

2023-2024 UNIVERSITY OF MAINE DANCE TEAM AUDITION INFORMATION



Audition Registration Closes: Saturday, April 22nd, 2023

Round 1 – Video Audition
Due Date: Sunday, April 23rd, 2023

Round 2 – In-Person Audition
Date: Saturday, June 24th, 2023
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 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.

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 in only an approximation.

SPRING/SUMMER (MAY-AUGUST)

- Practice: There are no scheduled practices, but it is highly recommended all team members continue to dance throughout the summer.
- UDA Summer Camp: Dates TBA but usually held at the end of July - Held at the University of Maine. A 2-day camp where we work with a UDA instructor learning choreography and work on technique/skills.
- Band Camp: August 19th-August 25th - 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.
- Additional: Members will be expected to devote time to fundraising.

FALL (SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER)

- Practice: Tuesday: 5:00-6:30pm; Thursday: 3:30-4:50pm; Friday: 4:00-5:20pm. (NOTE: Additional Saturday practices WILL be scheduled once a month for all team members. If the team is competing, competing members may have additional practices to prepare for competition.)
- Performance: All home football games and special events (parades, marching band shows, additional campus events, etc.)
- Additional: If competing, members will be expected to devote time to fundraising.

WINTER (JANUARY-MARCH) *team members have option to continue through Winter Season

- Practice: Tuesday: 4:30-6:00pm & Thursday: 3:30-4:50pm (game day dancers only); Friday: 4:00-5:20pm (competition dancers only). (NOTE: If the team is competing, competing members WILL have additional Saturday practices to prepare for competition.)
- Performance: January/February: 1-3/week; March: 1-5 performances total
- Additional: Members participating in the winter dance season will be expected to devote time to fundraising by attending and participating in our annual Dance Team Clinic. If competing, members will be expected to devote time to additional fundraising.

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 welcome to audition but dance experience is required. Not only are we 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.

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 Marching Band Staff. Those advancing through Round 1 will then attend our Round 2 in-person auditions.

2023-2024 AUDITION SCHEDULE

- Thursday, March 2nd: Audition Registration Opens
- Sunday, April 23rd: Round 1 Qualifying Videos Due
- Monday, May 1st: Round 1 Audition Video Results Sent
 - o Results may be sent earlier than May 1st, but should not be expected until May 1st
- Saturday, June 24th: In-Person Auditions

ROUND 1 – QUALIFYING VIDEO INFORMATION

All incoming freshmen, transfer students, and current University of Maine student looking to audition for the team must first submit a round 1 video. Members of the 2022-2023 season team do not need to complete this step but should register and return a Participant Agreement.

Video Audition Due Date: Sunday, April 23rd, 2023 by the end of the day

Send all required items to umainedanceteam@gmail.com AND cgwhite@maine.edu.

Video Formatting Requirements:

- All required turns must be completed in one take (please do not record each turn individually and splice them all together into one video). This is also required for the leaps, flexibility, and optional hip hop/tumbling elements.
- Complete all required elements in the order they are listed below.
- Please make sure all filming is done horizontally.
- Please try to zoom in close enough for the adjudicators to see you clearly, but not so close you're cut off on the screen.

On your video audition, please demonstrate the following:

- Introduction
 - A brief introduction of yourself which includes your first and last name, age, year you will be in school for the 2023-2024 season, city/location.
- Technical Elements (all elements required)
 - Turns
 - Double Parallel Pirouette (right and left)
 - Triple Parallel Pirouette (right)
 - Double Coupe Turn (right and left)
 - A La Seconde: one full 8-count/4 rotations (right)
 - Leaps
 - Sout De Chat/Grand Jeté Developpé (right and left)
 - Calypso/Turning Stag (right and left)
 - Center/A la Seconde/Straddle (right and left)
 - Chainé Grand Jete or Chainé Straddle/Turning Disc (right and left)
 - Flexibility
 - Right Split
 - Left Split
 - Center/Middle/Straddle Split
- Hip Hop/Tumbling (all elements below are optional, 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)

Qualifying Video Submission Instructions:

Please submit your video via a Dropbox link, a Google Drive file or an unlisted YouTube link to umainedanceteam@gmail.com AND cgwhite@maine.edu.

WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR ROUND 1 VIDEO SUBMISSION AND AUDITION PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD BY THE END OF THE DAY.

We will be accepting Round 1 Video Audition submissions through Sunday, April 23rd. The adjudicators will be evaluating video submissions after April 23rd, once all videos have been received. Upon review of all qualifying video submissions, a select group of dancers will be invited to our in-person auditions on Saturday, June 24, 2023. Notifications of this decision will be emailed no later than Monday, May 1st.

ROUND 2 – IN PERSON AUDITION

In person auditions are for dancers who have been invited after completing the Round 1 Qualifying Video or were a member of the 2022-2023 season team.

Date: Saturday, June 24th, 2023

Time: 9:00am-5:00pm

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

During Round 2 in-person auditions, you will be observed and evaluated by the coaches and Marching Band Staff.

- Morning Session
 - We will start with a warm-up and then continue with progressions across the floor consisting of kicks, leaps, and turns (not adjudicated, simply for warm-up). You will learn a sideline/pom combination and perform the combination in small groups in front of the coaches and Marching Band Staff. The first round of cuts will be posted after this session.
- Afternoon Session
 - We will start with a short warm-up, and then begin to learn a jazz/hip hop combination. In small groups you will perform the combination and required technical elements (listed above in Round 1 info) for the coaches and Marching Band Staff.

Round 2 Tentative Schedule

8:30-9:00am – Registration/Check In

9:00-9:45am – Warm Up

9:45-11:00am – Learn Sideline (Pom) Routine

11:00-11:45am – Perform Sideline Routine

11:45-12:15pm – Panel Review/Break

12:15pm – First Cut

12:15-12:30pm – Short Warm Up

12:30-1:30pm – Learn Jazz/Hip Hop Routine

1:30-2:30pm – Perform Individual Skill Requirements (listed above in Round 1 info)

2:30-3:30pm – Perform Jazz/Hip Hop Routine

3:30-4:30pm – Panel Review/Break

4:30pm – Announcement of the 2023-2024 University of Maine Dance Team

4:30-5:00pm – 2023-2024 University of Maine Dance Team Meeting

Unable to attend Round 2 Auditions In-Person? 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 Saturday, June 24th, please contact the coaches for more information.

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

- How should I dress for my audition?
 - Dance clothes (leggings, form fitting tank top, leotard, dance shorts, and appropriate shoes). Hair should be pulled back out of your face.
- 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?
 - 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.
- Can male dancers audition?
 - Yes. Auditions are open to both male and female applicants.
- Where do we perform?
 - We perform at all home football games and special events throughout the fall semester. All team members have the option to continue performing at both men's and women's basketball games throughout the spring semester, and to compete at one competition.
- Do we compete?
 - For the team to compete, the team must have a minimum of 7 team members commit to participate. We cannot promise that we will compete every year, but it will be considered on a year-to-year basis. This will be discussed and voted upon by the new chosen team and coaches each year.
- Does everyone on the team compete?
 - Everyone that commits to participate in the competition will belong to the competition group as a competitor or alternate. Competitions have a maximum number of dancers allowed on the floor during the performance, which we must abide by.
- When are practices?
 - During the 2022-2023 season, we had practices on Tuesday's, 5:00-6:30pm, Thursday's, 3:30-4:50pm, and Friday's, 4:00-5:20pm. We also have additional Saturday morning practices once a month. We anticipate the same times for the 2023-2024 season. If the team is competing, there will be additional practices required. These practice times are TBD.

- 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. We try to do most of our fundraising over the summer, so as not to take time away from your studies and team commitments during the school year. 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
 - UDA Camp: \$195 cost of camp + \$75 for one-night stay on campus, and all food
 - Competition: \$25 entry fee + \$300 bus & hotel + ?? additional miscellaneous fees
 - Expenses Covered by Team Members
 - Uniform Accessories: \$30-40 team jazz shoes + \$60-80 team sneakers + \$5 team earrings + \$5 team hairpiece + \$15 team dance tights + \$60-80 team jackets
 - Basic uniforms are provided (uniform top, pants, and poms).
 - If competing, there will be additional fees in association with the competition (travel, costumes, competition fees, etc.). These expenses vary each year, but those participating in the competition will have the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities. All fundraising activities must be approved by the coaches, as well as the Marching Band Director.

- Do we practice in the summer?
 - No, we do not have weekly scheduled practices, however all members are required to attend our UDA Home Camp, dates TBD but expected to be at the end of July/beginning of August, and the Black Bear Marching Band's Band Camp, one week prior to school beginning. Members may be excused from the UDA camp, if extenuating circumstances prevent you from being available, but we must be notified as soon as possible.

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 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 Boulanger - Assistant Coach - umainedanceteam@gmail.com

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

Facebook and Instagram - @umainedanceteam

2023-2024 University of Maine Dance Team Audition Participant Agreement

As a voluntary applicant for the University of Maine Dance Team, I understand that I have chosen to be a candidate for this program. I also recognize and accept the inherent subjective nature of the audition process. The goal of the audition process is to choose a team that best first the needs and vision of the program and all decisions are final.

If I am chosen to be a member of the University of Maine Dance Team, I understand this is a one-semester commitment, with a second-semester optional commitment, and to return the following year, I will have to re-audition.

I understand that I will be required to be at all practices and performances.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicant is under 18)

Date