



## *Marching Ballerinas 2025*

*Hey everyone and welcome to the 2025 Marching Ballerina Interest Meeting! Our Marching Ballerina coordinator, Noelle Stovall, the group leaders, and I are so excited that you have chosen to be here tonight. We cannot wait to begin the audition process and hope you are as eager as us to get started! Each of us understand from firsthand experience that the audition process can be exciting, yet overwhelming. Please know that we're here to guide you and help you to walk into auditions feeling prepared and confident. We will be your support through every step of the way. For 69 years, the Marching Ballerinas have developed a reputation for precise dance, valued tradition, and irreplaceable sisterhood. Please know that this upcoming season the line will continue to uphold these high standards and values that we cherish so dearly. No matter the outcome, I hope that each of you leave with a sense of accomplishment for the courage and strength it took to be a part of this process. Remember we are always cheering you on and want the best for each of you! We cannot wait to see all that you are capable of! I look forward to seeing all of you at auditions!*

*Rina love and all of mine,  
Anna Grace England  
Head Ballerina*

*Contact info:*

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*Anna Grace England, Head Ballerina: (706) 280-7505*

## Clinic/Audition Schedule

All clinics and final auditions are CLOSED to the public, including alumnae

<u>Clinic Weekend</u>	<p><u>April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup></u>            8:30-9 Registration            (April 12<sup>th</sup> only)            9-noon: Learning            Noon-1: Lunch            1-4: Learning and Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kennamer Hall Gym</li> <li>• Athletic or dance shoes only (lyrical/modern shoes are not recommended) You may bring multiple to try on the gym floor. Shoes must be worn.</li> <li>• Attire is dancewear or athletic wear of your choice.</li> <li>• Lunch is on your own; no drinks allowed on the gym floor</li> </ul>
<u>First cut Auditions</u>	<p><u>April 13<sup>th</sup></u>            4:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kennamer Hall Gym</li> <li>• Attire: black shorts or skort with tights, athletic or dance shoes and a fitted top or leotard in a solid color of your choice</li> <li>• As soon as your group performs, you are dismissed</li> </ul>
<u>Final Auditions</u>	<p><u>April 19<sup>th</sup></u></p>	<p>Final audition details will be emailed to those invited to final auditions</p>

### Before Clinic Weekend/Registration

1 – Complete audition profile by April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm. You will need your myJaxState credentials to log in to the form.

- <https://forms.office.com/r/Q9DLDxWpT3>



2 – Those young women who are NOT veteran Marching Ballerinas must have a completed recommendation form from their band director, dance instructor, cheerleader sponsor, or other coach by the first day of clinic, April 12<sup>th</sup>. This should be someone who has observed you in a performance or athletic role – not an academic instructor or counselor, etc. Share the link or QR code below with them.

- <https://forms.office.com/r/Y6GD4WGUuG>



3 – There is a \$25 Audition fee due the first day of clinics. All fees must be paid through the Jax State Foundation link here. Checks or cash are not accepted. <https://give.jsu.edu/e/2025-marching-ballerinas-auditions/>

Attitude and attendance are VERY important. They will be recorded and will affect your clinic score.

- If you need to miss any portion of clinic or auditions because of a competition, school event, prom, or other conflict, let the MB Coordinator know the date and reason ASAP via this form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/aibnCa4cJa>



- We will make accommodations for you. Any tardy/absence known beforehand will not affect scores.
- It will be your responsibility to learn the missed material from a 2025 Group Leader you will be assigned to or submit a video for final auditions, depending on the day you need to miss.

## What to Expect During Clinic and Auditions

### Clinic Weekend

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|-----------------|--|
| Day 1           | Review of audition expectations, technique review, learning modern routine                 |
| Day 2           | Learning MB kick and traditional technique, learning traditional routine, technique review |
| Day 2 (evening) | First cut auditions  |
- First cuts are made by the MB Leadership. We are NOT looking for perfection! We are looking for performance ability, technical potential, and determination.
- Approximately 50 potential Marching Ballerinas will be asked to attend final auditions. A list of those young women invited to final auditions will be posted on [marchingballerinas.org](http://marchingballerinas.org) by 8 PM CST Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>
  - We will use your Jax State student email and cell phone from your audition registration to communicate.
  - Beyond dance ability, the most important things about clinics and auditions are your attitude, determination, resilience, ability to quickly pick up correct choreography, and openness to coaching/corrections.

### Final Auditions

- Final auditions will consist of three portions:
  - Technique – performance of an across-the-floor combination and a high kick combination – these will include technical elements such as a double pirouette, traveling steps, splits, and high kicks
  - Modern Routine – performed once in small groups
  - Traditional Routine – performed once in small groups
- The final Marching Ballerina line is chosen by a highly qualified panel of judges. These judges are dance professionals, and in some cases, alumnae. Those auditioning are scored based on execution of the audition material, performance quality, and recommendations. All decisions are final.
- The 2025 Marching Ballerina line will be posted on the front door of Mason Hall on “the boot” approximately 3 hours after the final audition group performs.
- Details for schedule, attire, and expectations for finals will be emailed to those invited to final auditions.

### Scoring break-down:

<b>Technique (20)</b>	Strength of technical dance abilities Flexibility Proper alignment Ability to perform technical movement
<b>Traditional Execution (30)</b>	Memory Ability to perform choreography Emphasis placed on sharpness and kick quality
<b>Modern Execution (30)</b>	Memory Ability to perform choreography Emphasis on technical ability and maturity in execution
<b>Showmanship/Appearance (10)</b>	Smile Poise Energy Performance quality Ability to perform without losing energy Perseverance through mishaps Conformity to attire and make up guidelines
<b>Rec (10)</b>	Recommendation scores are given out of 10 points. Non-veteran Ballerinas are given up to 5 points for their recommendation form and up to 5 points based on their attitude and work ethic during clinics. Veteran Ballerinas are given up to 8 points based on their prior season’s performance and up to 2 points based on their attitude and work ethic during clinics

# What to Expect During the Ballerina Season

## All practices/meetings are mandatory

We know some of our new members are completing senior year events or live farther away this spring/summer. Any spring/summer/season conflicts should be brought to the Coordinator ASAP after making the line.

### New line meeting = Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

- This meeting will be in person and in the evening, on the Jax State campus.
- Time will be determined by travel needs.

### Spring Camp = May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>

- This is an intense and FUN weekend for the new line.
- This is a lock-in type event where we learn routines, play games, and prepare for the season ahead by getting to know each other!

### Summer practices = June 13 - 14; July 18 - 19; August 1 - 2

- There are three weekend practices, and all must be attended to remain on the line.
- We will have fundraisers, technique classes, learn show choreography, have uniform fittings, etc.
- TBD: Technique clinic in the summer.

### Showcase = TENT. August 2

- Family, friends, Jax State faculty and staff, and the community attend this event to introduce the new line and raise money for the Marching Ballerinas' uniforms.

### Band camp = August 1 – 19

- This is when Ballerinas learn the show for the year.
- Band camp is 9 AM – 10 PM each day.
- No weekends except Baby Ballerina Party.
- DO NOT make plans for these weeks.
- Those living on campus during the semester will have an early move-in date.
- Those wishing to go through sorority recruitment may do so around the band camp schedule.

### Fall semester:

- We will be performing at football games, band competition exhibitions, parades, etc.
- Be prepared to have most Saturdays taken up during the fall semester.
- Southerners Class:
  - **MTWF 3:45-5:45 PM** at Bennett Field.
  - **Thursday night practice is 6-8 PM** at JSU Stadium.
- Ballerina class is **Wednesday nights 6:30 – 8:30 PM**.
  - Ballerina class will be registered for when completing your fall schedule.

### Swings:

- All Marching Ballerinas will perform in every pre-game, parade, traditional feature, and special events.
- Swings will be selected to perform rotating every other modern exhibition performance.
- This is to cut out holes in exhibition show performances, by allowing us to place swings in any holes left due to injury, disciplinary action, or excused performance absence.
- Swing is a difficult and honorary position, and swings must be adaptable to knowing multiple parts, able to pick up new positions, and have the best attitude; therefore, only those most reliable Ballerinas will be selected.
- Swings learn every part to every dance and can be put in a new spot the week of performances.
- These members will be selected prior to band camp.

**Expenses:**

- Marching Ballerina expenses for a new member are ~ \$1000 depending on the season.
- Every effort is made to keep costs down as much as possible.
- The final price list will be given to the 2025 line at the first meeting.
- A deposit of \$200 is due from all members at the first line meeting **April 24th**.
- This deposit will be credited toward season costs.
- Payments are due in installments in June, July, and August.
- We will be doing fundraisers throughout the summer and welcome any suggestions!

**Appearance/Fitness:**

- Marching Ballerinas must keep hair styled and a natural color (not necessarily their natural color) during the season, but it can be any length or texture.
- Tattoos and body piercings are not prohibited but must be covered or taken out (clear retainers are ok) in uniform.
- Because of the stamina and athleticism required to perform, Ballerinas will be required to complete work out hours during the season with breaks given during midterms and finals.
  - This will be accomplished through group workouts and individual trips to the Recreation and Fitness Center on-campus.
  - Ballerinas will also be educated on and expected to maintain positive physical and mental health habits.

**Expectations/Standards:**

- Marching Ballerinas have expectations, as outlined in the Marching Ballerinas bylaws and standards.
- These include expectations for conduct, practice and performance dress, and attendance.
- “Strikes” are given for any infractions to the standards beginning with Spring Camp.
- New Marching Ballerinas will agree to these standards and outline for strikes/disciplinary actions at the first meeting and be expected to uphold them throughout their tenure as a Marching Ballerina.

## The 2025 Season

**Illumination** – Feature = Bright Lights, Bigger City by CeeLo Green

- See the full show announcement: [https://www.marchingsoutherners.org/2025\\_show\\_release/](https://www.marchingsoutherners.org/2025_show_release/)

**Mommies and babies** - Each new Ballerina is called a “baby” and get a Mommy Ballerina who is there to help her, guide her, and shower her with ‘rina presents! The identity of your Mommy Ballerina is a secret until the Baby Ballerina Party.

**Traditions** – Traditional choreography: ‘Rinas learn how to properly perform moves and dances that have been passed down over 65 years. History Night: Each Baby Ballerina will learn our history at History Night prior to band camp.

**Social** – Throughout the season, the line has bonding events as a group including socials, group wars, and formal. Throughout band camp, we dress up and have gatherings with other sections. We also host a potluck for parents and supporters at our Family Tailgate.

## How prepare for auditions

- Stretch daily! Warm up before you stretch and try to sit in your splits, or as close as you can get, every day. Right and left splits do not have to be perfect for auditions but must be achieved and maintained throughout the season.
- Get moving daily! Do something active every day. This will help with your stamina for auditions and help prevent injury.
- Work on the technique you will have to perform in the audition. Ask for help working on them. Do not let these scare you! We will review technique at clinics too!
- Practice picking up choreography quickly.
- Practice taking constructive criticism – it is important to know you keep growing after becoming a Marching Ballerina and nobody comes in knowing everything.
- RELAX! We want you to do well and we want you to have a great experience. We are here to walk you through each step, each day.

**Optional Prep Clinics!** These free clinics are open to anyone auditioning for Marching Ballerinas in 2025 or 2026 and are a great way to prep for auditions. We will run each like an audition clinic day. These days are completely optional and will not affect your audition scores. The material will be the same on all dates – **April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** @ 6:30 – 8:30 in Kennamer Gym

- RSVP to let us know you are attending!
- <https://forms.office.com/r/KfmQJkp2Zq>



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