

Studio Company Program Overview

Train. Perform. Grow.

The Louisville Ballet Studio Company is a pre-professional training program which offers up to four years of education — forming levels 7, 8, 9, and 10 — and is designed for serious dancers preparing for professional careers. Studio Company dancers receive elite ballet training, extensive performance opportunities, and individualized artistic support, bridging the gap between school and professional dance.

Two Training Paths to Choose From

Studio Company dancers select one of two paths based on their personal goals. Both paths train side-by-side in the studio, receive the same training, rehearsal schedule, and performance opportunities in the Louisville Ballet studios.

Same training. Same stage. Same opportunity.

All dancers train and perform together, regardless of which track they choose.

Option 1: Studio Company Training-Only Track

Elite Training Without College Coursework

This option is designed for incoming dancers who wish to focus exclusively on professional training and performance, without pursuing a college degree at this time.

Dancers in this track:

- Are fully integrated into the Studio Company experience
 - Do not complete academic coursework
 - For further info: Scroll down to **additional program details**
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Louisville Ballet Tuition (Both Tracks)

Levels 7–9: Tuition-based

- Dancers pay \$2,000 per year
- Performance shoes provided to Level 9 dancers

Level 10:

- Tuition-free
- Dancers receive a \$200 stipend during performance weeks
- Performance shoes provided

In exceptional cases, dancers may be considered for Level 9 or 10 in their first year at the Artistic Director’s discretion.

Option 2: Bellarmine University Degree Track

Professional Training + College Degree (Fully Integrated)

This option is for dancers who want to train at an elite level while earning a college degree, allowing the dancer to fulfill both objectives within the same timeframe.

Louisville Ballet is proud to be one of the first professional classical ballet companies to offer a fully integrated undergraduate degree pathway created specifically for dancers, in partnership with Bellarmine University.



Degree Offered

Bachelor of Arts in Arts Administration: Dance Track

How Bellarmine Track Works:

- Dancers work towards a college degree while training with a professional ballet company
- A fully mapped academic plan
- Six four-credit dance courses are completed on-site at Louisville Ballet’s downtown campus
- Six credit hours of internship experience with Louisville Ballet or other arts organizations
- All remaining coursework (general education, major requirements, and electives) is completed asynchronously online, designed to work around a demanding rehearsal schedule
- Full access to Bellarmine University campus amenities and student services

Graduates leave the program:

- More prepared, more competitive, and better equipped to pursue professional ballet contracts
 - With real-world administrative and leadership experience
 - With a college degree that supports sustainable careers both on and off the stage
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Academic & Program Support

Project Coordinator and affiliate professor: Jill Marlow Krutzkamp

Studio Company Artistic Director; oversees curriculum alignment, scheduling, assessments, advising, and university coordination. This makes this program distinctive from any other program that exists.

Academic Advisor: Laura Hartford

Division Chair of Fine Arts & Communication and Associate Professor of Art at Bellarmine University.

Admission and Eligibility

Once accepted to the Louisville Ballet Studio Company, students must:

- Apply and be admitted to Bellarmine University
 - Apply for financial aid
 - Maintain good academic standing
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Bellarmino University Tuition and Financial Aid

Discounted Tuition for Louisville Affiliates (2026-2027)

Please note: Bellarmine tuition is in addition to Louisville Ballet’s tuition portion

Full-Time: \$17,000 per year (Normally \$50,490)

- \$8,120 tuition + \$380 comprehensive fee per semester
- Includes the OnCourse textbook bundle

Part-Time:

- \$680 per credit hour + \$30 comprehensive fee per credit hour
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Available Scholarships

- HOPE KY Scholarship: Covers 100% of tuition and most fees for eligible Kentucky residents after other aid
- Trustee's Scholarship: \$1,500 for students who visit campus and file the FAFSA
- KEES (Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship) Financial Aid (only eligible for students who graduated from an accredited High School in Kentucky)

Students apply for all academic financial aid through [Bellarmine University](#).

Wellness and Living

- On-campus housing and residence life: [How to Apply to Live on Campus](#)
 - Free, confidential mental health counseling: [Swope Counseling Center](#)
 - Comprehensive health services and 24/7 video visits: [Student Basic Needs & Health Services](#)
 - Full access to gym, fitness facilities, and classes: [Student Resources Directory \(includes SuRF\)](#)
 - Free on-campus parking and public safety services: [Public Safety & Parking](#)
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Academic and Career Support

- Tutoring, writing help, and academic coaching: [Student Success Center](#)
- Accessibility and learning accommodations: [Accessibility & Support Services](#)
- Library research support and study spaces: [Library Resources](#)
- Free textbooks through OnCourse with Follett: [OnCourse & Course Materials](#)
- Microsoft Office 365 and IT support: [Technology Support Center](#)
- Career coaching, resume help, internships, and lifelong alumni services: [Career Services](#)

A Look into a Semester

Requirements: Year One — Fall (Term Credits: 15)

- **KNGT-101 Knight Life I: Becoming BU** (2 cr)
Gen Ed: First Year Experience Requirement I
- **ARTA-100 Exploring the Arts & Arts Administration** (3 cr)
Gen Ed: Fine Arts Requirement / Arts Admin: Required Core Course
- **DANC-200 Ballet I** (4 cr)
Dance Track: 1st of 6 required Dance Courses
- **ENGL-101 Introduction to Academic Writing** (3 cr)
Gen Ed: English Composition Requirement
- **Foreign Language 101 (Course Set)** (3 cr)

Additional Program Details

No matter which path you choose, every Studio Company dancer benefits from

- Full Studio Company technique classes, additional classes, and rehearsals
- Equal performance opportunities with Studio Company and the main company
- The same studio time, faculty access, and artistic expectations
- Small class sizes
- A season of approximately 35–40 weeks
- Access to Louisville Ballet’s medical and wellness team

A Typical Day in the Studio

- **9:30 – 11 a.m.** Technique class
- **11:15 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Classes and/or rehearsals, including:
 - Pointe and additional technique classes
 - Pas de deux
 - Contemporary
 - Improvisation, character, and musical theater
 - Dance Conditioning, Pilates, Yoga

- **2 – 3 p.m.** Technique class
- **3 – 6 p.m.** Classes and/or rehearsals

Performance Opportunities

- Studio Company productions
 - Fall Choreographic Workshop
 - Spring Repertoire Showcase
 - Collaborations with Louisville Ballet’s main company
 - Minimum of three repertory opportunities for the 2026–2027 season
 - Community Engagement performances
 - Moving Stories educational performance series
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Meet Your Studio Company Artistic Director

Jill Marlow Krutzkamp

Jill Marlow Krutzkamp joins Louisville Ballet from Sacramento Ballet, where she expanded the Second Company from 13 to 30 dancers representing 19 states and three continents.

A former professional dancer with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Cincinnati Ballet, and Kansas City Ballet, Jill brings a balance of rigor, compassion, and a deep commitment to dancer wellness. She holds a B.S. in Health Education from the University of Cincinnati and has served as an Adjunct Professor at the UMKC Dance Conservatory.

Jill was named Studio Company Artistic Director in January 2026 and is honored to lead this growing program.