Dance

Director, Division of Performing Arts
  • Alan M. MacVey

Chair, Department of Dance
  • Rebekah J. Kowal

Undergraduate major: dance (B.A., B.F.A.)
Undergraduate minor: dance
Graduate degree: M.F.A. in dance
Faculty: https://dance.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://dance.uiowa.edu/

The Department of Dance provides comprehensive training in
dance technique, performance, choreography, and theoretical
studies while approaching scholarship, creative research,
and studio-based training in the framework of a liberal arts
education at the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and
Master of Fine Arts levels. Integrating dance studies with
the liberal arts and sciences, the dance degree programs
promote creative and intellectual growth in an environment
that develops young artists and advances the art of dance.

The undergraduate major prepares students for careers as
performers, choreographers, and educators as well as for
graduate studies in dance and related fields. The M.F.A.
curriculum broadens and deepens the knowledge and
experience of returning professionals seeking to reenter the
field or to secure positions in higher education.

The Department of Dance imparts the values and knowledge
necessary to make dance and intelligent moving lifelong
practices. Students develop as young artists, creative
thinkers, and problem solvers who may further the arts in
society in diverse, urgent, and transformational ways.

The department offers up to 10 concerts each year,
providing dance students with numerous opportunities to
perform and/or to present their choreography; visit the
Performance Opportunities web page for more information.
The department's annual Dance Gala on campus, performed
by dance students, presents original faculty choreography as
well as work by a special distinguished guest artist. UI Dance
Company, the department's student repertory company,
performs across Iowa and surrounding states.

All dance faculty members regularly present and/or
publish their choreography or scholarship nationally
and internationally. Students have ample opportunities
to work with faculty on their creative and/or scholarly
research. Periodic master classes with noted guest teachers,
choreographers, and touring companies introduce students
to contemporary artists and provide opportunities for
professionalization and networking.

Students have the opportunity to earn a major in dance and
a second major in another of the University’s programs,
including one of the other units within the division—music or
theatre arts. The dance faculty supports students pursuing
a second major with the understanding that supplemental
studies, in addition to a degree in dance, are preparation for
a wide range of professional careers in fields such as arts
administration and production, education, the health sciences,
law, and engineering.

The department is one of the academic units in the Division of
Performing Arts.

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