



MONGAN DANCE ACADEMY

THE ACADEMY PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Mongan Dance Academy

The Academy Program

What is The Academy Program?

In Fall 2015, MDA developed The Academy Program, a year-round curriculum for serious, upper level students. The Academy Program focuses on ballet and modern technique. Additional electives are encouraged, as well as occasional workshops, master classes, events, and/or outings throughout the year. This allows students to be informed, exposed, and challenged in other settings.

The three Academy Program packages are as follows:

- **Academy Program** includes two ballet, one modern, one conditioning
- **Academy Plus** includes Academy Program and two electives (jazz, tap, hip hop)
- **Academy Premium** includes Academy Program, one pre-pointe or pointe, and all electives (jazz, tap, hip hop)

Purpose of The Academy Program

The purpose of The Academy Program is to promote the artistry of dance through MDA's mission:

- Instill discipline and motivation.
- Build confidence and self-esteem.
- Create and enhance artful moves.
- Inspire the expression of conceptual ideas.
- Develop thoughtful and intelligent dancers who evoke purposeful motion.

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Participation Requirements

Students advancing from Pre-Ballet 3 and all upper level ballet students who take dance seriously, express interest in exploring new concepts and techniques, and students who might be considering a professional dance career are candidates for this program. Approval by MDA's Program Director is required.

What's New for 2019-2020?

Beginning in the 2019-2020 dance year, there will be two tracks in The Academy Program. Students will have the option to focus primarily on technique or performance as follows:

1. **Academy Technique Program (ATP)** will allow students to focus on their technique. These students will perform in MDA's showcases (i.e. annual recital and The Nutcracker) but will not be required to perform in other outside performances. This program is great for students who do not have the time to commit to extra rehearsals and occasional non-MDA performances, and for students who do not wish to perform in outside performances.

Requirements for ATP include:

- a. 2 ballet classes
- b. 1 modern class
- c. 1 conditioning class
- d. Participation in MDA showcases

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2. **Academy Performance Program (APP)** is for students who wish to perform outside of MDA showcases. This program will emphasize both technique and performance. There will be two performance levels, “Pétit” (generally level 1 students) and “Grande” (generally level 2 students and up), or levels determined by the Program Director’s discretion based on choreographic needs.

APP students will have extra commitments, such as rehearsals, traveling locally for outside performances, and attending MDA events. Extra rehearsals are required and necessary to build each dancer’s performance ability and for group choreography. Performances usually happen on the weekend but might happen during the weekdays or evenings. Dancers usually perform any time between early morning to early evening. However, we have been invited to perform at events starting as late as 7:00 p.m. For most performances, students may be asked to wear previous recital costumes or class leotards, or they will be furnished with an MDA stock costume.

Requirements for A.P.P. include:

- a. 2 ballet classes
- b. 1 modern class
- c. 1 conditioning class
- d. Participation in MDA showcases
- e. Participation in all outside performances
- f. Extra rehearsals as needed

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- g. Travel and miscellaneous expenses, but no increase in tuition.

Time Commitment: Attendance and Absences

Because The Academy Program is designed to enhance each student's technique and dance knowledge, we are requiring an intensive regime. It is a year-long commitment, September through August. Attendance is crucial to learning. Students are allowed three sick days per session. All other absences must be approved by the Program Director. We understand that illness, injuries, and important family functions occur. However, students will be learning new steps, combinations, and/or choreography each week; therefore, we ask for serious participation.

Preparation for Pointe

In The Academy Program, students will be prepared to dance en pointe, if desired. Students will be allowed to dance en pointe after a minimum of two consistent years of ballet training and a minimum of one year of pre-pointe classes. Students must also be at least 11 years old to dance en pointe. Students will be invited to enroll in the pre-pointe class by the Program Director when the student is ready. Each student will be approved to dance en point at the Program Director's discretion. Since pre-pointe class is an optional class, it is not included in The Academy Program package rates, nor is it considered an elective class. Standard class fees will be charged for each session.

Students New to MDA

Students who are new to MDA and would like to enroll in The Academy Program, the Program Director will recommend which

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classes are needed in order to prepare for participation in the program. Students will be invited into The Academy Program at the appropriate time by the Program Director.

Required Dance Attire

Because The Academy Program classes are very disciplined and focuses on technique in a pre-professional setting, there will be uniform guidelines for the ballet classes. Students must wear leotards, convertible tights, and pink split-sole ballet shoes. Skirts are optional year round. Wrap sweaters and leg warmers may be worn during the winter months. Dance shorts and pants are not allowed in ballet classes, but may be worn for modern/contemporary, jazz, tap, and hip hop classes.

Discounted Packages for The Academy Program Tuition

	ACADEMY 2 Ballet, 1 Modern, 1 Conditioning	ACADEMY PLUS 2 Ballet, 1 Modern, 1 Conditioning, 2 Electives	ACADEMY PREMIER 2 Ballet, 1 Modern, 1 Conditioning, All Electives, 1 Pointe/Pre-Pointe
Regular	\$2,891	\$4,459	\$5,635
Discount	\$694	\$1,427	\$2,254
TOTAL	\$2,197	\$3,032	\$3,381
Session	\$549	\$758	\$845

- Package fees are per dance year (September through August).
- All fees are due before the spring recital.

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- Siblings who are enrolled in The Academy Program will receive additional discounts: 15% for the second child, 25% for the third child, and the 4th child is free. All siblings must be in the same household.
- Tuition for continued training (i.e., workshops, master classes) are included in The Academy Program packages. There may be additional fees, which may include, but not limited to, accommodations, food, travel, etc., for off-site workshops.
- There may be fees to attend special outings (i.e., tickets for professional performances and related expenses).
- Students approved to take ballet en pointe are no longer required to take pre-pointe classes, but may choose to continue taking pre-pointe at no additional cost.
- Tuition for add-on classes outside of The Academy package is at the regular tuition fee. Applicable discounts will apply after the first add-on class.

Additional Information

If you have further questions, comments, or concerns about The Academy Program, please contact us as follows:

Email:	MDA@MonganDance.com
Office:	708-658-6165
Cell:	773-401-6549

We look forward to beginning our advanced, disciplined journey together with our hard-working, committed students this year!



Mongan Dance Academy

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