

DANCE MAJOR

Program Director: Maura Keefe, Ph.D.

The undergraduate curriculum, which leads toward a B.A. degree in Dance, offers students a solid foundation in the core areas of the discipline as well as insights into cross-disciplinary fields of study.

Coursework is designed to help students become skillful, articulate, and expressive movers; to enable students to find their own voice as creative artists, develop the ability to work effectively in a collaborative environment, and to grow in their conceptual understanding of dance as an art form.

The cornerstones of the curriculum are foundational coursework in the first two years. The project based learning or advanced seminar experiences in the senior year engage students in interdisciplinary and/or cross-cultural work and offer in-depth exploration of a theme from a performance, choreographic, and theoretical perspective. Students select an area of emphasis in performance and choreography, production, or education.

Foundational sequences in technique, creative process, and choreography, which integrate a conceptual understanding of dance as an art form, are at the core of the discipline. Through these fundamental practices of the discipline, students gain, not only necessary skills, but also an embodied knowledge of the field.

The dance faculty is composed of a number of distinguished teachers, choreographers, performers, and scholars, each one a specialist in his or her own field. Visiting artists and guest artists make additional contributions to the program. There are performance and choreographic opportunities for all dance students, ranging from informal workshops to fully mounted concerts both on and off campus.

Courses offered by this department may be found under the following acronym(s): DANC, TDPS

Admission to the Major

An audition is not required to become a dance major. For more information, contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies and Coordinator of Student Services, Susan Miller, at smille13@umd.edu.

Program Objectives

Our Mission

The University of Maryland School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies advances and transforms the research and practice of theatre, dance, and performance studies through its commitment to excellence and innovative education in the performing arts.

Our Vision

We envision a school that serves as a national model for collaboration, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the performing arts. The undergraduate curriculum, which leads toward a B.A. degree in Dance, offers students a solid foundation in the core areas of the discipline as well as insights into cross-disciplinary fields of study. Coursework is designed to help students become skillful, articulate, and expressive movers; to enable students to find their own voice as creative artists, develop the ability to work effectively in a collaborative environment,

and to grow in their conceptual understanding of dance as an art form in relation to the other arts.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Develop the knowledge and research skills to explore the dance past in writing, orally, and in performance.
2. Demonstrate growing technical understanding and fluency in dance technique.
3. Participate in the creative process through the creation and interpretation of choreography.
4. Apply interdisciplinary research methods to dance scholarship and choreography.
5. Demonstrate the ability to understand cultural and historical texts in relation to dance forms.
6. Apply musical knowledge to movement and choreography.
7. Design choreographic movement and structures.

REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete 49 credits. The following courses or areas are required:

Course	Title	Credits
College Requirements (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/#collegerequirementstext)		
DANC218	Modern Dance I	3
DANC219	Modern Dance II	3
DANC318	Modern Dance III	3
DANC319	Modern Dance IV	3
DANC109	Choreography I: Improvisation	3
DANC179	Movement Integration	2
DANC207	Choreography II: The Creative Process	3
DANC383	Dance History & Theory	3
DANC304	Dance Education I: Foundations	3
TDPS201	Introduction to Technical Production	3
TDPS479	Production Practicum	1
One of the following:		3
DANC488	Project-Based Learning	
OR		
DANC485	Seminar in Dance	
4 credits of Dance Forms selected from:		4
DANC138	Global Dance Forms	
DANC228	Ballet I	
DANC229	Ballet II	
DANC328	Ballet III	
DANC329	Ballet IV	
Area of Emphasis		12
Total Credits		49

12 credits of 3xx or 4xx level course work in an area of emphasis in performance and choreography or in production, or education.

Areas of Emphasis

Performance and Choreography

Students in the Performance and Choreography area are expected to enroll in a technique class each semester and to be actively engaged in experiences that transition them from the classroom to the stage. Opportunities for engagement include auditioning for student, faculty, and guest artist works, showing works in progress at monthly open showings, and auditioning works for performances.

Course	Title	Credits
TDPS479	Production Practicum ¹	1
DANC309	Choreography III: Dance Composition	3
DANC468	Dance Repertory	3
Select an additional 5 credits of the following:		5
DANC448	Modern Dance V ²	
DANC449	Modern Dance VI ²	
DANC468	Dance Repertory	
DANC420	Partnering	
DANC466	Laban Movement Analysis	
DANC371	Somatics	
DANC310		
DANC399	Practicum in Choreography, Production and Performance III	
DANC499	Practicum in Choreography, Production and Performance IV	
DANC489	Special Topics in Dance	
Additional courses approved by the program.		
Total Credits		12

¹ This is in addition to the 1 credit required of all majors.

² A maximum of a total of 6 credits of Dance DANC448 and DANC449 will count toward the 12 credit area requirement.

Production

Course	Title	Credits
TDPS479	Production Practicum ¹	3
Select an additional 9 credits of the following:		9
DANC310		
DANC410	Technical Theater Production for Dance	
THET116	Fundamentals of Theatrical Design	
THET284	Stage Costume Construction I ²	
THET371	Scenic Design I ²	
THET383	Costume Design I ²	
THET377	Lighting Design for Performance ²	
THET373	²	
THET472	Scene Painting ²	
THET474	Advanced Stage Management ²	
Total Credits		12

¹ This is in addition to the 1 credit required of all majors.

² Permission required courses

Education

Course	Title	Credits
DANC405	Dance Education II: Education & Policy	3
DANC371	Somatics	3
DANC466	Laban Movement Analysis (DANC489F:3xx or 4xx level Global Movement Practice)	3
DANC338	Dance Techniques	2
TDPS479	Production Practicum	1
Total Credits		12

A grade of "C-" or higher must be attained in all dance courses.

An overall GPA of 2.0 in the major is required for graduation.

Other Requirements for the Major

Mid-Point Assessment

The Mid-Point assessment gives the program a mid-course opportunity for learning outcomes assessment. In preparation for the assessment, students prepare a portfolio that includes a resume, samples of their writing, and a DVD with examples of their work in technique and choreography classes. The Mid-Point assessment is a benchmark requirement in the program. All transfer students, as well as students who declare Dance after their first semester on campus, will be assigned an assessment date when they meet with their Dance advisor to develop an academic plan. Students who do not complete the assessment process in their assigned semester will not be permitted to continue in the major. Completion is defined as submission of a portfolio and participation in a scheduled assessment meeting.

The Dance program has mandatory advising each semester. New, re-entering, and transfer students are expected to contact the program, following their admission to the University, for instructions regarding advising and registration procedures. Although entrance auditions are not required, some previous dance experience is highly desirable.

For additional information about the program contact:

Susan Miller
 Coordinator of Student Services and Academic Advisor
 2810 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
 University of Maryland
 College Park, Maryland 20742
 301-405-6694
 smille13@umd.edu

GRADUATION PLANS

Click here (<https://www.arhu.umd.edu/academics/advising/academic-plans/>) for roadmaps for graduation plans in the College of Arts and Humanities.

Additional information on developing a graduation plan can be found on the following pages:

- <http://4yearplans.umd.edu>
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/#success>) section of this catalog