

2025-2026 UNIVERSITY OF MAINE DANCE TEAM RECRUITMENT PACKET



Audition Registration Closes: Saturday, March 29th, 2025

Round 1 – Video Audition

Due Date: Sunday, March 30th, 2025

Round 2 – In-Person Audition

Date: Sunday, May 4th, 2025

Time: 9:00am-5:00pm

Location: Dance Studio in the Class of 1944 Building on the University of Maine Campus

Please read this packet thoroughly. If you have any questions about the University of Maine Dance Team, the audition process or the audition requirements that are not answered within this packet, please email the coaching staff at umainedanceteam@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for your interest in our dance team! We are very proud of our program and are always excited when we see dancers who are interested in auditioning. Please see below for details regarding the program and our upcoming audition process.

ABOUT US

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The University of Maine Dance Team is a part of the Black Bear Marching Band, and provides pregame, halftime and stands entertainment during home football games. As a member of the Black Bear Marching Band, you will belong to one of the most visible organizations at the University of Maine, performing for thousands of fans throughout the season.

During the spring semester, team members provide pregame, halftime and stand entertainment during home men's and women's basketball games.

Those selected for the competition team will have the opportunity to compete at the NDA Collegiate National Championship in April 2026.

TIME COMMITMENT

The time commitment required to be on the team is extensive, but well worth it! The following approximates the kind of commitment you can expect through the different seasons, but keep in mind this is only an approximation.

Please note: The dates and events below are not a complete list of events for the team. Below is an example of what one season would look like.

SPRING/SUMMER (MAY-AUGUST)

- Practice
 - There are no scheduled practices, but it is highly recommended that all team members continue to dance throughout the summer.
- NDA Summer Camp
 - August 3rd-5th, 2025 – Held at Bryant University. A 2-day overnight camp where we work with NDA instructors learning choreography and work on technique/skills.
- Band Camp
 - August 23rd-August 30th - Held at the University of Maine, one week prior to school beginning. We learn 90% of all routines for the season during this one-week camp. This is a very strenuous week, and members must be ready to handle this level of activity.

FALL (SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER)

- Practice
 - Tuesday: 4:30-6:00pm
 - Thursday: 3:30-4:50pm
 - Friday: 4:00-5:20pm.
 - NOTE: Additional Saturday practices WILL be scheduled 1-2 times a month for team members who are selected for our competition team.
- Performance
 - All home football games and special events (parades, marching band shows, additional campus events, etc.)

WINTER (JANUARY-MARCH)

- Practice
 - Tuesday: 4:30-6:00pm & Thursday: 3:30-4:50pm (game day dancers only)
 - Friday: 4:00-6:00pm (competition dancers only)
 - NOTE: Additional Saturday practices WILL be scheduled 1-2 times a month for team members who are selected for our competition team.
- Performance
 - Basketball Games: January/February: 1-3/week; March: 1-5 performances total
 - Potential travel opportunities may arise if either basketball team make the America East Playoff and if either team make the NCAA Tournament.
 - Nationals Send Off for Parents & Friends (March/April) (competition dancers only)

AUDITIONS

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student enrolled full-time at the University of Maine.

All levels of experience are welcomed to audition, but dance experience is required. Not only are we looking for dancers with strong skills and techniques, but also excellent performers who are eager to learn and display a positive attitude at all times. Do not assume that a weakness in any one area will automatically disqualify you as a team member.

AUDITION PROCESS

Auditions are held over two rounds. Round 1 consists of submitting an audition video containing the required technical elements to be evaluated by the coaches and the Marching Band Staff. Those advancing through Round 1 will then attend our Round 2 in-person auditions.

We highly encourage all invited candidates to attend our Round 2 auditions in person, but if you are unable to attend auditions, you may audition via video submission. If you are unable to audition in person on Sunday, May 4th, and are invited to attend Round 2, please contact the coaches at umainedanceteam@gmail.com for more information

2025-2026 AUDITION SCHDEULE

- Monday, February 24th: Audition Registration Opens
- Sunday, March 30th: Round 1 Qualifying Videos Due
- Friday, April 4th: Round 1 Audition Video Results Sent
 - Results may be sent earlier than April 4th, but should not be expected until April 4th
- Sunday, May 4th: In-Person Auditions

COMPETITION TEAM

Audition participants will elect to audition for our Game Day Team or Game Day & Competition Team.

All members selected for our 2025-2026 team will be a part of the Game Day team. The Game Day team will perform at all home football games, Marching Band events, and will attend weekday practices (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). Game Day Team members will have the option to continue into our Winter Dance season and perform at men's/women's basketball games.

Members selected for our 2025-2026 team, who are selected for our Competition Team, will be required to attend all Game Day team practices/performances plus all additional competition practices throughout the year. The Competition Team will be required to continue into our Winter Dance season and perform at the men's/women's basketball games, as well as competition in April 2026.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Game Day Team Technical Elements (all elements required)
 - Turns
 - Double Parallel Pirouette (right and left)
 - Double Coupe Turn (right and left)
 - Leaps
 - Sout De Chat/Grand Jeté Developpé (right and left)
 - Calypso/Turning Stag (right and left)
 - Center/A la Second/Straddle (right and left)
 - Flexibility
 - Right Split
 - Left Split
 - Center/Middle/Straddle Split
- Competition Team Technical Elements (all elements required)
 - Turns
 - Double Parallel Pirouette (right and left)
 - Double Coupe Turn (right and left)
 - Triple Parallel Pirouette (right)
 - A La Second: at least 2 full 8-counts/8 rotations (right)
 - Leaps
 - Sout De Chat/Grand Jeté Developpé (right and left)
 - Calypso/Turning Stag (right and left)
 - Center/A la Second/Straddle (right and left)
 - Chainé Straddle/Turning Disc (right and left)
 - Flexibility
 - Right Split
 - Left Split
 - Center/Middle/Straddle Split
- Hip Hop/Tumbling (all elements below are optional for all auditioning, but considered a plus)
 - Headspring (Optional, but considered a plus)
 - Kip Up (Optional, but considered a plus)
 - Aerial (Optional, but considered a plus)
 - Any other tumbling you might have (Optional, but considered a plus)

FUNDRAISING AND FINANCIAL OUTLINE

Below is an example of our fundraising effort but does not include all fundraisers. Our goal is to offset costs for costumes, national travel, choreographers, and all that is needed to operate at an elite level.

SPRING/SUMMER (MAY-AUGUST)

- Fundraisers
 - Crowd Funding
- Expenses for Members
 - Team Apparel
 - NDA Camp
 - Choreography Fee *competition team only

FALL (SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER)

- Fundraisers
 - Fall Clinic
 - Youth Dance Day
 - Money Board
- Expenses for Members
 - Flight *competition team only

WINTER (JANUARY-MARCH)

- Fundraisers
 - Clinic
- Expenses for Members
 - Remainder of Nationals Fees *competition team only

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

All prospective students interested in auditioning for the University of Maine Dance Team are strongly encouraged to do the following:

GOOGLE FORM

- Please fill out the following form: <https://forms.gle/DEYjft3LCLrLSmjx6>
 - Once you have submitted the Google Form, you will receive more information regarding our audition requirements and process.

ROUND 1 VIDEO SUBMISSION

- Complete your Round 1 skills audition video and email your video to the University of Maine Dance Team coaches at umainedanceteam@gmail.com and the Marching Band Director at cgwhite@maine.edu.

Thank you for your interest in the University of Maine Dance Team!

**Questions can be sent to Coach Denise and Coach Brooke at
umainedanceteam@gmail.com**

DANCE TEAM FAQs

- Do I need dance experience?
 - Dance experience is required. Throughout the season we have little time to break down steps, and choreography needs to be learned very quickly. We are looking for dancers with strong skills and technique, but also excellent performers who are eager to learn and display a positive attitude at all times. Do not assume that a weakness in any one area will automatically disqualify you as a team member.
- Do returning Dance Team members have to audition?
 - Yes. We believe it is very important for everyone to audition each year to avoid complacency. All returning dancers are required to re-audition.
- How many members will make the team and can male dancers audition?
 - This number is based upon how many candidates audition, the talent level, and is up to the discretion of the coaches and band director each season. We anticipate taking around 20 members this year and are a coed team.
- What styles do we perform in?
 - We perform jazz, hip hop and pom styles at Football and Basketball games.
- When are practices?
 - During the 2024-2025 season, we had practices on Tuesday's, 5:00-6:30pm, Thursday's, 3:30-4:50pm, and Friday's, 4:00-5:20pm. If selected for the competition team, we also have additional Saturday morning practices. These practice times are TBD. We anticipate the same times for the 2025-2026 season.
- How much does it cost to participate as a member of the Dance Team?
 - The University of Maine Dance Team explores and pursues as many fundraising opportunities as possible, but often these events do not cover all expenses. This list is not set in stone but does serve as a good estimator of costs for the year as a team member.
 - Expenses Covered by Fundraising and/or Team Members
 - NDA Camp: \$410 cost of camp + transportation
 - NDA National Collegiate Competition in Daytona Beach: We estimate between \$1500-\$2500 per team member but we won't have specific totals until we're closer to the competition.
 - Our goal is to offset costs for costumes, national travel, choreographers, and all that is needed to operate at an elite level with fundraising efforts completed throughout the season.
 - Expenses Covered by Team Members
 - Team Apparel (below costs are estimates)
 - Jazz Shoes - \$30-40
 - Sneakers - \$90-125
 - Earrings - \$5
 - Hairpiece - \$5
 - Tights - \$25
 - Team Jacket - \$100
 - Backpack - \$100
 - Basic uniforms are provided (uniform top, pants, and poms).

- Do we practice in the summer?
 - No, we do not have weekly scheduled practices, however all members are required to attend the NDA Camp, August 3rd-5th, 2025 at Bryant University, and the Black Bear Marching Band's Band Camp, one week prior to school beginning. Members may be excused from the NDA camp, if extenuating circumstances prevent you from being available, but we must be notified as soon as our 2025-2026 team is selected of any conflicts.

All members must attend our weeklong Band Camp, and no excusals will be issued. Band Camp is a very strenuous week, and it is expected that all members will continue their dance training throughout the summer. We learn 90% of all routines for the season during this one-week camp, and members should be ready to handle this level of activity.

- What are the general expectations if I make the team?
 - Be present at all practices and performances.
Serve as a representative of the University of Maine by appearing at athletic events, charitable events, and University events while upholding a positive image of the University of Maine, the University of Maine Marching Band and the University of Maine Dance Team.
Participate in fundraising events for the Dance Team.
Be a part of the Dance Team family and create once in a lifetime memories and friendships that will last forever.

Contact Info and Social Media

Denise Knowles - Coach - umainedanceteam@gmail.com

Brooke Lord - Assistant Coach - umainedanceteam@gmail.com

Christopher White - Marching Band Director - cwhite@maine.edu

Facebook and Instagram - @umainedanceteam