At the core of the Dance Department is the intensive study of technique. In addition to a foundational class in ballet every day, where students delve deep into classical technique, dancers study jazz, modern, pointe, and pas de deux. Students perfect jetés, attitudes, expressive movement, and arabesques. Furthermore, Academy dancers will have the opportunity to audition for The Academy’s Repertory Company, and perform in Chicago and beyond.

Recent Company, Conservatory, and College Acceptances

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Fordham University)
Ballet West (University of Utah)
Boston Conservatory
Butler University
Dominican University of California
Dutch National Ballet
USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance
Houston Ballet
Joffrey Ballet
New York City Ballet
New York University
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
Point Park University
Southern Methodist
SUNY Purchase
The Juilliard School of Dance
Virginia Commonwealth University

We thought we were choosing The Academy for the guidance for our daughter’s dance career. What we received was that plus so much more. Now as we end this chapter of our lives, our daughter begins her next chapter at Juilliard, and a dream has come true. A dream we could not have accomplished without The Academy.”

-Dean, Dance Parent

The Chicago Academy for the Arts
chicagoacademyforthearts.org
312.421.0202
Dance Department Curriculum

Dance Department students are immersed in 15-plus hours of training per week. Courses include:

- Ballet A, B, & C
- Jazz A, B, & C
- Modern A, B, & C
- Pointe
- Pas De Deux
- Dance Composition

What can students expect from the Dance Department?

Academy Dancers are dedicated and committed to additional rehearsal time after school and on weekends for special performances. The Department has two major performances every year: a Senior-Choreographed Dance Concert in the winter, and a Faculty- and Guest-Choreographed Dance Concert in the spring. In 2019, the Department debuted its Icons of Choreography Dance Series presented by Barbara Levy Kipper, which for the coming years will take the place of the spring concert. This series showcases the work of iconic choreographers such as Martha Graham, Gerald Arpino, and Alvin Ailey, and allows Academy dancers the opportunity to learn difficult pieces that are typically only available to elite professional companies. These performances are held at the Athenaeum Theatre in Lakeview. At the end of each semester, Dance Department faculty evaluates each student individually in closed-door sessions intended to inform dancers of their achievements and challenges while at The Academy.

The Academy Repertory Dance Company

Outstanding Academy student dancers are invited to participate in The Academy Repertory Dance Company, under the guidance of Artistic Director Randy Duncan, Associate Director Natalie Rast, and coach Harriet Ross. The company performs throughout Chicago, including at the renowned Harris Theater, and aims to promote Academy students as youth ambassadors to the city’s dance community.

The Repertory Dance Company routinely replaces professional dance companies at the National High School Dance Festival as the event’s professional guest. Exemplary dancers also have the opportunity to present Dance Department Chair Randy Duncan’s choreography in the annual Dance for Life event, a fundraiser for HIV/AIDS research. Additionally, Mr. Duncan frequently invites these dancers to be demonstrators in professional masterclasses.

Young Men’s Dance Initiative

Each year, The Academy identifies three elite-level freshman male dancers to receive the Rusty and Jeffrey Sanfilippo Young Men’s Dance Initiative scholarship. Selected dancers will receive financial aid for up to the entire cost of tuition.

Please contact Kitsana Salyphone, Director of Enrollment Management, for more information.

Photos by Thomas Mohr Photography