

Students accepted to the **Senior Division** have acquired the foundations of classical dance and have demonstrated the commitment and discipline required for serious ballet training. Specifically, they will have mastered the vocabulary and curriculum of the Junior Division.

Students in the Senior Division are required to train between 6 days a week. Pointe work begins in the Senior Division, and students will also begin taking classes in Modern Dance. Other subjects include improvisation, solos, contemporary dance, repertoire and body conditioning.

In their Senior years, students will also receive instruction in classical dance history, modern dance history, music and anatomy.

The curriculum of the Senior Division is designed to take students from **intermediate foundations to advanced foundations**. By Level 5, students must possess advanced foundations in port de bras, center practice, pirouettes, adage, allegro and enchaînement,

Once students have mastered the skills required in their class, they will be moved to the next level. It is not unusual for this advancement to take more than one year. In exceptional circumstances, the Director may determine that particular student should advance to the next level before the completion of the year.

Students of the Senior Division participate in all School productions as well as in all master classes and workshops offered at Ballet des Amériques. Students of the highest level may be invited to audition to enter the Company of Ballet des Amériques.

During the final year there will be individual orientation sessions for students and parents regarding the future of the student in the dance world. Will the student aim for a career as a dancer and, if so, will it be classical dance or modern dance or both? Other career paths in the field of dance or in the performing arts in general may also be considered. Finally, arrangement need to be made with the student and parents to prepare for gaining entrance to dance colleges and/or dance companies.

Ballet des Amériques will provide physical and mental preparation (mentoring) for auditions and will provide guidance in the preparation of dance résumés, head shots and dance photos (portfolio).

The classes of the Senior Division divide into the following levels:

- Ballet Level 5A
- Ballet Level 5 B
- Ballet Level 6
- Ballet Level 7
- Ballet Level 8