

FAQ - Next Step

Auditions & Eligibility

What is NEXT STEP?

A performance training program for aspiring, professional Irish dancers.

Who can audition?

Dancers must be **15 years old by April 1, 2027** in order to apply. Applicants should be dancing at a **champion-level standard** and have a strong interest in transitioning toward **professional Irish dance performance**.

Is this an 'OPEN' program?

Yes, this is open to ALL Irish dancers no matter dance school or organization affiliation as NS is a stage production and dancers are not affected by associations or workshop penalties.

What are the dates?

Check-in begins 10am on Saturday July 31st and week commences after Matinee Performance on Saturday August 7th.

How do I apply?

Dancers must first fill out an audition form and then upload an audition video that our choreographers will then determine if the dancer is accepted into the program. The audition video must show 16 bars of both hard and soft shoe dance. Videos must be uploaded to YOUTUBE as unlisted.

Do I have to pay a deposit when submitting an audition video?

No, the audition process is free and open to dancers 15 and up.

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What happens if my audition is accepted?

Congratulations! If you are accepted into the program, you will receive an email from nextstep@irishdancecamp.com with your acceptance and steps to complete registration. Your email will include a link to complete your registration and submit your deposit to secure your spot in the program.

How much does the program cost and what is included?

Early bird special is available until January 1 for \$1,599.00. You may not be accepted ny Jan 1, however as long as your audition is submitted by then, you will qualify for the early bird discount. If you submit your audition After that, program cost is \$1,675.00

Tuition includes: Air Conditioned, apartment style housing for 7 nights All catered meals, classes held by TOP INDUSTRY PROS, theatre & Costume rental, Theatre Rehearsal Space, Shuttle Service to theatre, On-Site Medical attendants and supervision for teens, On-Site Seamstress. Program finishes with fully produced Theatrical Production Tuition includes TWO tickets to performance.

Is there supervision at Next Step?

Yes, there will be Program Advisors located in the apartment unit to answer questions, guide you through the day, host night-time social activities, monitor curfews and overall supervision.

What is a typical day like?

After breakfast cast members rehearse from 8:00 until 12noon then break for lunch and back again from 1:00pm to 6:00pm daily. Some nights will require evening rehearsals. Rehearsals include early morning fitness training, learning the choreography, technique classes, stage plots, experience learning backstage areas, and gaining the knowledge of working in a large scale show. Some Night-time activities include guest keynote speakers within the theatre business.

Where will dancers be rehearsing?

Rehearsals will be set at College Park Hall on Union College campus, which is 11,000 square ft ballroom. Next Step will also be using the on campus Theatre Department.

What are the accommodations like?

We will be utilizing College Apartments on campus. Apartments are available in 2, 3, & 4 room units with sitting area, air conditioning, kitchen with fridge and microwave. Each room has a college twin size bed with desk and closet space. Males and females will be housed in different apartments. Wifi throughout campus is free as well as free laundry services in the dorm house.

I live close to Union College, can I commute and not stay on campus?

No. We do not offer a commuter option. All cast members are required to stay on campus.

What clothing/ attire will I need for rehearsals and performance?

Upon acceptance into the program, we will provide Cast Members with a program kit containing information on rehearsal clothing etc. Tuition includes costume rental and cleaning for Theatrical Performance.

What should happen if a dancer gets injured?

Next Step is providing an on-site, 24 hr medical attendant to oversee the care and well-being of each dancer. There will be a health center equipped to handle basic first-aid needs. Parents will also be able to contact the medical staff in case of emergencies.

I have a dietary issue, can you talk about the meals?

All our meals will be catered through Union College dining. Meals are served buffet style and each cast member will have an array of choices for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Union College is very aware of students with food allergies or dietary issues and therefore has an allergy free area set up in their facility to accommodate all types of allergies or dietary issues. For more information on this specific issue, feel free to email the Next Step office and chat with one of our staff to answer your concerns.

Can I attend CRC and Next Step and is there a discount?

ABSOLUTELY! Next Step was designed to aid campers into their own journey of transitioning from amateur to professional! We encourage our older campers to continue to attend the camp they love so well and welcome them to gain the experience and knowledge of a professional show. If a camper should be attending NY Session 3, they will be able to stay on campus between the end of camp and the start of Next Step, at a small additional cost.

Discounts:

CRC is providing a discount for 'crossover' campers who wish to attend both CRC and Next Step. This discount is \$175 of tuition and will be applied to balance. Next Step is offering sibling discounts; \$50 off 1 sibling and \$75.00 off 2 and any additional siblings. Staff discount is available for any working 2027 CRC staff, please email for info.

Cancellation & Payment Policy

A **\$750 deposit** is required to secure a spot in NEXT STEP. The remaining balance may be paid in monthly installments or is **due in full by July 1**.

Cancellations must be submitted by email to the NEXT STEP office. The date the email is sent is considered the official cancellation date.

- **Before June 1:** A **\$350 cancellation fee** will be retained. Any additional payments will be refunded to the card or bank account on file.
- **June 1–June 30:** The **\$750 deposit is non-refundable**. Any additional payments will be refunded.
- **July 1 or later:** **No refunds will be issued**, and any unpaid balance remains due.

Any balance unpaid as of **July 1** will incur a **\$50 late fee**. On **July 2**, the remaining balance plus the late fee will be automatically charged to the payment method on file.

Because NEXT STEP is a full-scale production, these policies allow us to plan appropriately for the cast and cover commitments made on their behalf.

CRC to NEXT STEP: If a dancer cancels from CRC to participate in NEXT STEP, the CRC cancellation policy will apply separately to their CRC registration.