



2026-2027 PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM HANDBOOK



HoustonBallet

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HOUSTON BALLET MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire a lasting love and appreciation for dance through artistic excellence, exhilarating performances, innovative choreography, and superb educational programs.

In furtherance of our mission, we are committed to maintaining and improving our status as:

- A **classically trained company with a diverse repertory** whose range includes the classics as well as contemporary works.
- A company that **attracts the world's best dancers and choreographers** and provides them with an **environment where they can thrive** and further develop the art form.
- An **international company** that is accessible to broad and growing local, national, and international audiences.
- A company with a **world-class Academy** that provides first rate instruction for dancers.
- A company that offers **high-quality dance educational programming** prioritizing historically underserved communities in Houston and the surrounding area.
- A company with **state-of-the-art** facilities for performances, rehearsals, and ongoing operations.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Statement

Houston Ballet is dedicated to creating meaningful change by cultivating a space that honors what is unique in all of us. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) are instrumental in the fulfillment of our mission and values. We recognize our responsibility to be an inclusive and open organization for students, artists, staff, trustees, and volunteers of all backgrounds.

Join us, together we are Houston Ballet.



ACADEMY GENERAL INFORMATION

All HB Academy classes are held at the Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance.

Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance Address:

601 Preston Street
Houston, TX 77002

Administrative Offices Phone Number:

713-523-6300

Please send all Academy questions to:

hbacademy@houstonballet.org

Houston Ballet Academy Programs Webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/view/houston-ballet-academy/home>



HOUSTON BALLET ACADEMY LEADERSHIP

Julie Kent and Stanton Welch, AM, Artistic Directors

Sonja Kostich, Executive Director

Jennifer Sommers, Director of the Academy

ACADEMY STAFF

- **Yahudi Castañeda**, Associate Director of Academy Artistic Operations
- **Katie Wesche**, Associate Director of Academy Administration
- **Kaitlyn Louis**, Associate Director of Student Life
- **Carla Cortez**, Academy Communications Manager
- **Jamie Cegelski**, Academy Programs Manager
- **Reagan Quandt**, Academy Artistic Operations Coordinator
- **Angela Flores**, Academy Student Support Coordinator
- **Kaitlyn Watson**, Academy Administrative Coordinator

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

- **Cheryne Busch**, Upper School Principal, Advisor to Pro 1 Women
- **Susan Bryant**, Principal Instructor, Advisor to Pro 2 Women
- **Kelly Myernick**, Principal Instructor, Advisor to HBII Women
- **Claudio Muñoz**, HBII Ballet Master, Advisor to HBII Men
- **Orlando Molina**, Boys Program Manager, Advisor to Pro 1 & Pro 2 Men

For additional faculty and staff, please visit our website [HERE](#).

HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM

- **Dawn Stuckey**, Athletic Trainer
- **Akihiro Kawasaki**, Head Strength
- **Emily Travis**, MPH, RD, LD, CEDRD, Nutritionist
- **Kelsey Fyffe**, MA, LPC, Licensed Professional Counselor

ACADEMICS TEAM

- **Nate Nakadate**, Academic Advisor
- **Epic Tutors**, Academic Advisor
- **Judy Spong**, English as an Alternative Language Teacher

GENERAL HB ACADEMY INFORMATION

ACADEMY OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Saturday 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

LOST & FOUND

Lost and Found is in the Academy office. All items in the Lost and Found bin are discarded monthly.

ACADEMY CALENDAR

All information relating to the Academy calendar can be found in the link [HERE](#).

ACADEMY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Weekly schedules are posted on all call boards as well as on our Academy Google Site [HERE](#).

ENROLLMENT

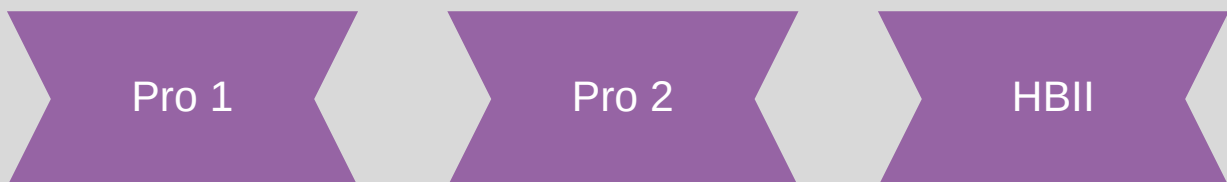
The Professional Program is for students 14+ years old as of September 1, 2026. An audition is required to enroll in the Professional Program. In-person auditions are held in May and December for the 2026-2027 Academy Year. Video auditions are accepted as well. Students who attend the Summer Intensive Program may audition during the program in July. Students enrolled in the Professional Program will be given priority registration for the Summer Intensive Program and the following school year. Placement for the Summer Intensive Program is sent in December, and for the following school year is sent in May.

Students who miss a semester are required to audition for re-admission.

Houston Ballet II (HBII)

HBII is Houston Ballet's second company and the highest level of the Houston Ballet Academy. HBII prepares students for a professional career in the field of dance. Admittance into HBII is by audition only or by artistic placement. Dancers may submit a video audition first and then may be invited to audition in person. The video audition application is open from January 1-March 1 before each season.

LEVELS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM



Houston Ballet Academy maintains a policy of non-discrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, physical/neurological ability, sexual orientation, and economic status.

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION IS FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED UNTIL ALL SEATS ARE FULL.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM REGISTRATION:

34-Week Academy Year

¼ tuition, \$275 Student Activity Fee, and \$200 registration fee is due at the time of registration

Currently enrolled students will access the enrollment form via the PowerSchool Parent Portal. New students will be emailed an invitation to complete the enrollment form.

After your enrollment form is processed, you will be notified via email to sign your student's tuition contract and complete the registration process.

PAYMENT PLAN OPTIONS

PAY IN FULL: Discount of \$100 will be applied at the time of payment.

Option must be selected with auto-pay by Friday, August 28th.

QUARTERLY: Payment in four installments

MONTHLY: Payment in seven installments (incurs a \$20 fee to each installment due September through February)

**2026 - 2027 Year
Round registration
is open May - July**

**2027 Summer
registration is
open December -
February**

Invoice Date	Due Date	Pay in Full	Four Installments "Quarterly Plan"	Seven Installments "Monthly Plan"
At Registration		100% minus discount	25%	25%
September 1st	September 15th		25%	12.5% + \$20
October 1st	October 15th			12.5% + \$20
November 1st	November 15th		25%	12.5% + \$20
December 1st	December 15th			12.5% + \$20
January 1st	January 15th			12.5% + \$20
February 1st	February 15th		25%	12.5% + \$20

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available for students in the Pre-Professional Program. The application is open now for the 2026-2027 school year. To complete the application for the 2026-2027 school year, log onto the PowerSchool Parent Portal and click Forms.

- Applications are not considered until the student has registered for the 2026-2027 Academy Year.
- Applications may take up to one month for review. Decisions will be sent by email.
- Financial assistance is not automatically renewed from previous Academy years. If you applied for financial aid for the 2026 Summer Programs, you do not need to submit an additional application.
- Financial assistance covers only a portion of tuition and is typically no more than 25% of the total tuition.

**Please note that students with delinquent accounts will not be able to register for future programs until their account is current.

PAYMENTS & FEES



- **HOUSTON BALLET ACCEPTS THE FOLLOWING FORMS OF PAYMENT:**

- Checks: If a check is returned for any reason, a \$25 fee will be charged. The fee must be paid in cash within one week from the time the owner of the account is notified.
 - Cashier's Checks
 - Cash
 - ACH: ACH payments incur a processing fee of \$1.50 per transaction.
 - Credit Cards: Credit card payments incur a processing fee of \$2.75 per \$99.99.
- Payments may be mailed, hand-delivered, completed online, or phoned into the Academy office.
 - A \$25 late fee will be applied on the next business day following the 15th of each month if payment is not received by the due date.
 - Please note that students with delinquent accounts will not be able to register for future programs until their accounts are current.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Houston Ballet is dedicated to offering the highest caliber of training while keeping ballet accessible. However, tuition covers only 70% of Academy costs. Gifts from parents/guardians and other supporters are vital to ensure every professional and non-professional dancer, despite capacity, has access to the finest instruction. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Houston Ballet to assist with our annual merit scholarships, please contact Erika Jordan at ejordan@houstonballet.org or (713) 535-3241.

REFUND POLICY

TUITION AND FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

Should a student withdraw who has paid, the remaining tuition and all fees will be forfeited to Houston Ballet Academy. Forfeited tuition may not be considered a tax-deductible donation.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Should a parent/guardian desire to withdraw a student before the end of the Academy year, the Academy Administrative Office must receive a completed Withdrawal Form. THE PARENT/GUARDIAN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL TUITION PAYMENTS DUE UNTIL THE DATE THE ACADEMY OFFICE RECEIVES A COMPLETED WITHDRAWAL FORM FROM THE PARENT/GUARDIAN. Verbal notification of withdrawal will not be accepted. Should a student withdraw in the beginning, middle, or a quarter that has been paid, the remaining tuition will be forfeited to HBA. The HBA is not liable or obligated in any way to process any refunds or issue any tuition credits.

ALL WITHDRAWAL FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL.

ACADEMY PROCEDURES

CLASS ETIQUETTE

1. Bring energy, enthusiasm, and eagerness to learn in classes.
2. Students should arrive on time.
3. Injuries can be caused by insufficient warm-up, and interruptions are distracting to the other students in class. If a student is more than 10 minutes late, the teacher must allow the student to participate in class.
4. If a student misses class due to an appointment with the Athletic Trainer, the student must have a note from the Athletic Trainer.
5. Students may bring water in a resealable plastic or metal bottle.
6. Students should refrain from distracting others during class or playing on the piano.
7. Students should wear their class uniform, including proper hair.

Attendance

- Students should attend ALL classes regularly – including supplemental classes.
- Students who miss a semester are required to audition for re-admission.
- Absence notification must be emailed to hbacademy@houstonballet.org and left on the out/ill voicemail (713-874-5421). Please review the **Academy Student Wellbeing Policy** for more information about absences due to illness or injury.

HB Academy Communication Methods

- Email: hbacademy@houstonballet.org
- PowerSchool Parent Portal
- Our Google Sites and Academy Website
- Academy Facebook Page
- Academy Instagram Page
- Virtual Townhalls

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Teachers will familiarize students with emergency procedures at the beginning of each semester. These drills include fire, tornado, and lockdown.

Hurricane Emergency Procedure

In the event of a hurricane evacuation for Harris County, Houston Ballet will be responsible for sheltering students living in Houston Ballet housing or off-campus housing without parents/guardians. All students are required to evacuate and stay at the shelter provided by Houston Ballet unless otherwise noted in advance. Houston Ballet will work with the American Red Cross to determine a safe shelter location. Students will be transported in vans and cars and be chaperoned throughout their stay. Food, water, and first-aid supplies will be provided and prepared for students. Academy staff will stay in communication with parents/guardians by email and/or telephone. A hurricane evacuation plan is included in your student's registration.

ACADEMY PROCEDURES

Class Observations

FALL SEMESTER DATES:

Pro 1: November 13th

Pro 2: November 12th

HBII: December 8th

SPRING SEMESTER DATES:

April 29TH- 30TH

Evaluations

PRO 1

- Students will complete an evaluation class in May*
- Evaluations distributed in May*
- Consultations held in December and May with Academy artistic staff*

PRO 2

- Students will complete an evaluation class & variation evaluation in May*
- Evaluations distributed in May*
- Consultations held in December and May with Academy artistic staff*

HBII

- Students will complete the classical & contemporary variations evaluation in December*
- Evaluations printed and given at consultations*
- Consultations held in December and June with Academy artistic staff*

Level Placement

- The Academy's artistic staff determines the class placement of each student. Faculty members evaluate students on artistry, physicality, maturity, and technical ability. Each student progresses at a different pace; therefore, students in the same level may be progressed at different times.*

Traditional and Distance Education

- Houston Ballet Academy has a legal responsibility and fundamental belief that all students within the Academy need to continue their education, both at the Academy and within traditional educational institutions. Texas state law requires that students training at the Academy from outside the Houston area, who have not received a high school diploma or GED, and are under the age of 18, must be continually work on their education.*
- Houston Ballet Academy requires that these students attend the Study Hall with the Academic Advisor during the Fall and Spring semesters. Study Hall will be held two days a week. Students must attend each session. The Academic Advisor will assist with schoolwork, proctor student exams, and monitor student progress. Study Hall fees in the amount of \$275 per semester will be added to students' accounts each semester.*
- Students who speak English as an additional language may be required to attend English as an Additional Language classes (EAL) to learn English. EAL classes will be held two days a week. EAL fees in the amount of \$275 per semester will be added to students' accounts each semester.*

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Students who are not citizens of the United States need special documentation to attend the Professional Program. Canadian students need an I-20, which is issued by Houston Ballet Academy. All other international students need an I-20 and an M-1 visa. The fees to process these are not covered by any scholarships.

Please follow these instructions to process your I-20 and M-1 Visa:

1. Send a copy of the student's passport biographical page to kotto@houstonballet.org
2. Receive a copy of the I-20 electronically
3. Print & sign I-20
4. Pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee on the SEVIS website [HERE](#).
5. Make an appointment at your local US consulate
6. Attend consulate appointment
7. Receive M-1 Visa
8. Pay the I-20 Processing Fee by logging into your PowerSchool Parent Portal
9. Show the M-1 visa to the Academy staff upon arrival in Houston to confirm arrival to SEVIS.

CLASS ATTIRE

Pro 1	Pro 2	HBII
Leotard: <u>Galate - Light Gray</u> Tights: <u>Zarely style Z2 - stage pink performance</u> OR Skin-tone convertible Shoes: pink OR skin-tone ballet slippers & pointe shoes	Leotard: <u>Galate - Dark Grey</u> Tights: <u>Zarely style Z2 - stage pink performance</u> OR Skin-tone convertible Shoes: pink OR skin-tone ballet slippers & pointe shoes	Leotard: <u>Galate - Black</u> Tights: <u>Zarely style Z2 - stage pink performance</u> OR Skin-tone convertible Shoes: pink OR skin-tone ballet slippers & pointe shoes

OR

Pro 1 - Pro 2	HBII
Shirt: <u>Conrad White Crew Shirt</u> Tights: Slate/Gray tights Belt: <u>Discount Dance Supply style 62S - black</u> Shoes: White ballet slippers & crew socks	Shirt: <u>Conrad Black Crew Shirt</u> Tights: Black footed tights Belt: <u>Discount Dance Supply style 62S - black</u> Shoes: Black ballet slippers & crew socks

Class Attire for Adjunct Classes

Pas de Deux

Leotard: HBA uniform leotard Tights: HBA Uniform tights Shorts: Black bike shorts optional Shoes: Uniform shoes	OR	Shirt: HBA uniform shirt Tights: HBA Uniform tights Shoes: Uniform Shoes
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CLASS ATTIRE

Modern/Contemporary Uniform

Leotard: HBA Uniform Leotard

Tights: HBA Uniform tights

Shoes: Bare feet

OR

Shirt: HBA Uniform shirt

Tights: HBA Uniform tights

Shoes: Bare feet

Jazz Uniform

Leotard: Ballet uniform

Pants: black jazz pants or black shorts

Shoes: black jazz shoes

OR

Shirt: HBA Uniform Shirt





Pants: Black jazz pants or shorts

Shoes: Black jazz shoes

Variation and Repertory Class

Female-identifying students in the Professional Program should order their own practice tutu for variation and repertory classes. Please use the link [HERE](#) to order and have it delivered to the student's address. Please note that delivery takes up to 6-8 weeks.

Skin Tone-Inclusive Shoes & Tights Matching Guide

	Blendz Tights	Shoe Options
Confident Cocoa		Blendz Confident Cocoa  Spray Fashion Brown 
Brazen Brown		Blendz Brazen Brown  Capezio Mocha  Spray Tan 
Maven Mahogany		Blendz Maven Mahogany  Spray Bark 
Tenacious Tan		Blendz Tenacious Tan  Capezio Light Suntan  Capezio Nude  Spray Chamois 

	Capezio Tights	Shoe Options
Maple		Blendz Brazen Brown  Blendz Maven Mahogany  Capezio Mocha  Spray Tan or Bark 
Lt Tan		Blendz Tenacious Tan  Capezio Light Suntan  Capezio Nude  Spray Chamois 
Nude		Blendz Tenacious Tan  Capezio Light Suntan  Capezio Nude  Spray Chamois 

CLASS ATTIRE

Attire Procedures

- Students should have their hair neatly groomed, pulled back away from the face, and secured neatly in a ballet bun. Students with short hair should wear a headband and secure their hair at the back. For more information on Houston Ballet Academy's hair requirements for all students, please see our bun tutorial [HERE](#).
- Students with hair that is in braids, twists, or locs should secure hair back, without loose ends, and off the nape of the neck.
- Leg warmers and ballet skirts are not allowed to be worn in class.
- Students may wear one pair of earring studs. No other jewelry may be worn.
- Students should not wear dance clothes as street wear outside the Houston Ballet.
- Students should not apply lotion in the studios or apply lotion to the skin on days when they will be doing floor work. Lotion and oils can create slick spots on the studio floor.
- Wear the required class uniform. No rubber pants, leg warmers, sweatpants, etc.

*Performance hair

All students will be required to conform to the hair requirements for each piece performed. The Associate Director of Academy Artistic Operations will approve styles, cuts, and color up to three weeks before any performance. Once approved, no changes may be made.

Shoe Policy for Company Performances

Students who perform in company performances will receive one pair of shoes for a given number of performances.

HBII students will be provided one pair of performance shoes per HBII or Houston Ballet performance.

The Academy and Houston Ballet do not provide class or rehearsal shoes for any students.

Purchasing Attire

Houston Ballet does not have a dance supply store on-site. Students should arrive at the start of the program with all required attire and shoes.

Uniform leotards and shirts can be purchased through our [online site](#) or in person at [Dance Trends](#) or [Apollo Dancewear](#).

If you have any questions or concerns about HB Academy uniform online orders, please contact Leslie Goodrum at lgoodrum@houstonballet.org.

For additional supplies, including tights and shoes, items may be purchased via online stores or one of the dance store options in the Houston area listed below. We recommend calling any store before arriving to ensure they have the needed items in stock.

Dance Trends
14520 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 558-1400

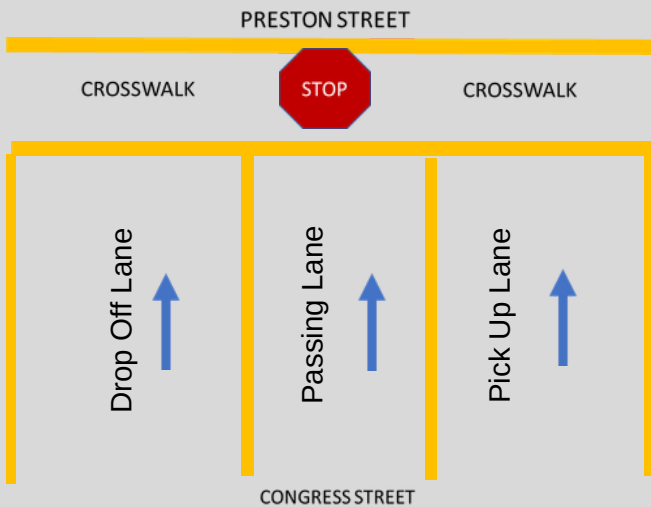
Apollo Dancewear
1502 Sawyer St #132,
Houston, TX 77007
(832) 205-1524

Jazz Rags Dancewear
25701 Interstate 45 N
#10a Spring, TX 77380
(281) 364-1600

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Academy families may either park and walk in with their students or utilize our covered driveway for arrivals and dismissals.

- Parking options are listed [HERE](#).
- Families who use the driveway must enter from Congress Street.
 - Students being dropped off should use the far-left lane.
 - Students being picked up should use the far-right lane.
 - The middle lane should be clear for those to pass.



Driveway Policies

- Students will not be allowed into the building until 15 minutes before the start of class.
- Please do not arrive to pick up your student until the end of the student's last class. For example, if your student's class ends at 3:15 PM, please do not enter the driveway until 3:15 PM.
- Do not drop off or pick up students on the roads next to the Center for Dance.
- Only students who can buckle and unbuckle themselves from their seatbelts can use the driveway for arrivals/dismissals.
- No one can park in the driveway at anytime.
- If you are in the driveway, do not drop off your student near the underground garage entrance or make the student walk up the ramp. They must be dropped off and picked up near the Preston Street side of the driveway

Always follow instructions provided by HPD officers, security guards, and class monitors at the Center for Dance.

CFD Lobby Etiquette

If you ever find yourself having to wait for your child while they are attending classes, families are welcome to wait in the Vestibule or Lobby. We do request the following:

- Families should not arrive more than 15 minutes before their student's class time.
- Students may have up to (2) guests, such as a guardian and a sibling.
- Students must wait in line by level for class upon arrival.
- All guests who wait in the lobby should remain properly seated. Please do not leave any children unattended.
- Pets are not allowed in the building. Only Service Animals are allowed to enter the building and stay in designated areas of the vestibule or lobby. The receptionist must be alerted to the service animal's trained task so that if needed, they can get assistance if an emergency arises.

STUDENT BENEFITS

Students in the Professional Program can participate in various activities throughout the school year, including audition photo and video shoots, prom, holiday celebrations, and professional dance performances. All students in the Professional Program will pay a \$275.00 student life at the time of registration to have access to these activities as well as the Athletic Trainer, Student Wellness staff, and appointment transportation. Please note that additional costs apply for Body Conditioning private and semi-private sessions & physical education class credit.

Athletic Trainer

- A Houston Methodist Athletic Trainer (AT) will be available to Professional Program student during designated hours.
- Appointments should be scheduled through the ATS Athlete Portal (more information will be available at orientation).
- The AT is located on the 4th floor, Body Conditioning room.
- The AT is on-site and available for acute injuries that happen in the studio.
- Injured students will receive a Return to Dance Plan from the AT, which indicates if a student should observe, participate, or schedule a doctor's appointment.

Student Wellness

- Nutrition & Wellness classes are offered weekly as part of their schedule
- At no additional cost, students may register for:
- Private sessions with Houston Ballet Academy's nutritionist or counselor
- Contact kwesche@houstonballet.org for more information.

Body Conditioning

- Body Conditioning classes are offered weekly as part of their class schedule.
- At an additional fee, students may register for:
- Private or semi-private health & wellness sessions – Body Conditioning, Pilates, Yoga, and Gyrokinesis.
- Monthly Body Conditioning workshops
- Contact hbacademy@houstonballet.org for more information.

Adult Classes

- Drop-in Ballet and Yamuna classes are available at no additional fee
- Create a Mindbody account [HERE](#)
- Schedule of classes is available [HERE](#)
- Contact hbacademy@houstonballet.org for more information and to receive the Professional Program discount

Complimentary Tickets

- Single tickets to Houston Ballet Company performances if availability allows
 - Seating is dependent on the inventory available
 - Tickets are available to pick up at the Academy office
- Academy students may not go to ticket services and ask for free tickets under any circumstances!

HOUSING

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

- Housing available within walking distance, as well as less expensive options that are easily accessible using the METRO bus system or bicycles
- Rent ranges from \$1200 to \$3000 per month
- Contact Kaitlyn Otto at kotto@houstonballet.org for more information

CENTER FOR DANCE DORMITORY

- Chaperoned dormitory located on the 6th floor of the Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance
- Houses 16 students and a resident chaperone
- Available by invitation only from the artistic staff
- Rent is \$950 per month, plus a \$200 cleaning fee charged per program session



MARKET SQUARE TOWER APARTMENT

- Partnership with Market Square Tower
- Houses 18 students in 9 apartments, plus a resident advisor available to students as needed
- Available by invitation only from the artistic staff
- Rent is \$950 per month, plus \$200 cleaning fee charged per program session
- Please note that rent is subsidized at a different rate for HBII students.



HEALTH POLICIES

HOUSTON METHODIST PARTNERSHIP

Houston Ballet and Houston Methodist have an ongoing partnership to provide athletic training support to the Professional Program students and Company dancers. Students in the Professional Program have access to schedule appointments with the Athletic Trainer for any acute or chronic injury. Additionally, the Houston Methodist Athletic Trainers can assist with scheduling appointments with the appropriate medical teams through Houston Methodist. Please note that students are financially responsible for any medical appointments outside of appointments with the Athletic Trainer onsite at the Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance.

STUDENT PHYSICALS

Pro 1 & Pro 2 students are required to submit a physical before the start of the Fall semester. Physicals submitted for the 2025 Summer Intensive Program will be accepted. HBII students will have a physical completed with Houston Methodist at the beginning of the season (pending availability). Additional health information must be completed on the Medical Information form in the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

All students must be medically insured to dance in the Professional Program. Insurance must be eligible in the state of Texas. It is highly recommended that your student's medical insurance be accepted by Houston Methodist. You can view medical insurance accepted by Houston Methodist on their website [HERE](#).

Proof of insurance should be uploaded to your student's Medical Information form in the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Families are responsible for all fees, including co-pay and full payment upfront if needed.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Houston Ballet Academy strongly recommends that international students have health insurance that is eligible in the state of Texas and accepted by Houston Methodist. Health insurance should include comprehensive coverage and ensure that the plan is administered by a reputable company. As an international student, it is recommended to have a plan that covers repatriation of remains and medical evacuation. Two options available through International Student Insurance are the [Student Secure plan](#) and the [Student Health Advantage plan](#).

HEALTH POLICIES

ACADEMY STUDENT WELL-BEING POLICY

The health of our students is essential to maintaining a positive and productive environment. Houston Ballet Academy provides resources to address the physical and emotional health of students that may arise during the Professional Program. Students who encounter health issues are encouraged to reach out to any number of Academy resources, including but not limited to the Associate Director of Student Life, Director of the Academy, and the Houston Methodist Athletic Trainer. Parents/Guardians who are concerned about their student's health are encouraged to contact the Academy staff for support.

Houston Ballet Academy is not responsible for administering any medications and will not administer any medications. All students are responsible for their medications on a daily/as-needed basis.

Students who become ill or injured must notify a staff member immediately. In the event that a student is ill and has not attended a doctor's appointment, it is the policy that the student must see a doctor if they do not recover within three days. If a student becomes ill or injured, and a doctor's appointment is necessary, the Associate Director of Student Life will arrange an appointment for the student. The parent/guardian of the student will be notified.

Appointments are typically made at Houston Methodist facilities or the Med-Spring Urgent Care locations, and an Academy staff member will drive the student to the doctor's office and accompany them to the appointment. The student will be responsible for bringing proof of medical insurance and all fees, including co-pay, and full payment upfront if needed.

The Associate Director of Student Life must be notified if the student will be missing classes.

For medical and HIPAA reasons, we cannot have minors at medical appointments by themselves without an adult in the room.

Any time a minor is riding in the personal car of a Houston Ballet employee, the staff member should have written consent from the parent/guardian of the student to be driven by the staff member. The Associate Director of Student Life will be responsible for obtaining this consent for staff members outside of the Academy department.

The Houston Ballet Foundation reserves the right to revoke, change, or supplement guidelines at any time without notice.

The Houston Ballet Academy employs thoroughly trained instructors, and the utmost care is given to all students; however, the Academy cannot be held responsible for any injuries sustained by a student. Students who become injured will be evaluated by our on-site Athletic Trainer and, if necessary, see a doctor. Based on the doctor's opinion, the Athletic Trainer will work with the student and faculty in their recovery, and the student will need the doctor's release to return to the full class schedule.

PERFORMANCES

Studio Series

Performance Dates: October 5 - 16, 2026 & February 1 - 12, 2027

Performance Location: Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance

What: Students in the Professional Program present free, educational performances for Houston area students.

The Nutcracker

Rehearsal Dates: Early September through November - students must be available during the Thanksgiving Holiday

Performance Dates: November 27, 2026 - December 28, 2026 - students must be available during the Winter Holiday

Performance Location: Wortham Theater Center, Brown Theater

Casting: Nightly casting released mid-Fall semester and is subject to change. Placement and casting are at the discretion of the Academy artistic staff and will be made with attention to Company casting requirements and Houston Ballet health policies.

Moores School Collaboration

Performance Date: November 1, 2026

Performance Location: Moores Opera House

What: Students in the Professional Program perform various repertoire with orchestral accompaniment from the University of Houston's Moores School of Music orchestra.

My First Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty

Performance Dates: April 10-11, 2027

Performance Location: Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance

Casting: Students present a shortened version of a storybook ballet for the community.

Academy Spring Showcase

Performance Dates: April 30 - May 1, 2027

Performance Location: Wortham Theater Center Cullen Theater

Casting: Casting will be released mid-Spring semester with ticketing information and is subject to change. Casting for the Spring Showcase is at the discretion of the Academy artistic staff.

Tickets to Houston Ballet Performances

Single tickets (713) 227-ARTS (713-227-2787)

Subscription (713) 5-BALLET (713-522-5538)

Group Sales (713) 523-6300 ext. 409

SUMMER PROGRAMS

SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAM

- Five-week session in June/July
- Students in the Professional Program will be placed in the appropriate level for the Summer Intensive Program and should not attend an audition during the Houston Ballet Audition Tour.

Attendance Requirement

- Summer Level 5-Level 8 are required to attend the Summer Intensive Program unless they have received permission to attend a different program

Summer Registration

- Summer registration is emailed in December for students enrolled in the 2026-2027 Academy Year.
- Students who do not attend a summer program will not need to audition for the following year's placement and registration.
- Partial attendance is not allowed.
- Students must obtain permission from the Academy's artistic staff before attending another audition or program.
- Requests to attend auditions may be granted if the audition does not interfere with Houston Ballet rehearsals, performances, or the Academy Spring Showcase.
- Students should contact the principal of their school before auditioning for any other Summer Program.