Dance, B.F.A.

The B.F.A. program in dance is designed to provide a comprehensive dance education that integrates rigorous technical practice, creative research in choreography, performance and production, and theoretical and historical inquiry. As in-depth dance study converges with other academic disciplines, students acquire the knowledge and skills to further the arts in society, and to flourish as participants in diverse dance fields.

Auditions for B.F.A. Admission

An audition is required to be considered for the B.F.A. program, as well as for placement in advanced dance classes.

Audition materials required include a B.F.A. audition application, two letters of recommendation (one academic, one dance), and current transcripts; see “Application” under Undergraduate Auditions on the Department of Dance website. Students who audition will be required to perform a two minute solo on audition day; it may be self-choreographed or be choreographed by someone else, usually a teacher or mentor.

Contact the Department of Dance for more information or questions about auditions.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in dance requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 81 s.h. of work for the major (78 s.h. in dance course work and a 3 s.h. anatomy course). Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 3.50 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. Students must earn at least half of their semester hours in the major at the University of Iowa. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program.

In planning course work, especially electives, students may apply a maximum of 82 s.h. in Department of Dance courses (prefix DANC) toward the minimum 120 s.h. required for the B.F.A. degree. Any grades earned for course work are calculated in the grade-point average.

In contrast to the B.A. in dance, the B.F.A. program emphasizes choreography and performance. It requires an additional 22 s.h. of choreography, performance, and technique. Students who did not audition for the B.F.A. program prior to entrance to the University of Iowa may subsequently apply for admission to the program. The strongest candidates are those who have achieved the equivalent of major II technique and show academic and professional promise.

The B.F.A. with a major in dance requires the following course work.

Core Courses

22

Studio Courses

8

Performance and Creative Research Courses

6

Dance Technique Courses

32

Distribution Areas

4-7

Dance Specialization Area

3-4

Dance Electives (s.h. could vary depending on previous course work)

4

Senior Project (s.h. could vary) 2

Total Hours 81-85

Core Courses

All of these:

DANC:1060 Introduction to Dance Studies 1

DANC:1080 Music Essentials for Dance 2

DANC:1090 Dance Production 3

DANC:2060/ DPA:2060 Dance and Society in Global Contexts 3

DANC:2220 Production Run Crew (2 s.h. required) 2

DANC:3060 Dance History 3

DANC:3070 Dance Kinesiology 3

DANC:4980 Senior Seminar in Dance 2

HHP:1100 Human Anatomy 3

Studio Courses

All of these:

DANC:2050 Improvisation I 2

DANC:3150 Choreography I 2

DANC:3250 Choreography II 2

DANC:4350 Choreography III 2

Performance and Creative Research Courses

6 s.h. from these (no more than 3 s.h. of DANC:3885 will count toward the requirement):

DANC:3251 Choreography II Rehearsal Lab 1-4

DANC:3885 Repertory Dance Company 1-4

DANC:4451 Choreography IV Rehearsal Lab 1-4

DANC:4880 Dance Gala Performance 1-4

DANC:4881 Collaborative Dance Performance 1-4

DANC:4882 Graduate/Undergraduate Concert 1-4

DANC:4883 Faculty/Graduate Concert 1-4

DANC:4884 Undergraduate Concert 1-4

DANC:4885 M.F.A. Thesis Concert 1-4

DANC:4886 B.F.A. Event 1-4

Dance Technique Courses

32 s.h. from these, including three semesters of either DANC:4030 or DANC:4540 with a grade of B-minus or higher, 14 s.h. of ballet, and 14 s.h. of modern dance:

DANC:1085/ DPA:1085 Introduction to Afro-Caribbean Dance Techniques 2

DANC:3030 Major Ballet I 3

DANC:3040 Major Modern Dance I 3

DANC:3530 Major Ballet II 1-2

DANC:3540 Major Modern Dance II 1-2

DANC:3850/ DPA:3850/ MUS:3850 Introduction to Laban Movement Studies 2
DANC:3851/ DPA:3851/ MUS:3851
Introduction to the Alexander Technique 3

DANC:3852
Awareness Through Movement 2

DANC:4030
Major Ballet III 1-2

DANC:4035
Ballet Pointe II 1

DANC:4040
Major Modern Dance III 1-2

DANC:4540
Major Contemporary Dance IV 1

Distribution Areas
Students must complete at least one course from each of the following two areas. These courses may satisfy other requirements for the major.

Global Dance Studies
One of these:
DANC:1085/ DPA:1085
Introduction to Afro-Caribbean Dance Techniques 2

DANC:1150/ LAS:1150
Brazilian Culture and Carnival 3

DANC:2065
Performing Crisis: Dances of Identity, Witness, and Resistance 3

DANC:3010
Topics in Global Dance Techniques 2

Digital Performing Arts
One of these:
Digital Arts: An Introduction 3

DANC:3050/ INTM:3050
Body/Image: Dance and Media in Discourse and Practice 3

DANC:3875/ THTR:3875
Topics in Digital Performing Arts 2

DANC:3880/ THTR:3880
Installations and Interactive Performance 3

DANC:3890/ THTR:3890
Producing and Directing Digital Video 3

DANC:3895/ THTR:3895
Performing with New Technologies 3

THTR:3876/ CINE:3876
Video for Performance 3

Dance Specialization Areas
Students choose advanced-level elective course work by selecting one of the following three options.

Option 1—Pedagogy
One of these:
DANC:4535
Elementary Ballet Pedagogy 3

DANC:4545
Teaching of Modern Dance 3

Option 2—Advanced History or Theory
One of these:
DANC:4060/ DPA:4060
The Contemporary Dance Scene 3

DANC:5060/ DPA:5060
Theories of Dance and the Body 3

Option 3—Choreography
Both of these:
DANC:4991
Independent Choreography 1

DANC:6450
Graduate Choreography IV 3

Dance Electives
The required number of semester hours in dance electives varies depending on whether a student completes the core with dance courses or with cross-listed courses from another department, or has a core requirement waived.

Senior Project
Students culminate their experience with senior projects in choreography or performance. They may earn honors credit for this project by enrolling in DANC:4999 Honors Project in Dance (enrollment requires membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program or special permission from the instructor). Other students must complete DANC:4998 B.F.A. Senior Project in Dance.

One of these:
DANC:4998
B.F.A. Senior Project in Dance arr.

DANC:4999
Honors Project in Dance arr.

Honors

Honors in the Major
Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. The honors program in dance serves and recognizes outstanding students in choreography, performance, and special projects. Departmental honors students must have a g.p.a. of at least 3.50 in University of Iowa Department of Dance courses.

Students must complete 8-10 s.h. of honors work by taking two courses for honors credit and completing an honors project. Honors projects must be approved by Department of Dance faculty.

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.

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 course work beyond 82 s.h. for B.F.A. students does not apply toward semester hours required for graduation.

**Before the third semester begins:** 16 s.h. of course work in the major

**Before the fifth semester begins:** 25-40 s.h. of course work in the major

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

**Before the eighth semester begins:** 57-75 s.h. of course work in the major

**During the eighth semester:** enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

### Sample Plan of Study

#### Dance (B.F.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:1060</td>
<td>Introduction to Dance Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education course)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: ballet course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: dance elective course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: modern course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:2060</td>
<td>Dance and Society in Global Contexts</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: ballet course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: modern course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<td>DANC:1080</td>
<td>Music Essentials for Dance</td>
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<td>BIOL:1140</td>
<td>Human Biology (recommended GE: Natural Sciences with a lab)</td>
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<td>Major: modern course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: ballet course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: dance elective course</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td>15-19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC:2220</td>
<td>Production Run Crew</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHP:1100</td>
<td>Human Anatomy (also GE: Natural Sciences without a lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: ballet course</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: modern course</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: performance credit(s)</td>
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#### GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5

**Elective course** 3

**Third Year**

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<tr>
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<td>DANC:3070</td>
<td>Dance Kinesiology</td>
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<td>DANC:3150</td>
<td>Choreography I</td>
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<td>Major: digital performing arts course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: ballet course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: modern dance course</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: performance course</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: International and Global Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td>15-22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<td>DANC:3060</td>
<td>Dance History</td>
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<td>DANC:3250</td>
<td>Choreography II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: performance course</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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#### Fourth Year**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC:4350</td>
<td>Choreography III</td>
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<td>Major: advanced elective course (prefix DANC)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: ballet course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: dance performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: modern dance or other technique course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: advanced elective course (prefix DANC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: ballet course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: dance performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: modern dance or other technique course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: senior project</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: Values and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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<td>125-142</td>
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</table>

1. General Education (GE) 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. For more information, view the General Education Program.
2. Students may use their elective courses to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
3. Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
Career Advancement

Careers for dance majors include professional work in performing, choreography, education, private teaching, and related areas such as arts management, technical theater, 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.