Dance, BA

Integrating studies in dance and the liberal arts, the Bachelor of Arts degree program establishes foundations for creative and intellectual development and cultivates multiple approaches to dance, career, and citizenship. Students train daily in 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. This training is complemented by courses in improvisation, choreography, dance history and theory, multicultural movement practices, global dance studies, digital performing arts, kinesiology, pedagogy, and community engagement.

Auditions for Placement

The department admits all students to the dance BA. An audition is required to determine placement in ballet and contemporary movement classes and for consideration for scholarships. Students may email a video, attend a Hawkeye Dance Day in the department, or arrange to visit a class to audition for placement. For incoming first-year students, a short, supplemental application is required to make audition arrangements and will become available to students after they have been admitted to the University of Iowa. See Undergraduate Applications on the Department of Dance website for more information about the first-year admissions process. Students who have already matriculated at the University of Iowa may contact the Department of Dance to add the BA and to arrange placement auditions.

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 Arts with a major in dance requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 46 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. 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 BA requirements.

In planning coursework, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rules: students earning a BA may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the coursework is accepted toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average, but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

At least 28 s.h. in major coursework must be earned at the University of Iowa. Any grades earned for coursework are included in the grade-point average.

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

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	12
Creative Research and Performance Courses	10
Movement Practices Courses	24

Core Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
12 s.h. (all of these:)		
DANC:1000	First-Year Seminar	1
DANC:2010	Foundations of Anatomy and Kinesiology for Dancers	3
DANC:2060	Dance and Society in Global Contexts	3
DANC:2220	Production Run Crew (taken twice for 1 s.h. each)	2
DANC:3060	Western Concert Dance History: Romantic to Contemporary	3

Creative Research and Performance 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
1 s.h. from these:		
DANC:3885	Repertory Dance Company	1-4
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	0-4
DANC:4886	BFA Concert	0-4
DANC:4887	MFA Event	1-3
DANC:4888	Special Project Student Performance	arr.

Movement Practices Courses

Students must complete 24 s.h. from the following.

Course #	Title	Hours
Ballet		
At least 9 s.h. from these:		
DANC:2030	Majors Intermediate Ballet	3
DANC:3030	Major Ballet I	3
DANC:3530	Major Ballet II	3
DANC:4030	Major Ballet III	3
Contemporary		
At least 9 s.h. from these:		
DANC:2040	Majors Intermediate Contemporary Movement Practices	3
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
Somatics		
At least 3 s.h. from these:		
DANC: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		
At least 3 s.h. from these:		
DANC:1150	Brazilian Culture and Carnival	3
DANC:2025	Intermediate Hip Hop Dance	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

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.

Some of the required courses fulfill the requirements for the dance major 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 area.

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

or GWSS:3600	Art, Feminist Practice, and Social Justice	
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 the Department of Dance 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.

Before the third semester begins: 12 s.h. of coursework in the major.

Before the fifth semester begins: 24–32 s.h. of coursework in the major.

Before the seventh semester begins: 36–42 s.h. of coursework in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

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.

Dance, BA

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
The department admits all students to the dance BA. An audition is required to determine placement in ballet and contemporary movement classes and for consideration for scholarships.		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability [a]		
	Hours	**0**
First Year		
Fall		
DANC:1000	First-Year Seminar	1
Major Elective: movement practices ballet course [b]		3
Major Elective: movement practices contemporary course [b]		3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Elective course [c]		3
	Hours	**14-15**
Spring		
DANC:2050	Introduction to Improvisation and Composition	3
DANC:2060	Dance and Society in Global Contexts [d]	3
Major Elective: movement practices ballet course [b]		3
Major Elective: movement practices contemporary course [b]		3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4

Elective course [c]		2
	Hours	**17-18**
Second Year		
Fall		
DANC:2010	Foundations of Anatomy and Kinesiology for Dancers	3
Major Elective: creative research and performance course [e]		1
Major Elective: movement practices contemporary course [b]		3
Major Elective: movement practices global dance studies course [b]		3
BIOL:1140	Human Biology: Nonmajors [f]	4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course [g]		4 - 5
	Hours	**18-19**
Spring		
DANC:2220	Production Run Crew	1
Major Elective: movement practices ballet course [b]		3
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives [h]		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab		3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues [h]		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course [g]		4 - 5
	Hours	**17-18**
Third Year		
Fall		
DANC:3851 or DANC:3853 or DANC:3852	Introduction to the Alexander Technique [b] or Introduction to Klein Technique or Introduction to the Feldenkrais Method: Posture, Perception, and Pain Relief	3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society [h]		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course [g]		4 - 5
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
	Hours	**16-17**
Spring		
DANC:3060	Western Concert Dance History: Romantic to Contemporary	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning [h]		3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course [g]		4 - 5
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		2
	Hours	**15-17**
Fourth Year		
Fall		
DANC:2220	Production Run Crew	1
DANC:3150	Choreography I	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives [h]		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences [h]		3
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
	Hours	**16**
Spring		
DANC:3250	Choreography II	3
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
Elective course [c]		3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) [i]		
	Hours	**15**
	Total Hours	**128-135**

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 Complete 24 s.h. of movement practices courses, including at least 9 s.h. of ballet and at least 9 s.h. of contemporary, at least 3 s.h. of somatics, and at least 3 s.h. of global dance studies. See the General Catalog for lists of approved courses.

c Students may use elective courses to earn credit toward the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

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

e See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

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

g 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.

h 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.

i 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.