, that dancer will be charged a \$25.00 re-blocking fee per routine.**

**Team Apparel:** As a member of the Advanced Program, you will be required to have a Competitive Team Jacket. These jackets will be the same jackets we have had in the past. Therefore, if you have been a member of our team in prior years, you are not required to purchase another jacket. New members will be required to purchase a Team Jacket ((tentatively \$105.00/jacket).

**Team Fine:** All Advanced Program Dancers are expected to uphold the standard that is set from being a Competitive Dancer at A Step Above Dance Academy. This includes arriving to workshops/rehearsals/events on time, wearing the appropriate attire to class and competitions, and following all policies listed above. In the event that a dancer fails to meet these expectations, we will be implementing a \$10.00 fine per violation.

**Bullying Policy:** Bullying, harassing, threatening or causing harm to another ASADA member (as it relates to ASADA's classes, policies, performances and/or events) including in-person, over the phone (texts/calls) and on social media will not be tolerated. If, at any moment, you or your dancer feel bullied, harassed or threatened, please report the incident to [michelle@astepabovedanceonline.com](mailto:michelle@astepabovedanceonline.com). Reported incidents will be further investigated by the Studio Director and will follow a 3-Strike Policy:

- 1st Violation: Verbal Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation: Written Warning
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Violation: Dismissal from ASADA without refund.

**Recital 2025:** All A Step Above Dance Academy students will be invited to participate in our end of year Recital (June 2025).

**Picture Weekend:** All Advanced Program Dancers are expected to attend Picture Weekend (February 2025).

# ACADEMY PROGRAM

Ages: 3+

## **What is the Academy Program?**

**This program is designed for our recreational dancers and is available to ALL AGES.**

There are NO AUDITIONS required for the Academy Program.

**Summer Classes:** As an Academy Student, you are not required to take summer classes, but we encourage all students to attend our awesome summer workshops.

Mini Mondays: beginning June 17  
Olympic Games: June 18 - 20  
Broadway Bound: June 25 - 27  
Decades of Dance: July 9 - 11  
In My Dance Era: July 16 - 18  
Dance Sampler: July 23 - 25  
Feel The Beat: July 30 – August 1  
Princess Camp: August 5 – 9

**Registration:** Registration will open on JackRabbit Dance on July 15, 2024. We will also be holding in-house registration - Tuesday, August 20 – however, we do recommend registering for classes utilizing our online system as classes fill quickly.

**Community Performances:** Community Performance and Event Participation is optional to all ASADA Dancers. These events are an awesome opportunity to perform in more than just the recital, gain more experience/confidence and create wonderful memories.

**Bullying Policy:** Bullying, harassing, threatening or causing harm to another ASADA member (as it relates to ASADA's classes, policies, performances and/or events) including in-person, over the phone (texts/calls) and on social media will not be tolerated. If, at any moment, you or your dancer feel bullied, harassed or threatened, please report the incident to [michelle@astepabovedanceonline.com](mailto:michelle@astepabovedanceonline.com). Reported incidents will be further investigated by the Studio Director and will follow a 3-Strike Policy:

- 1st Violation: Verbal Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation: Written Warning
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Violation: Dismissal from ASADA without refund.

**Recital 2025:** All A Step Above Dance Academy students will be invited to participate in our end of year Recital (June 2025).

**Picture Weekend:** All students who choose to do recital will be included in Picture Weekend. (February 2025)

# **SESSION PROGRAM**

Ages: 2+

## **What is the Session Program?**

**This program is designed for our dancers who aren't ready to commit to an entire year of dance classes or those who aren't quite old enough yet. It is made up of various "session style" programs that typically run for 8 weeks.**

There are NO AUDITIONS required for the Session Programs.

**Summer Classes:** We encourage all students to attend our awesome summer workshops!

Mini Mondays: beginning June 17

Olympic Games: June 18 - 20

Broadway Bound: June 25 - 27

Decades of Dance: July 9 - 11

In My Dance Era: July 16 - 18

Dance Sampler: July 23 - 25

Feel The Beat: July 30 – August 1

Princess Camp: August 5 – 9

**Registration:** Varies per session.

## **Session Options:**

**Toddler Program (Ages 2-4)** – This is our program for our tiny dancers who aren't quite old enough for full classes yet or who are not yet ready for a full season commitment. Our Toddler Sessions run for 8 weeks at a time, 3 times a year (Fall 2024, Winter 2025, Spring 2025).

**STAY TUNED FOR ADDITIONAL SESSIONS PROGRAMS  
COMING IN THE 2024-2025 SEASON!**

**Dance Pictures/Recital 2025:** Session Program students do not take part in our Dance Picture Weekend or Recital.