

PNB School Summer Course 2025

Summer Residence Counselor

This is a live-in, full-time position including paid room and board. A counselor must be at least 21 years of age by July 6, 2025, be a non-smoker, pass a criminal background check, and have a current, valid driver's license. Family members of this summer's residence students are not eligible for this position. No other employment, including paid or unpaid internships, is permitted during the period of employment. Counselors must be available for work from 9:00 a.m. July 2 until 5:00 p.m. August 10, 2025. Counselors will be paid for five full weeks (July 7 through August 10) plus four days of training and preparation (July 2, 3, 5, and 6). Payday is every other Friday, commencing July 18. Compensation is based on the number of years of employment with our program:

First-year: \$831/week; second-year: \$840/week; third-year: \$860/week.

A bonus of \$275/week (7/7-8/10) will be paid to each counselor with his/her own car and proof of insurance. These counselors will also be compensated for PNB-related mileage (see below). A rental car and fuel (for PNB-related use only) will be provided to each counselor without a car.

Our summer residence, located at Seattle Pacific University, houses approximately 150-200 boys and girls aged 12-19. There are twelve to fourteen counselors, including the Residence Director, depending on the number of students. Counselors are assigned in pairs to each student living floor to ensure adequate supervision. All staff members live at the residence for the entirety of the Summer Course.

The counselors are responsible for the emotional and physical well-being of the students during the hours when the students are not in classes. This involves being available as a confidante and adviser, but also strictly enforcing all PNB School rules and regulations. We generally require our counselors to have previous experience working with teenagers in a supervisory situation such as a camp or dorm setting. A dance or athletic background is helpful but not required. Extensive experience in one of these three areas may be considered in lieu of limited experience in other areas. A thorough criminal background check is required. Outstanding counselors who apply to return the next summer are given preference in hiring (at the Residence Director's discretion).

Counselors are responsible for overseeing students at breakfast and seeing students safely on the bus to the studio in the morning. During the day, while students are in class, we hold staff meetings, plan evening and weekend activities, look after sick students, run errands, do paperwork, and shuttle any kids who are sick or injured between the studio, the residence, and medical or therapy appointments. Use of personal vehicles for all student-related travel is reimbursed at the IRS standard rate (70¢ per mile). Schedule permitting, counselors may take Open Ballet classes at PNB at no charge. Counselors are encouraged to go to the studio during their down time and watch the students in class; the kids love it and it is a lot of fun to see them at work when we usually only see them at play. In the evening we check students in as they arrive from class and make sure they are eating their dinner and adhering to all the residence rules. We usually show a couple of movies and just hang out with them, making sure everyone is happy and having a good time. We have a Game Night and a Craft Night weekly, directed by counselors, but otherwise weekday evening activities tend to be unstructured. Students must check out in

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groups when they leave the residence; the on-duty counselors are responsible for enforcing this rule as well as ensuring that students have planned their outing safely and that they will return by their curfew.

On weekends we are very busy. After the students attend Saturday morning classes, some of the counselors will lead afternoon excursions to various Seattle-area activities while others stay at the residence to monitor activities there. On Sunday some of the counselors may accompany groups of students to religious services. The rest of the day Sunday is either spent on all-day outings or staying with the students at the residence.

All counselors are either on-duty or on-call at all times except during their weekly day off. A day off runs from 6:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. At least two counselors are on duty at all times (more in the evening). On-duty counselors do not leave the residence and are responsible for coordinating assistance from off-duty counselors as students' needs dictate. (The Residence Director is also on-call 24/7). The other counselors, unless it is their day off, are on call and are responsible for any off-premises activities, including errands and excursions. These on-call counselors are expected to be on the premises of the residence or the school, or (with the Residence Director's approval) off-premises but available by cell phone to return to the residence with 15 minutes' notice. All counselors are expected to spend every night in the residence (except their weekly night off).

Some physical labor is required as we unpack and set-up the residence prior to students' arrival. After the students leave, we will pack up the residence stuff to take it to storage for next summer. Student move-in and move-out days are also very labor-intensive as we do airport duty and help all the kids with their luggage and with packages they are shipping home.

The roughly 250-300 students in our internationally regarded program are selected from over 2,000 advanced ballet students who audition in one of the 27 cities on our national Audition Tour. They are very focused and eager to make the most of their five weeks with us, and as a result they are very well behaved. However, they are also teenagers and bring with them all the exuberance, impulsiveness, and emotion of adolescence. Counselors are required to enforce Summer Course rules strictly, yet still be friendly and approachable for the students. The job is tremendously enjoyable; the Residence Director is returning this year for his 31st summer. He began in 1995 as a kitchen helper, returned as a Residence Counselor in 1996 and 1997, and has been Residence Director since 1998. If you enjoy working with energetic, talented and intelligent young people, this is the ideal summer job.

If you have further questions about the job after reading this, please feel free to ask. To apply, please send résumé and cover letter to dave@pnb.org or by postal mail to Pacific Northwest Ballet School, Attn: David Jensen, 301 Mercer Street, Seattle, WA 98109. Application materials will be accepted until all positions are filled. We will contact all applicants who are selected for interviews, which will be conducted in person or via Zoom.

PNB values diverse perspectives and life experiences; people of color, women, LGBTQ, and veterans are encouraged to apply.