



FAQ about MDM Company

Is MDM Company a Recreational Program?

Company is **not** a recreational program. It is a very rewarding program, but one that takes hard work, dedication, positive attitude, and commitment. We ask parents and dancers to consider the time, financial, and work commitments as they evaluate their decision to audition for MDM Company.

How is Placement on the Competitive Team Determined?

- All dancers are required to audition at MDM for the Company; either in person on the scheduled day in May or by video submission (must be submitted by date of live audition).
- Placement on MDM Company is based on performance quality, ability and technique as determined by the Midwest Dance Mechanix team of instructors.
- Dancers must audition each year; placement is not transferred from year to year.

Who is Eligible to Audition for MDM Company?

- Dancers aged 6 through dancers aged 18 as of January 1, 2020.
- All dancers must have experience with both ballet and jazz instruction.
- Dancers must be committed to taking classes at MDM and are not allowed to take weekly recreational or technique classes at other studios.
- Dancers must have a zero account balance in order to audition for MDM Company.

How many Dances is a Company Member Placed in?

- At the time of audition, dancers are asked to consider the financial commitment associated with each dance. On the audition application, dancers must commit to a **maximum** number of dances they would like to participate in. This allows the dancer and their family to plan for the financial commitment associated with being a MDM Company member. The more dances a dancer is placed in, the more expensive the associated financial commitment will be.
- The MDM instructor team will make placements to various dances based on skill and artistic interpretation while also taking into consideration the maximum allowed dances provided by the dancer on the audition form.
- A dancer will never be placed in *more* dances than requested on the audition form, but may *not* be placed in the maximum number requested on the audition. It is typical for new company members to be placed in 1 -2 group dances the first year.

What are the Class Requirements?

- Dancers ages 6 - 10: 1 weekly ballet class and 1 weekly jazz class at MDM
- Dancers ages 11 and up: 2 weekly ballet classes and 1 weekly jazz class at MDM
- Dancers in select dances may be required to take more than the standard number of weekly ballet and jazz classes.
- In order to compete in a specify style of dance (i.e. Hip Hop, Tap, Music Theatre...), dancers must be enrolled in a minimum of 1 class per week of that style of dance.

What Other Special Factors should be Considered?

- Willingness to make dance a priority above other extracurricular activities.
- Only **mandatory** school activities will be excused for Company. Mandatory activities to not include activities that you have chosen to be a part of (i.e. dance team, debate, theatre, etc.)
- Company members will be expected to strictly adhere to the MDM Code of Conduct and Dancer Agreement.

What is the Additional Time Commitment?

- In addition to the weekly class requirements, Company members are required to attend weekly rehearsals during the duration of the Competition season (August - May). Note that there may be some weeks with no rehearsals; depending on how many dances a member is placed in. There may also be additional rehearsals for select dances.
- Rehearsals will take place during the weekday evenings and on Saturdays.
- Weekly rehearsals vary in length depending on how many dances a member is placed in. For **1 dance**, a typical rehearsal schedule includes:
 - ~ 4 - 8 hours of choreography instruction spread out over August - October.
 - ~ 1 hour of weekly choreography and cleaning for Nutcracker performance November - early December
 - ~ 45 minutes of weekly cleaning rehearsals in January - late April
 - ~ 1 - 2 hours weekly of Spring Recital training late April - Spring Recital
- Company members perform in a Company Showcase performance in February, attend 2 local dance competitions and 1 out-of-town dance convention in the Spring months (March - May).
- Company dancers are required to attend any Master Class opportunities that MDM offers in the summer months or during the Competition season (August - May).
- Company members will be invited to attend various **optional** dance conventions throughout the year as well; but are only **required** to attend the 2 local competitions and 1 out-of-town dance convention. Select dances may attend additional out of town competitions.

What is the Financial Commitment?

- The financial commitment varies depending on the number of dances a member is placed in.
- The financial commitment also varies depending on the *category* of dance a member is placed in. For example, solos, duos, and trios carry a higher financial commitment than larger group dances.
- The following is a list of financial commitments that are mandatory for Company members:
 - Monthly tuition *paid on time*
 - Rehearsal Fees*
 - Choreography Fees*
 - Costume Fees*
 - Administrative Fees*
 - Competition Registration Fees*
 - Out-of-town Convention Registration Fee
 - Transportation and Lodging costs for conventions and competitions
 - Proper shoes for the style of dance being performed
 - Company Jacket
 - Master Classes offered at MDM
 - Company earrings
 - Company make-up
- * These fees are accumulated per dance. As a **general guideline**, these fees approximate \$300 - \$375* for a large group dance. Small groups, solos, duos, and trios are more expensive. *These costs may increase if a guest choreographer sets the piece or if the dance is one of the select dances that attends additional conventions.
- Company Fees can be paid in equal monthly installments August - December.
- Failure to pay Company Fees by the monthly due date may result in suspension from Company until paid.

AUDITION GUIDELINES:

- 2019/2020 Auditions will take place on May 23, 2019.
- See time schedule on our website and arrive 15 minutes before your audition time, warmed up and ready to dance.
- Dancers should audition based on their "Competition Age" (age as of January 1, 2020)
- Bring jazz shoes and dress in tights, leotard, and neat bun. All dancers will participate in the jazz portion of the audition.
- If you plan to take tap or hip hop during Fall 2019/Spring 2020, please bring tap shoes and appropriate shoes for hip hop. Anyone interested in those styles of dance can participate in the specialty style audition.
- Dancers will wear an audition number during the audition.
- ONLY MDM instructors and staff are allowed in the audition room.
- Placement on Company is at the sole discretion of the MDM Instructors.
- Communication regarding placement on the MDM Company will be made within 2 weeks of the audition.