



Duke Ellington School of the Arts SY25-26 Audition Procedures – Dance

GUIDELINES

All students must complete an audition in-person. Dance auditions are a mandatory two (2) day process. Failure to attend both days will result in disqualification. If selected, a third day Callback is required.

All auditions are closed to parents/guardians, family members, or peers. If you leave for non-emergencies during your audition, you may be disqualified from completing the admissions process.

If you have any questions, conflicts and/or health concerns, please contact the Admissions Office at admissions@ellingtonarts.org for further assistance.

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What We Are Looking For

At Ellington we are here to teach – prior training is certainly valued, but we are first and foremost evaluating your potential and passion for dance. During your audition we will be looking for students who:

- Physically and verbally express their passion for the art of dance,
- Show a strong desire to work diligently on technique,
- Display a willingness to accept feedback and/or positive correction,

Exhibit flexibility, a natural sense of movement, musicality, an innate ability to follow directions, always maintain a positive attitude and the physique and stamina appropriate for rigorous dance.

What to Wear/How to Prepare

Students auditioning for the dance department are advised to:

- Arrive ON TIME for your audition, late arrivals may be disqualified.
- Girls (or identifying): Wear leotard (preferably black) and footless tights, bring white socks and ballet shoes,
- Boys (or identifying): Wear black footless tights, white tank top, dance belt (supporter – not jockstrap), regular belt around the waist, wear white socks, and ballet shoes,
- *If you are unable to acquire the clothing described above for your audition, please contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org so that we can find alternatives.*
- *Students that identify as non-binary and/or are unsure how to dress, please contact us at admissions@ellingtonarts.org.*
- Hair pulled back, away from the face in a tight bun at the crown of the head and secured with a thin hairnet.
- Remove all visible jewelry (incl. nose, eyebrow, lip piercings etc. & earrings).
- If you have a new piercing, please have the following piercing covered by a bandage
- NO long fingernails or fingernail and toenail polish.

In addition to the materials sent in for your Ellington application through My School DC **Platform**

1. A physical medical form for the current school year or a medical form from your doctor, clearing you for participation in a rigorous dance program.



- *If you have questions about what you can bring, please contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org before your audition.*
2. One (1) 8x10" photograph: one (1) headshot (portrait).
- *If you cannot provide photographs, please contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org before your audition.*

The Audition Process Itself

For auditions, you will participate in a ballet and a modern technique dance class which also includes strengthening and conditioning.

- Solo choreography and/or dance are not required for this audition.
You will be assigned to either Group A or Group B – group changes are not interchangeable.
You must attend both day one and day two.
- Selected students will be assigned to Group C if they are invited to return for the final day.
- If selected to continue the audition process in the callbacks, participation in each session is mandatory to be considered for dance at Ellington.
 - a. Failure to attend both days one and two will result in disqualification.
- If you have any concerns related to attendance, contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org.

Have a Successful Audition

- Be confident.
- Be energetic.

Please note 504 and IEP accommodation is available. Please contact admissions@ellingtonarts.org with any questions or concerns.