

Top 50 Affiliate Ballet Schools 2020



How many students attend ballet school in the United States annually? At the ballet schools affiliated with the largest 50 ballet companies in the country, DDP estimates that 35,950 students are in attendance, vying for an ultra-competitive spot within leading company ranks.

This study breaks down DDP's preliminary research on the 45 schools affiliated with these companies¹. The figures to the right display the gender distribution² of school directors as well as titled faculty and faculty without titles at these 45 schools. DDP also provides an analysis of the schools based on their size (largest to smallest annual expenses). DDP sources information from ballet school websites and publicly-released Forms 990 obtained via the ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer.

The research team obtained each individual's name and gender from organization websites and incorporated those in the data. To determine "titled" faculty, DDP noted any individual in the faculty listing who had a title other than "teacher," "faculty," or "instructor." To determine "leadership faculty," we chose to focus on those roles we determined would have a role in decision-making, which include but are not limited to "Director," "Associate Director," "Chair/Chairman," "Division Head," and "Principal." Ballet schools and academies have various names for titled and leadership faculty positions, so the aforementioned list is not exhaustive.

While more data is needed to draw comprehensive conclusions about hiring practices at company-affiliated ballet schools, this research provides a snapshot of how these highly influential schools prioritize—whether intentionally or not—the men and women hired to develop and improve young dancers on the pre-professional track.

Women made up the majority (62%) of directors or co-directors at the entire sample of affiliate schools. When broken down into subsets based on school rank (by annual expenses), the largest schools were directed by women as often as men (50%). Women make up 77% of the entire sample of faculty and 72% of the faculty at the largest 10 ballet schools. The Top 10 also employ 27% of the total overall faculty, which highlights their influence (and potential to skew a sample mean).

Within the sample of faculty, 17% of positions are titled, meaning that the remaining faculty are independent contractors or "gig workers" and are less likely to have the benefits or job security afforded to permanent faculty members with titles. Male faculty with titles makes up 5% of all faculty, while female faculty with titles makes up 12% of all faculty. Approximately 78% percent of the sample of male faculty are non-titled, while 85% of the sample of female faculty are non-titled, indicating that women are disproportionately hired into positions that do not have a title (aka gigs) compared to men ($p < .05$).

Stay tuned for more information on ballet school directors and faculty members. DDP will produce a full report on this topic and on unaffiliated, privately owned ballet schools in the near future.

1 Of the 50 largest companies, 46 had affiliate schools. DDP excluded one affiliate school from the sample because it did not list faculty information.

2 DDP employs a binary gender measurement in our research. To our knowledge, no individual studied for this report identified as nonbinary, however the DDP team is actively seeking to improve our research through adopting a gender inclusive approach and acknowledging that gender is a nonbinary spectrum. DDP affirms that trans men are men and trans women are women.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Men	Women	Both	TOTAL
16	28	1	45
36%	62%	2%	

DIRECTORS OF LARGEST SCHOOLS

TOP 10		TOP 25		
Men	Women	Men	Women	TOTAL
5	5	10	14	1
50%	50%	40%	56%	4%

ALL FACULTY MEMBERS

Men	Women	TOTAL
280	925	1205
23%	77%	

FACULTY OF LARGEST SCHOOLS

TOP 10			TOP 25		
Men	Women	TOTAL	Men	Women	TOTAL
91	236	327	199	621	820
28%	72%		24%	76%	

TITLED AND NON-TITLED FACULTY V. ALL FACULTY

Titled	Non-titled	TOTAL
205	1000	1205
17%	83%	

MEN FACULTY BREAKDOWN

Titled	Non-titled	TOTAL
All Faculty (Men)		
62	218	280
22%	78%	

WOMEN FACULTY BREAKDOWN

Titled	Non-titled	TOTAL
All Faculty (Women)		
143	782	925
15%	85%	

FACULTY WITH TITLES V. ALL FACULTY

Men with Titles		Women with Titles		Total Faculty with Titles	Total All Faculty
62		143			
% from Faculty w/ Titles	% from All Faculty	% from Faculty w/ Titles	% from All Faculty		
30%	5%	70%	12%		