

## Ace Ensemble 2026-2027

The Ensemble Program is designed to give students additional dance training and performance opportunities throughout the year. We are a loving and supportive community of dancers, parents, and Ace faculty. Dancers cast into the Ensemble are required to take multiple classes during the week and attend weekly rehearsals to bring their dance training to the next level. Ensemble performers also represent Ace Dance Academy as positive role models throughout the community. Placement and casting into the Ensemble is by audition only and at the discretion of the directors.

The Ace Ensemble includes our thriving Solo/Duo/Trio Program. Please see audition requirements below. We are thrilled to continue with a fun-filled Ensemble Program!

**AUDITIONS**  
**Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at Ace**

4:00-5:20p Ensemble Audition A: Levels White, Red, Yellow

5:30-6:50p Ensemble Audition B: Levels Teal+

7:00-7:45p Solo/Duo/Trio & Self-Choreographed Solo Audition

Audition based on your highest level of ballet, contemporary, or jazz class during the 25-26 school year.

### Requirements to Audition for Ensemble:

- 7 years old by September 1, 2026
- At least 1 year of dance training

### Requirements to Audition for Solo/Duo/Trio Program:

- 9 years old by September 1, 2026
- At least 1 year participating with the Ensemble
- Attendance at all mandatory performances in previous year

### Requirements to Audition for Self-Choreographed Solo/Duo:

- 13 years old by September 1, 2026
- At least 1 year participating with the Solo/Duo/Trio Program
- Attendance at all mandatory performances in previous year

### To Audition:

- Wear a leotard and tights or form fitting dance top and pants, bring all dance shoes
- Wear hair secured back neatly, have a professional appearance
- Select dancers in the 4:00p audition may be asked to stay for the 5:30p audition
- Dancers who wish to attend the Solo/Duo/Trio & Self-Choreographed Solo/Duo Audition must attend either the 4:00p or 5:30p Ensemble Audition

### To Register for the Audition:

Login to your customer portal and enroll in the appropriate audition(s) by **Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**:

1. 26-27 Ensemble Audition A (Levels White, Red, Yellow)
2. 26-27 Ensemble Audition B (Levels Teal+)
3. 26-27 Solo/Duo/Trio & Self-Choreographed Solo Audition

### Important Dates:

April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline to enroll in auditions
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Auditions
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Casting & level placement emailed 9:00p
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ensemble meeting, 4:00-4:40p over ZOOM-Mandatory for new Ensemble parents; highly recommended for returners
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ensemble contracts due by 7:00p
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	SDT casting emailed 9:15p

### Summer Requirements:

- 30 hours of dance. May consist of a combination of camps and intensives.
- Ensemble Choreography Week (**mandatory**): Mon-Fri July 27-31 (9:30a-4:30p)  
Required for all Ensemble members. Rehearsals will be assigned accordingly; dancers will not be called the entire time. Cost ranges from \$335-\$375 depending upon casting.

Families unable to meet the summer requirements must submit an amendment outlining their plan to meet summer requirements. Summer Amendment forms are available upon request & must be approved by director(s) **before** contracts are turned in. **Forms are due by 7:00p on May 11<sup>th</sup>.**

### School Year Requirements:

Our School Year Session begins on **Monday, August 10, 2026**

- Friday Rehearsal spans from 4:00-8:15p, depending upon dances
- Classes span Monday through Saturday
- Ensemble members are required to take 3-6 classes per week, depending upon number of routines in which dancer is cast

### Mandatory Performances & Events:

1. Twilight Party (Mandatory) + Sleepover (Optional) (Sept 2026)
2. Holiday Party Performance & Fundraiser (Dec 2026)
3. Dupree Convention & Competition (Feb 2027)
4. Competition 1 (Spring 2027)
5. Competition 2 (Spring 2027)
6. Hollywood Vibe Convention & Competition (Spring 2027)
7. Ace Production (June 2027)

### Summer Nationals - NEW!

Ace will attend Act 1 Talent Nationals from June 20-25, 2027 in Palm Springs. Our goal is for most, if not all, of our intermediate-advanced Ensemble dancers to attend. Costs for this event are separate from Ensemble Installments. More info to come!

### Financial Requirements:

#### Warm-up Jacket & Jersey:

All new Ensemble members are required to purchase a warm-up jacket and jersey. Please note that we will utilize these for 1-2 more years.

#### Rehearsal Uniform:

During all Friday rehearsals, Ensemble members are required to wear a rehearsal uniform. Parents may purchase more than 1 uniform if desired.

#### Backpack:

All new Ensemble members are required to purchase team backpacks, to be utilized at all Ensemble performances/events; they can also be used as their studio bag.

#### Ensemble Jacket, Uniform, & Backpack Fees (withdrawn May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026):

Jacket	\$160-\$175
Rehearsal Uniform	\$150-\$295
Personalized Backpack	\$115

**Ensemble Installment Fees** cover the cost of: Ensemble costumes, props, accessories, music editing, competition fees, convention fees, and administrative fees. Cost depends upon the number of dances. Installments below indicate cost range for Ensemble.

Installment #1 (June 9, 2026)	\$600
Installment #2 (July 9, 2026)	\$300-\$500
Installment #3 (August 9, 2026)	\$300-\$500
Installment #4 (September 9, 2026)	\$300-\$500
Installment #5 (January 11, 2027)	\$300-\$500
Installment #6 (April 27, 2027)	\$0-\$500

### **Save on Installment Fees using RaiseRight**

Ace partners with RaiseRight to help make Ensemble more affordable and available to more dancers. RaiseRight is a simple way to cut down on Ensemble Installment Fees and helps defray the cost of costumes/conventions/competitions. All families have the opportunity to save on Installments 4 and 5; please note the intention to use RaiseRight must be indicated on the Ensemble contract. Here's how it works:

- 1) Buy gift card(s) or egift card(s) to your favorite stores on your RaiseRight app
- 2) Shop where you normally spend money using your gift card(s) (places such as Safeway/Target/Lucky; there are hundreds of vendors to choose from)
- 3) RaiseRight fundraises 2% to 16% on your behalf. You get the full value of the card. No extra money comes out of your pocket.
- 4) Ace receives the amount you fundraised to purchase costumes and/or pay your dancer's convention/competition fees.
- 5) Ace deducts the fundraised amount from your installment(s).

### **RaiseRight Important Dates:**

- **Installment #4:** RaiseRight purchases from **May 21-September 8** are applied to the September 9<sup>th</sup> Installment
- **Installment #5:** RaiseRight purchases from **September 9-January 10** are applied to the January 11<sup>th</sup> Installment
  - Please note: the maximum that can be applied is the total amount of your dancers' Installment #4 and Installment #5.
  - Go to RaiseRight.com to learn more!

### **Aisha Horley Ensemble Grant**

Together with Aisha's family, Ace offers the Aisha Horley Ensemble Grant. All dancers, first-time and returning, can apply. This is not a need-based program; dancers may apply if they would like financial assistance to participate in the Ensemble. The grant is \$100-\$200 per month and is applied to an Ensemble dancer's tuition and/or rehearsal fees from July 15, 2026-May 15, 2027.

**The deadline to apply is Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.** Application information can be picked up at the Ace front desk.

### **Additional Financial Requirements:**

- Summer camp/intensive tuition
- School year tuition (July 15<sup>th</sup>-May 15<sup>th</sup>): Ranges from \$252-\$400 per month
- Monthly rehearsal fees: Ranges from \$110-\$115 per month
- June production costume costs (Nov 11<sup>th</sup> and Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026)
- Dancewear and shoes

### **Dance Captain**

High School dancers with at least 2 years of Ensemble experience have the option to apply for Ensemble Dance Captain. Applications are due April 27<sup>th</sup> and can be picked up at the front desk.

### **Solo/Duo/Trio**

Dancers age 9+ with at least 1 year of Ensemble experience have the option to apply for the Solo/Duo/Trio Program. Applications are due April 27<sup>th</sup> and can be picked up at the front desk. Dancers must fill out the application and also register for the 26-27 Solo/Duo/Trio Audition.

**We are excited to see you at auditions!**

*Marissa Haller*

**Ensemble Executive Director**

*Jenny Hudson*

**Ensemble Artistic Director**