2027–2028 PROGRAMS

GRAINGER ACADEMY
OF THE JOFFREY BALLET



SUMMER INTENSIVES



SUMMER INTENSIVES

Immerse yourself in the challenging and comprehensive training offered at the Grainger Academy during our Summer Intensives. This unique experience offers students exceptional ballet training alongside a robust schedule in a variety of dance styles. Many Joffrey Company Artists started their Joffrey journey at one of our Summer Intensives. Classes are taught by Grainger Academy Faculty, Artistic Staff of The Joffrey Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet Company Artists. For extended programs, housing is available for students and includes chaperone supervision for minors, weekend activities, meal plans, and more. Each Intensive culminates with a final presentation for family and friends. Admission to a Summer Intensive is by audition only. Students who are accepted to multiple summer intensives or an intensive that has multiple sessions are welcome to attend as many sessions as they'd like.

TRAINEE SUMMER INTENSIVE | June 28–July 23 | Joffrey Tower

Geared towards college-aged students, Grainger Academy's Trainee Summer Intensive provides a unique combination of both classical and contemporary ballet-focused experience for students ages 18–22. Over the course of 4 weeks, students will participate in the same training curriculum as our year-round Ballet and Contemporary Ballet Trainee Programs, taking classes in ballet, contemporary technique, pointe, variations, modern, repertoire, partnering, improvisation, men's technique, Pilates, and more. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to engage with Joffrey Ballet Company Artists during the intensive. This well-rounded program uses a meticulous and holistic training model to focus on artistic excellence and gives unique insight into what it's like to be a Trainee in the Grainger Academy. Just like our Professional Training Programs, this intensive helps prepare students for a professional dance career and culminates with a performance of the learned repertoire.

SUMMER INTENSIVES



SUMMER INTENSIVES (CONTINUED)

ADVANCED SUMMER INTENSIVE

5 Weeks: June 21–July 23 | 3 Weeks: June 21–July 9, July 26–August 13
Joffrey Tower

The Advanced Summer Intensive is designed for serious ballet students approximately ages 13–19 who are aspiring to pursue a professional dance career. Classes are taught by Grainger Academy's esteemed faculty along with guest teachers from The Joffrey Ballet. Regular classes include ballet technique, pointe, variations, men's class, partnering, and classical repertoire. The program will include additional classes in modern, jazz, conditioning, character, contemporary repertoire, and Pilates. The program concludes with performances showcasing students' work throughout the intensive.

JUNIOR SUMMER INTENSIVE LEVEL 3

June 28–July 16 | July 19–August 6 | Joffrey Tower

Junior Summer Intensive Level 3 is a three-week intensive designed for dedicated students, approximately ages 11–14, who love dance. Daily classes throughout this program include ballet technique, pointe/pre-pointe, classical repertoire, jazz, modern, conditioning, West African, and more. The program concludes with a single performance showcasing students' work throughout the intensive.

SUMMER INTENSIVES



SUMMER INTENSIVES (CONTINUED)

JUNIOR SUMMER INTENSIVE LEVEL 2

June 14–25 | July 26–August 6 | South Loop Studios

Junior Summer Intensive Level 2 is a two-week, full-day intensive designed for students ages 9–12 and may include classes in ballet technique, classical repertoire, character, jazz, conditioning, West African, and more. The program concludes with an in-studio showcase for family on the last day of the intensive.

JUNIOR SUMMER INTENSIVE LEVEL 1

June 14–25 | June 28–July 9 | July 26–August 6 | South Loop Studios

Junior Summer Intensive Level 1 is a two-week, half-day intensive designed for students ages 8–10 and may include classes in ballet technique, classical repertoire, creative exploration, jazz, West African, and more. The program concludes with an in-studio showcase for family on the last day of the intensive.

PRE-BALLET SUMMER INTENSIVE

June 14–18 | Joffrey Tower

The Pre-Ballet Summer Intensive is a week-long, half-day intensive designed for students ages 7–9. As a dancer's introduction to the summer intensive experience, this intensive may include classes in ballet technique, ballet repertoire, conditioning, and jazz. As a dancer's introduction to the summer intensive experience, this intensive may include classes in ballet technique, conditioning, jazz, and more. The program concludes with an in-studio showcase for family on the last day of the intensive.

SUMMER INTENSIVES



SUMMER INTENSIVE TUITION AND COSTS

Program	Registration Fee	Tuition	Housing Reg. Fee	Housing	Activities Fee
TSI	$170	$3,395	$50	$3,675*^	$275
ASI: 5-Week Session	$170	$3,580	$50	$4,200*^	$325
ASI: 3-Week Sessions	$170	$2,395	$50	$3,150*^	$200
JSI 3	$170	$2,395	$50	$3,150*^	$200
JSI 2	$140	$1,495	N/A	N/A	N/A
JSI 1	$140	$1,115	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pre-Ballet SI	$140	$575	N/A	N/A	N/A

*These housing prices reflect 2026 rates; 2027 rates will be published in 2027.

^A meal plan is included in the price.

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

M-1 nonimmigrant visas are only issued for year-round programs including Studio Company, Ballet Trainee, Contemporary Ballet Trainee, Conservatory, and Pre-Professional Levels V and VI. Students interested in attending Grainger Academy programming for the summer can explore the option of attending using just a visitor visa. Find more information about visitor visas **here.**

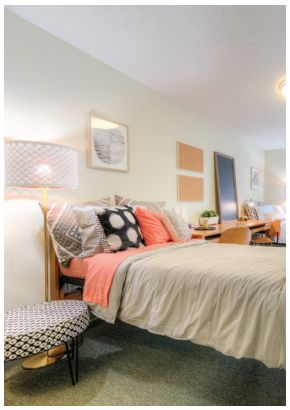
SUMMER INTENSIVES



SUMMER INTENSIVE HOUSING

Students attending Trainee, Advanced, or Junior (Level 3) Summer Intensives have the option of living at University Center. Located in downtown Chicago at 525 S. State Street, it is just a short walk from Joffrey Tower, restaurants, shopping, and public transportation.

UNIVERSITY CENTER'S HOUSING FEE INCLUDES:



- ✶ Shared suite with semi-private bathroom
- ✶ Access to lounge areas with kitchenette, laundry facilities, and computer center
- ✶ Complimentary Wi-Fi
- ✶ Breakfast, and dinner served daily in University Center's state of the art dining facility
- ✶ 24-hour supervision by Joffrey chaperones
- ✶ 24-hour on-site security staff and secured entrances
- ✶ Linen service package including bed linens and towels, plus weekly cleaning and linen refresh

ROOMMATE REQUESTS

Students are only placed with roommates who are attending the same program. Roommate requests are made at the time of housing registration. Both roommates must request each other in order for a roommate request to be considered. The Grainger Academy cannot guarantee housing space or roommate requests for students who register after the housing and activities deadline.

HOUSING REGISTRATION

Students can select housing on our online registration portal at the time of Summer Intensive registration or before the following deadlines:

- **March 10:** Early Bird Housing — guaranteed housing and best rate
- **March 31:** Housing — subject to availability and increased rate
- **Starting April 1:** Housing is limited; subject to availability and premium rate after this date

HOUSING PAYMENT DEADLINES

50% DEPOSIT due on or before March 10, 2027
50% BALANCE due on or before April 10 , 2027

SUMMER INTENSIVES



WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

CHICAGO WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Whether it is museum tours, theater performances, concerts, or exploring new neighborhoods, there is always something happening in Chicago! After a challenging week of dancing, students in the Trainee, Advanced and Junior (Level 3) Summer Intensive Programs will participate in weekend activities planned by the Grainger Academy. Different activities are held each Saturday and Sunday of the program to offer students a chance to see the sights and explore the beautiful city of Chicago.

For most programs, students staying at the University Center are required to participate in chaperoned weekend activities and a non-refundable activities fee will be added. For other students, weekend activities may be optional.

CHICAGO ACTIVITIES PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED:

- Fun in the sun at Oak Street Beach
- Navy Pier and Millennium Park
- Catching a show in the Theater District
- Adler Planetarium
- Michigan Avenue shopping
- Museum of Science and Industry
- Exploring diverse neighborhoods
- Lincoln Park Zoo



STUDIO COMPANY



JOFFREY STUDIO COMPANY

August 2027–June 2028 | Ages: 17–22

The Joffrey Studio Company is the premier level of training at the Grainger Academy. This tuition-free program provides students with numerous benefits, including free housing, stipends, and more. Studio Company members work closely with The Joffrey Ballet, having the opportunity to take company class and be considered for Joffrey Ballet productions. These students show exceptional promise in the field of ballet and receive training to expand their technique and artistry while having a unique insight into the life of a professional dancer. Each year, the newest Joffrey Ballet Company Artists are often promoted from Studio Company.

BENEFITS

This tuition-free program provides students with numerous benefits including: Free housing, stipends, a year-long gym membership to Chicago Athletic Clubs, on-site physical therapy appointments provided by Athletico, dancewear allotment, weekly class with The Joffrey Ballet company, complimentary tickets to The Joffrey Ballet performances at the Lyric Opera House, and complimentary classes in the Academy's Adult Division.

SCHEDULE

Joffrey Studio Company members train alongside dancers in the Ballet Trainee Program. Daily classes run Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM and Saturdays from 10:30 AM–4:00 PM. Classes include ballet technique, pointe, partnering, contemporary, modern, Pilates, character, men's classes, choreography, and more. This well-rounded program also offers educational seminars such as career development, injury prevention, mental health, and nutrition.

PERFORMANCES

Students in the Joffrey Studio Company have the opportunity to be selected to perform outside their regular hours with the main company at the Lyric Opera House. This is in addition to the Academy's annual performances, as well as additional performance opportunities around Chicago and on tour. Studio Company dancers also have the unique opportunity to have new works created on them during the Winning Works Choreographic Competition.

AUDITIONS

Selection for the Joffrey Studio Company is by audition only for dancers approximately ages 17–22. Studio Company members may be selected from the Ballet Trainee Program in addition to the International Audition Tour. In-person auditions are highly recommended. Students unable to attend the Audition Tour may submit a video audition.

TRAINEE PROGRAMS



BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM

September 2027–June 2028 | Ages: 17–22

The Grainger Academy's Ballet Trainee Program is a full-time, one-to-two-year program for students preparing for a professional dance career. Through meticulous training, Ballet Trainees focus on artistic excellence, rehearsing and performing classical and contemporary works from The Joffrey Ballet's extensive repertoire, as well as works by world-renowned choreographers.

SCHEDULE

Daily classes for the Ballet Trainee Program run Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM and Saturdays from 10:30 AM–4:00 PM. Classes include ballet, contemporary technique, pointe, partnering, modern, Pilates, character, men's classes, choreography, and more. This well-rounded program also offers educational seminars such as career development, injury prevention, mental health, and nutrition.

PERFORMANCES

Students in the Ballet Trainee Program will participate in a Fall and Spring Production. Ballet trainees also have the unique opportunity to have new works created on them during the Winning Works Choreographic Competition. Performance repertoire varies each year, and additional opportunities to perform around Chicago may arise. Select Ballet Trainees may be invited to rehearse and perform with The Joffrey Ballet company in their annual production of *The Nutcracker* as well as other company productions depending on repertoire.

AUDITIONS

Admission into the Ballet Trainee Program is by audition only. Annual auditions for Academy programs are held during the International Audition Tour. In-person auditions are highly recommended. Students unable to attend the Audition Tour should submit a video audition.

TRAINEE PROGRAMS



CONTEMPORARY BALLET TRAINEE PROGRAM

September 2027–June 2028 | Ages: 17–22

The Grainger Academy's Contemporary Ballet Trainee Program is a full-time, one-to-two-year program preparing students for a career in concert dance. Through a rigorous and holistic training model, dancers focus on classical ballet, contemporary techniques, West African, and modern, with an emphasis on collaboration and performance.

SCHEDULE

Daily classes for the Contemporary Ballet Trainee Program run Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM and Saturdays from 10:30 AM–4:00 PM. Classes include ballet, contemporary technique, pointe, Graham, Pilates, West African, choreography, and more. This well-rounded program also offers educational seminars such as career development, injury prevention, and nutrition.

PERFORMANCES

Students in the Contemporary Ballet Trainee Program will participate in the Fall and Spring Programs. Contemporary Ballet Trainees also have the unique opportunity to have new works created on them during the Winning Works Choreographic Competition. Performance repertoire varies each year, and additional opportunities to perform around Chicago may arise.

AUDITIONS

Admission into the Contemporary Ballet Trainee Program is by audition only. Annual auditions for Academy programs are held during the International Audition Tour. In-person auditions are highly recommended. Students unable to attend the Audition Tour should submit a video audition.

CONSERVATORY PROGRAM



CONSERVATORY PROGRAM

September 2027–June 2028 | Ages: 14–18

The Grainger Academy's Conservatory Program is for students ages 14–18 years old who are seeking an intense daytime training program that allows for outside independent academic study. The program's unique curriculum is designed to prepare students for the rigorous demands of a Trainee program. The Conservatory Program will also lay the foundation for a successful career in professional dance or in other fields by developing artistry, creativity, discipline, and confidence.

SCHEDULE

Dancers have class five days a week, Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM–3:30PM. Classes include ballet, contemporary technique, pointe, partnering, modern, Pilates, character, men's classes, conditioning, educational seminars, and more.

PERFORMANCES

Students in the Conservatory Program will participate in the Fall and Spring Programs. Conservatory students also have the unique opportunity to have a new work created on them during the Winning Works Choreographic Competition. Performance repertoire varies each year, and additional opportunities to perform around Chicago may arise.

AUDITIONS

Acceptance into the Conservatory Program is by audition only. Annual auditions for the Conservatory Program are held during the International Audition Tour. In-person auditions are highly recommended. Students unable to attend the Audition Tour may submit a video audition.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL



PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

September 2027–June 2028 | Ages: 12–18

The Grainger Academy's Pre-Professional Program is the premier training program for middle and high school-age students wanting to pursue a career in dance. The artistic staff trains dancers to develop a strong foundation in classical ballet, while also offering a well-rounded curriculum in various styles of dance to create a versatile, professional dancer. Students participate in a set schedule of evening and weekend classes and have opportunities to perform in the Grainger Academy's annual productions. All classes are required and vary between levels. Students register once in the fall and are committed to both fall and spring semesters. Pre-Professional students do not have a summer session but are encouraged to audition for our Summer Intensives.

SCHEDULE

Pre-Professional classes take place between 4:30–9:00 PM on weekdays and 9:30 AM–4:00 PM on Saturdays. Class schedules vary between levels.

PERFORMANCES

Students in the Pre-Professional Program participate in both Fall and Spring Programs. Students also have the opportunity to audition for the children's cast in The Joffrey Ballet's production of The Nutcracker. Additional performance opportunities with The Joffrey Ballet may occur throughout the year and are exclusive to students from the Grainger Academy.

PLACEMENT/AUDITION

Admission into the Pre-Professional Program is by audition or trial classes only. Annual auditions for the Pre-Professional Program are held during the International Audition Tour. Students may also be evaluated for the Pre-Professional Program during the Grainger Academy Summer Intensives and academic year. In-person auditions are highly recommended. Students unable to attend the Audition Tour may submit a video audition.

YEAR-ROUND DETAILS

2026–2027 YEAR-ROUND TUITION AND COSTS

PLEASE NOTE: **These are the tuition prices and costs for the 2026–2027 academic year.** At this time, we are not able to provide the tuition prices and costs for the upcoming 2027-2028 academic year. Regardless, we are hoping that providing the current year's pricing is helpful. Tuition prices and costs are subject to increase for the 2027-2028 academic year.

Program	Registration Fee*	Tuition	International Student Fee‡
Joffrey Studio Company	$115**	Waived	$115
Ballet Trainee Program	$715	$10,415	$115
Contemporary Ballet Trainee Program	$715	$10,415	$115
Conservatory Program	$715	$10,015	$115
Pre-Professional Program: Level VI	$575	$9,290	$115
Pre-Professional Program: Level V	$575	$8,725	$115
Pre-Professional Program: Level IV	$575	$7,395	N/A
Pre-Professional Program: Level III	$575	$5,860	N/A

* The registration fee covers registration processes, wellness benefits such as on-site physical therapy, mental health resources, and production and performance costs.

**Wellness and production fees are waived for Studio Company.

‡The International student fee applies to all international students who require a visa.



YEAR-ROUND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Grainger Academy can enroll students who are 14+ years old on M-1 visas for the following programs: Pre-Professional Program Levels V and VI, Conservatory Program, Contemporary Ballet Trainee Program, Ballet Trainee Program, and Joffrey Studio Company.

For more information please visit: **joffrey.org/education/academy/faqs**

YEAR-ROUND HOUSING

YEAR-ROUND HOUSING

For interested students in the Pre-Professional, Conservatory, Contemporary Ballet Trainee, and Ballet Trainee Programs and the Joffrey Studio Company, Grainger Academy has ongoing housing partnerships with Infinite Chicago and The Flats Student Housing.* Infinite Chicago and The Flats Student Housing are located within walking distance to Joffrey Tower and South Loop Studios and are designed to fit the busy lifestyle of Joffrey students living in the downtown Loop area. Apartments come fully furnished and include a large array of amenities including access to free laundry facilities, full kitchens, and cable and internet service. Housing is unchaperoned and available for lease to students 16 and older but is not required for participation in Grainger Academy programs. Students 15 and under are encouraged to move to Chicago with a parent/guardian.

INFINITE CHICAGO



THE FLATS STUDENT HOUSING



PLEASE NOTE:

The Grainger Academy does not take responsibility for arranging academic or housing needs. All housing and academic arrangements are the responsibility of the families.

*Housing partners are subject to change.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY



ABOUT THE ACADEMY

Founded in 2010, the Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet provides students of all ages, levels, and backgrounds with a world-class education, built on a foundation of classical ballet. With the talents cultivated at the Grainger Academy, students can pursue careers as professional dancers with companies throughout the world, higher education opportunities in dance, or success in other fields. Located in the heart of Chicago's theater district, the 20,000 square foot Exelon Education Center, which is home to the Academy, boasts state-of-the-art studios in Joffrey Tower. In 2021, The Joffrey Ballet acquired two more state-of-the-art studios in the South Loop of Chicago. In 2024, the Academy was endowed with a generous gift from The Grainger Foundation, changing its name from Joffrey Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet, to Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet. The Grainger Academy's high-quality, educational programming forms future audiences and support for the Joffrey and builds the organization's reputation worldwide. The Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet, located in Chicago, Illinois, is the only training program owned, operated, or endorsed by The Joffrey Ballet. The Grainger Academy is the only school that follows the organizational mission, training syllabi, and artistic vision of The Joffrey Ballet, and is not affiliated with any other dance training or school program, including the Joffrey Ballet School in New York.

GRADUATES

Currently, one-third of The Joffrey Ballet company includes graduates of the Grainger Academy. Additionally, students have found positions with other world renowned professional dance companies including American Ballet Theater, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Staatsballett Berlin, Dresden Semperoper, Estonian National Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Ballett Zürich, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Polish National Ballet, Slovak National Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Complexions, State Street Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Atlanta Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Memphis Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, Texas Ballet Theatre, BalletMet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Alabama Ballet, Ballet West, Ballet Nebraska, Ballet Austin, Grand Rapids Ballet, Nashville Ballet, New Jersey Ballet, Orlando Ballet, Graham 2, and more.

ARTISTIC FACULTY

The Grainger Academy programs are taught by the reputable and talented faculty of the Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet. Some students may also be taught by the Artistic Staff of The Joffrey Ballet and Joffrey Ballet Company Artists.



ASHLEY WHEATER MBE
The Mary B. Galvin Artistic Director



SUZANNE LOPEZ
Abbott Academy Director



OĞULCAN BOROVA
Head of Studio Company and Ballet Trainee Program



KATLIN MICHAEL BOURGEOIS
Head of Contemporary Ballet Trainee Program



KARIN ELLIS-WENTZ
Head of Conservatory and Pre-Professional Program



RAÚL CASASOLA
Principal Teacher and Head of the Adult Division



AMY GIANCARLO
Head of Children's Program

To view the complete Academy Faculty listing, please visit:
joffrey.org/education/academy/academy-leadership-and-faculty

JOFFREY HISTORY



The Joffrey Ballet has been hailed as "America's Ballet Company of Firsts"

The Joffrey Ballet's long list of "firsts" includes being the first dance company to perform at the White House at Jacqueline Kennedy's invitation, the first to appear on television, the first classical dance company to go multi-media, the first to commission a rock 'n' roll ballet, the first and only dance company to appear on the cover of TIME magazine, the first company to have had a major motion picture based on it, Robert Altman's The Company, and the first U.S. ballet company to livestream video of a rehearsal on YouTube.

For more than a half-century, The Joffrey Ballet's commitment to taking worldclass, artistically vibrant work to a broad and varied audience has created a solid foundation that continues to support the company's unprecedented capacity for achieving important "firsts." Today, the Joffrey, which has been hugely successful in its former residences in New York and Los Angeles, lives permanently in its brilliant new facility, Joffrey Tower, in the heart of America, Chicago, Illinois. The company's commitment to accessibility is met through an extensive touring schedule, an innovative and highly effective education program including the much-lauded Grainger Academy, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet, and Community Engagement Program, and collaborations with myriad other visual and performing arts organizations.

Classically trained to the highest standards, The Joffrey Ballet expresses a unique, inclusive perspective on dance, proudly reflecting the diversity of America with its company and audiences and repertoire which includes major story ballets, reconstructions of masterpieces, and contemporary works. Founded by visionary teacher Robert Joffrey in 1956, guided by celebrated choreographer Gerald Arpino from 1988 until 2007, The Joffrey Ballet continues to thrive under internationally renowned Mary B. Galvin Artistic Director Ashley Wheater. The Joffrey Ballet has become one of the most revered and recognizable arts organizations in America and one of the top dance companies in the world.

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