DANCE MAJOR

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

• Successful completion of the required sequence courses:
  • DANC249 (fall)
  • DANC250 (spring)
• An admissions interview with the prospective major’s advisor

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Coursework for the major includes composition, dance techniques, dance histories, research methods, pedagogy, improvisation, anatomy, repertory, and dance and technology.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>DANC249 &amp; DANC250</td>
<td>Making Dances I: Solo Work and Dance Composition (Gateway course series for the major; fall semester of sophomore year)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC371</td>
<td>Site-Specific Choreography (Taken fall or spring of junior year)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC105</td>
<td>Dance Production Techniques</td>
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Dance Technique Courses

Select six of the following: 3

- DANC211 Contemporary Dance Technique I
- DANC215 & DANC309 and Modern Dance II and Modern Dance III
- DANC202 Ballet I & DANC302 and Ballet II
- DANC260 & DANC360 and West African Dance I and West African Dance II & DANC365 and West African Dance III
- DANC261 Bharata Natyam I: Introduction of South Indian Classical Dance
- DANC362 Bharata Natyam II: Embracing the Traditional and the Modern
- DANC435 & DANC445 Advanced Dance Practice A and Advanced Dance Practice B 0.75

Methodology Course

Select one of the following (above the 200 level): 1

- DANC377 Perspectives in Dance: Queering the Dancing Body: Critical Perspectives on LGBTQ Representation

Electives

Select two of the following: 2

- DANC301 Anatomy and Kinesiology
- DANC354 Improvisational Forms: Contact Improvisation
- DANC377 Perspectives in Dance: Queering the Dancing Body: Critical Perspectives on LGBTQ Representation

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<tr>
<td>DANC378</td>
<td>Repertory and Performance Senior Project or Thesis</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<td>DANC398</td>
<td>Senior Colloquium in Dance Research</td>
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Total Hours 11.5-12.5

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

The major is designed to provide broad and deep exposure to the discipline of dance as a critical, embodied, reflexive and socially engaged research method. The department conceives of dance performance broadly, embracing traditionally staged performances, site-based works as well as mediated and interdisciplinary performative modes. Students take courses in choreography, improvisation, pedagogy, research methods, dance ethnography, history, and dance techniques as well as unique interdisciplinary courses that integrate varied modes of learning. The curriculum focuses on providing students with the skills to develop new knowledge and produce original research expressed through performance, writing and their vital intertwining into new hybrid forms.

1. Majors will develop keen intercultural competence. One of the fundamental tenets of the major is that the analysis of dance through practice and observation is central to the study of cultures and is a vital aspect of exploration in cross-cultural inquiry. Students should develop a proficiency in the understanding of dance in its cultural manifestations, leading them beyond knowledge of a culture or an appreciation of diversity to an understanding and celebration of difference.

2. Majors will develop an awareness of the ways in which dance structures and is structured by culture. This includes a thoughtful understanding of the problematics of spectatorship; the role of the artist in society; as well as issues of embodiment, difference and performativity.

3. Majors will develop an understanding of the basic principles of dance making through creative process work including choreography, improvisation and public enactments. They will acquire the ability to develop an idea or research question through the elements of dance performance such as: the skilful exploration and application of movement vocabulary; choreographic form; and the consideration of framing devices. They will develop the ability to structure original ideas and to create powerful original work.

4. Majors will develop an intercultural understanding of the elements of physical expression and performance artistry and will attain and/or maintain intermediate (or above) technical proficiency, based on sound kinesiological principles. They will develop these skills in at least two of the following techniques: modern/contemporary, Bharata Natyam, West African, ballet, black vernacular forms/hip hop, and South East Asian dance forms (when available).

5. Majors will develop strong reflective and critical awareness of the research methodologies available in Dance Studies articulated in written, choreographic and performative forms.

6. Majors will develop the ability to work collaboratively to complete complex tasks through engagement with all element of performance production, including technical theater, scenographic design and publicity.

HONORS

Dance majors who wish to be candidates for departmental honors must complete senior research in the form of a thesis. Projects are not eligible for the award of honors. The student’s proposed research design will be revised and
finalized in consultation with the student’s prospective tutor and should reflect the special interests and talents of the individual student. The award of honors or high honors is based on the scope and excellence of the thesis and on the student’s creative work.

To receive the award of honors, a thesis must follow these guidelines:

- The honors thesis typically consists of approximately 20 minutes of group choreography (usually two 10-minute dances) and an 80- to 100-page research paper situating the choreography within an aesthetic and historical context.
- It must involve enough work to warrant two credits.

Each honors candidate is required to make a commitment to candidacy in advance. The student must file a written statement of his or her intention to stand for departmental honors with both the department and the Honors College. The department will nominate candidates for departmental honors to the Honors College. Nominations will occur only if it appears reasonably certain that the candidate’s work will be completed on time and in the desired form. The department in cooperation with the Honors College will arrange suitable mid-April deadlines for performances and the submission of theses.

Each honors thesis will have two readers. One of these must be chosen from outside the Department of Dance. The department will base its recommendation for departmental honors upon the readers’ written evaluations and joint recommendations.

**CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**

All majors complete a capstone experience, either a one-semester senior project or a two-semester senior thesis.