

Dance, BFA

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program provides students with a conservatory-like studio experience that is enriched by studies in the liberal arts and sciences. Students train daily in concert movement practices and are afforded ample opportunities to perform in faculty and student creative research and to produce their own choreographic works in the department's concert season. A preprofessional degree, the BFA in dance establishes a strong foundation for creative and intellectual development and cultivates multiple approaches to dance, career, and citizenship. Studies in movement practices, performance, and choreography are complemented by courses in improvisation, dance history and theory, multicultural movement practices, global dance studies, digital performing arts, kinesiology, pedagogy, and community engagement.

Auditions for BFA Admission

An audition is required to be considered for the BFA program, as well as for placement in ballet and contemporary movement practice courses and for consideration for scholarships. For incoming first-year students, a short supplemental application is required as well as an audition in person or by video. Visit Undergraduate Applications on the Department of Dance website for more information about the first-year admissions process.

Students auditioning for the BFA will be required to perform a two-minute solo on audition day or send a video through their supplemental application. The solo may be self-choreographed or be choreographed by someone else, usually a teacher or mentor.

Current BA students in dance may apply for the BFA during the spring semester of their sophomore year.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- achieve proficiency in contemporary concert dance movement practices while developing stylistic versatility, expressive range, and efficient body mechanics;
- learn to think critically about the historical, cultural, and social contexts of dance as an art form and cultural practice while developing strong writing skills and effective oral expression;
- master formal compositional elements and improvisational techniques toward the creation of original choreographic work, and learn to articulate and render their creative intentions with clarity, with opportunities to present these works in public performances;
- acquire performance skills, such as interpretation, expressivity, physical agility, and refinement, by participating in auditions, rehearsals, and studio and public performances;
- acquire knowledge of anatomical and kinesiological principles and injury prevention for effective dance training and career longevity; and
- attain an understanding of digital arts tools currently used in contemporary dance.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in dance requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 87 s.h. of work for the

major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 3.50 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. Students must earn at least 42 s.h. in the major at the University of Iowa. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Students also have the opportunity to complete the Dance Pedagogy and Instruction Track while fulfilling the BFA requirements.

In planning coursework, especially electives, students may apply a maximum of 87 s.h. in Department of Dance courses (prefix DANC) toward the minimum 120 s.h. required for the BFA degree. Any grades earned for coursework are included in the grade-point average.

In contrast to the BA in dance, the BFA program emphasizes choreography and performance. It requires additional courses in choreography, performance, and technique, as well as the completion of a specialization area. Students who did not audition for the BFA program prior to entrance to the University of Iowa may subsequently apply for admission to the program during their sophomore year. The strongest candidates are those who have achieved the equivalent of major II technique and show academic and professional promise.

The BFA with a major in dance requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	23
Studio Courses	12
Performance and Creative Research Courses	10-12
Movement Technique Courses	30
Distribution Areas	9
Dance Specialization Area	3

Core Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
DANC:1000	First-Year Seminar	1
DANC:1090	Dance Production	3
DANC:1170	Functional Anatomy	2
DANC:2060	Dance and Society in Global Contexts	3
DANC:2220	Production Run Crew (taken twice for 1 s.h. each; must complete this requirement by the end of the second year)	2
DANC:3060	Western Concert Dance History: Romantic to Contemporary	3
DANC:3070	Dance Kinesiology	3
DANC:3080	Music Essentials for Dance	3
DANC:4980	BFA Seminar in Dance	3

Studio Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
DANC:2050	Introduction to Improvisation and Composition	3
DANC:3150	Choreography I	3
DANC:3250	Choreography II	3
DANC:4350	Choreography III	3

Performance and Creative Research Courses

Students should enroll in DANC:3885 Repertory Dance Company during their second or third year.

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
DANC:3885	Repertory Dance Company	1-3
One of these:		
DANC:4998	BFA Senior Project in Dance	3
DANC:4999	Honors Project in Dance	3
6 s.h. from these:		
DANC:4452	MFA Independent Project Research Lab	arr.
DANC:4453	MFA Thesis Research Lab	arr.
DANC:4454	Faculty Creative Research Lab	arr.
DANC:4880	Dance Gala Performance	1-4
DANC:4881	Graduate Concert	1
DANC:4882	Graduate/Undergraduate Concert	1-4
DANC:4883	Faculty/Graduate Concert	1-4
DANC:4884	Undergraduate Event	1-4
DANC:4885	MFA Thesis Concert	1-4
DANC:4886	BFA Concert	1-4
DANC:4887	MFA Event	1-3
DANC:4888	Special Project Student Performance	arr.
May include up to 2 s.h. from this:		
DANC:4991	Independent Choreography	1-2

Movement Technique Courses

Students must complete 30 s.h. of movement technique courses, including two semesters of either DANC:4030 Major Ballet III or DANC:4040 Major Contemporary Movement Practices III with a grade of A-minus or higher and two semesters of DANC:4540 Major Contemporary Movement Practices IV with a grade of B-plus or higher. All movement technique courses may be taken more than once.

Eligible students may petition to take either DANC:4030 or DANC:4040 concurrently with DANC:4540 for two semesters during their final two semesters in order to satisfy technique requirements; the petition must originate with a student's advisor and be approved by the assigned course instructors.

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
DANC:3340	BFA Movement Practices (taken twice for 3 s.h. each during the first year)	6
12 s.h. from these:		
DANC:3030	Major Ballet I	3
DANC:3530	Major Ballet II	3
DANC:4030	Major Ballet III	3
DANC:4034	Ballet Pointe	3
12 s.h. from these:		
DANC:3040	Major Contemporary Movement Practices I	3

DANC:3540	Major Contemporary Movement Practices II	3
DANC:4040	Major Contemporary Movement Practices III	3
DANC:4540	Major Contemporary Movement Practices IV	3

Distribution Areas

Students must complete at least one course from each of the following three areas.

Dance Somatics

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
DANC:3851/ MUS:3851	Introduction to the Alexander Technique	3
DANC:3852	Introduction to the Feldenkrais Method: Posture, Perception, and Pain Relief	3
DANC:3853	Introduction to Klein Technique	3

Global Dance Studies

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
DANC:1150/ LAS:1150	Brazilian Culture and Carnival	3
DANC:2065	Performing Power/Performing Protest: The Body, Identity, and the Image	3
DANC:2086	Introduction to West African Dance and Culture	3
DANC:2150	Brazilian Social Dance: The Samba	3
DANC:3010	Topics in Global Movement Practices	3
DANC:5055	Embodying Voice/Performing Persona	3

Digital Performing Arts

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
DANC:2800/ ARTS:2800/ CINE:2800/CS:2800/ DIGA:2800/ MUS:2800/ THTR:2800	Introduction to Coding for Interactive Arts	3
DANC:2880/ DIGA:2880/ THTR:2880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
DANC:2890/ DIGA:2890/ THTR:2890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
DANC:3050	Body/Image: Dance and Media in Discourse and Practice	3
DANC:3875/ THTR:3875	Topics in Digital Performing Arts	3

DANC:3876/ CINE:3876/ DIGA:3876/ INTM:3876/ THTR:3876	Projection Design	3
DANC:3895/ DIGA:3895/ THTR:3895	Performance, Art, and New Technologies in Society	3

Dance Specialization Areas

Students choose advanced-level elective coursework by selecting one of the following three options: pedagogy, advanced history or theory, or choreography.

Pedagogy

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
DANC:4535	Elementary Ballet Pedagogy	3
DANC:4545	Teaching of Modern and Contemporary Dance Forms	3

Advanced History or Theory

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
DANC:4060	The Contemporary Dance Scene	3
DANC:5060	Theories of Dance and the Body	3

Choreography

Students who choose this option are encouraged to complete DANC:4991 Independent Choreography before DANC:6450 Graduate Choreography IV.

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
DANC:6450	Graduate Choreography IV	3

Dance Pedagogy and Instruction Track

Dance majors who have a particular interest in the art and practice of teaching dance as a passion and/or profession may complete the dance pedagogy and instruction track at the same time as they are completing their degree requirements. This track tailors the knowledge and skills gained in the pursuit of a major in dance toward the preparation of students for professions in dance instruction and studio ownership, and for opportunities to work as teaching artists within community and dance company outreach and engagement programs.

Most of the required courses fulfill the requirements for the dance major and/or GE CLAS Core requirements.

The dance pedagogy and instruction track requires 23 s.h. from the following.

Dance Pedagogy Foundations

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
DANC:3700	Dance Pedagogy: Theories, Issues, and Perspectives	3

Dance Pedagogy Electives

Course #	Title	Hours
5-6 s.h. from these:		
DANC:2075	Teaching and Using Creative Dance for Children (K-8) in a Variety of Educational Settings	2
DANC:3075	Yoga Teacher Training I	3
DANC:3076	Yoga Teacher Training II	3
DANC:4535	Elementary Ballet Pedagogy	3
DANC:4545	Teaching of Modern and Contemporary Dance Forms	3

Education, Learning, and Human Development

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
EPLS:3000	Foundations of Education	3
PSQF:1075	Educational Psychology and Measurement	3
PSQF:4133	The Adolescent and Young Adult	3
PSY:1001	Elementary Psychology	3
PSY:2401	Introduction to Developmental Science	3

Leadership and Entrepreneurship Studies

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
ENTR:1350	Foundations in Entrepreneurship	3
THTR:3510/ INTD:3510	Introduction to Arts Management	3

Social Justice Studies

Students may only apply either DANC:3600 or GWSS:3600 to this track.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
DANC:2065	Performing Power/Performing Protest: The Body, Identity, and the Image	3
DANC:3600 or GWSS:3600	Art, Feminist Practice, and Social Justice	3
SJUS:1001/ GWSS:1003	Introduction to Social Justice	3

Electives

To complete the required 23 s.h., students must take one additional course selected from one of these preceding categories: "Education, Learning, and Human Development," "Leadership and Entrepreneurship Studies," or "Social Justice Studies." Students using DANC:3600 to fulfill the Social Justice Studies area cannot apply GWSS:3600 to the elective requirement. Students using GWSS:3600 to fulfill the Social Justice Studies area cannot apply DANC:3600 to the elective requirement.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Majors who maintain a Department of Dance grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 and a UI GPA of at least 3.33 are encouraged to pursue honors in dance. Although it is not necessary for students pursuing honors in dance to be members of the University of Iowa Honors Program, earning honors in dance does satisfy the experiential learning component (“learning by doing”) of the UI Honors Program.

Students who graduate with honors in their major receive special recognition during commencement, and their transcript and diploma reflect honors designations.

Graduation with honors in dance requires successful completion of 8-10 s.h. of University of Iowa honors courses or honors contract courses in Department of Dance classes and successful completion of an honors project.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the dance major.

Career Advancement

Careers for dance majors include professional work in performing, choreography, education, private teaching, and related areas such as arts management, technical theater, dance scholarship, or dance and physical therapy. Many graduates from the UI dance program are currently working in arts organizations throughout the United States.

The discipline and creative challenges of dance training transfer well to other careers. Students have combined dance with a second major in another field such as business or communication.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Department of Dance coursework beyond 87 s.h. for BFA students does not apply toward semester hours required for graduation.

Before the third semester begins: 16 s.h. of coursework in the major.

Before the fifth semester begins: 25-40 s.h. of coursework in the major.

Before the seventh semester begins: 45-60 s.h. of coursework in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: 57-75 s.h. of coursework in the major.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
Students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.50 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major.		
An audition is required to be considered for the BFA program, as well as for placement in ballet and contemporary movement practice courses and for consideration for scholarships.		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
DANC:1000	First-Year Seminar	1
DANC:1090	Dance Production	3
DANC:1170	Functional Anatomy	2
DANC:3340	BFA Movement Practices ^b	3
Major: contemporary movement practices course ^b		3
ENGL:1200	Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
or RHET:1030	or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Hours		16-17
Spring		
DANC:2050	Introduction to Improvisation and Composition	3
DANC:2060	Dance and Society in Global Contexts ^c	3
DANC:2220	Production Run Crew ^d	1
DANC:3340	BFA Movement Practices ^b	3
Major: contemporary movement practices course ^b		3
Major: performance and creative research course ^e		1
ENGL:1200	Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
or RHET:1030	or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	
Hours		17-18
Second Year		
Fall		
DANC:3080	Music Essentials for Dance	3
DANC:3885	Repertory Dance Company ^e	1
Major: ballet course ^b		3
Major: dance somatics course ^f		3

BIOL:1140	Human Biology: Nonmajors ^g	4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^h		4 - 5
Hours		18-19
Spring		
DANC:2220	Production Run Crew ^d	1
Major: ballet course ^b		3
Major: performance and creative research course ^e		1
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^{i,j}		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^h		4 - 5
Hours		15-16
Third Year		
Fall		
DANC:3150	Choreography I	3
Major: digital performing arts course ^f		3
Major: global dance studies course ^{i,k}		3
Major: performance and creative research course ^e		1
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^{j,k}		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^h		4 - 5
Hours		17-18
Spring		
DANC:3060	Western Concert Dance History: Romantic to Contemporary	3
DANC:3070	Dance Kinesiology ^l	3
DANC:3250	Choreography II	3
Major: performance and creative research course ^e		1
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^j		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^h		4 - 5
Hours		17-18
Fourth Year		
Fall		
DANC:4540	Major Contemporary Movement Practices IV ^b	3
DANC:4350	Choreography III	3
DANC:4980	BFA Seminar in Dance	3
Major: specialization area course ^f		3
Major: ballet course ^b		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^j		3
Hours		18
Spring		
DANC:4540	Major Contemporary Movement Practices IV ^b	3
DANC:4999	Honors Project in Dance ^e	3
or DANC:4998 or BFA Senior Project in Dance		
Major: ballet course ^b		3
Major: performance and creative research course ^e		2
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^j		3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^j		3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^m		
Hours		17
Total Hours		135-141

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b Students must complete 30 s.h. of movement technique courses including DANC:3340 (taken twice for 3 s.h. each during the first year); two semesters of either DANC:4030 or DANC:4040 (with a grade of A-minus or higher); and two semesters of DANC:4540 (with a grade of B-plus or higher). At least 12 s.h. of ballet and at least 12 s.h. of contemporary movement practices are required.

c Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

d Take DANC:2220 twice for 1 s.h. each; must complete this requirement by the end of the second year.

e Students must complete DANC:3885; DANC:4998 or DANC:4999; and at least 6 s.h. from other performance and creative research courses; may include up to 2 s.h. from DANC:4991. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

f See General Catalog for list of approved courses.

g Recommended course for GE CLAS Core Natural Sciences with Lab, not a major requirement.

h Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

i DANC:2065 meets both the GE CLAS Core Understanding Cultural Perspectives requirement and the global dance studies requirement for the major.

j GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

k DANC:1150 meets both the GE CLAS Core Values and Society requirement and the global dance studies requirement for the major.

l Typically this course is offered in spring semesters only. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.

m Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.