Dance

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1214 University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403-1214

The primary aim of the Department of Dance is to enrich the lives of majors, non-majors, and the Oregon community with diverse dance experiences. Dance is explored as an art form and as one of the humanities in a liberal arts education. Study in dance as an academic discipline integrates inquiry and theory to develop skills in performance, creative practice, observation, critical thinking, problem solving, and evaluation. In addition to the academic components, dance students experience the rigorous professional discipline that is inherent in studio classes. The department explores diverse idioms in dance: African dance and drumming, ballet, contact improvisation, contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, modern, partnering and Salsa.

Regardless of a student’s career goals, education in dance at the University of Oregon provides the opportunity to develop motivation and self-discipline, intellectual curiosity, and creative imagination. These attributes are essential not only for a successful career but also for experiencing a fulfilling life.

Information about auditions, performances, placement, master classes, special events, and scheduling is available in the department office and online (http://music.uoregon.edu/areas-study/dance/).

Facilities

The Department of Dance has four professional dance studios for classes and activities in dance. In addition to serving as classrooms and rehearsal spaces, two studios in Gerlinger Annex convert into the M. Frances Dougherty Dance Theatre, which seats 200 people.

Performing Opportunities

The department offers frequent opportunities for students to perform in works by faculty, guest artists, and students. Performances are produced throughout the year, and any university student may participate. Participants are usually selected through auditions. Rehearsals and performances earn academic credit.

Performance groups such as Dema, an African dance ensemble, and the UO Student Dance Collective, tour Oregon and the Northwest presenting live concerts as well as lecture-demonstrations and master classes for public schools, colleges, universities, civic organizations, and community concert series.

A student may also earn credit and gain experience in teaching, lighting, production, or a combination of these. Practicum credit is offered in dance choreography, production design, and management.

Collaborations with local dance groups, the Department of Theater Arts, and groups within the School of Music and Dance provide multidisciplinary performance opportunities. These activities carry academic credit.

Scholarships

The Department of Dance awards several partial scholarships yearly to both incoming dance majors and to continuing dance majors.

Dance Oregon

A student organization partially funded by the Associated Students of the University of Oregon, Dance Oregon is open to any student interested in dance. Its purpose is to enhance and enrich the dance opportunities offered through the departmental curriculum. To this end, Dance Oregon provides a variety of activities each year that are promoted on and off campus. Examples include sponsoring professional guest artists to perform, lecture, set repertory, or teach master classes, and organizing student participation in the American College Dance Association.

Dance Program for Non-majors

A variety of dance experiences are provided for enjoyment and enrichment through the dance program. DANC courses generally offer beginning instruction and may be repeated twice for credit. Upper-division DANC courses provide low-intermediate instruction and may be repeated twice for credit. A maximum of 12 credits in DANC courses may be applied to the total number of credits required for a bachelor’s degree.

Upper-division DAN courses provide advanced instruction. See DAN course listings for credit repeatability.

Noncredit DANC and DAN studio courses may be available to members of the community through community dance; a modest instructional fee is assessed by the Department of Dance.

Faculty


Christian Cherry, associate professor (music for dance, composition, contact improvisation); undergraduate director, music director. BA, 1983, Ohio Wesleyan; MM, 1993, Ohio State. (2001)


Hannah Victoria Thomas, assistant professor (hip hop, jazz, and contemporary technique, dance history and culture, composition), BA, 2016, Georgia College and State University; MFA, 2020, Arizona State University. (2021)

**Emeriti**


Susan Zadoff, senior instructor emerita. Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. (1976)

*The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.*

**Undergraduate Programs**

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Science
- Minor
- Certificate in Teaching Dance

**Undergraduate Studies**

The Department of Dance offers curricula leading to bachelor of fine arts (BFA), bachelor of arts (BA) or bachelor of science (BS) degrees. The goal of the department is to provide comprehensive dance training within the liberal arts framework of the university. The study of dance involves intellectual, artistic, and physical development. The Department of Dance emphasizes all three areas of growth, a commitment made possible by the breadth of its curricular offerings and the depth of faculty expertise.

Facility with oral and written communication is one goal of a liberal arts education. Therefore, dance majors pursue a course of study to acquire a firm intellectual grasp of the theoretical, historical, and creative forces that shape dance as an art form.

Dance, unique in that it is also a physical form of communication, requires continual experience in its technical foundations. Students are expected and encouraged to experience a variety of forms of dance training and idioms. Production and pedagogy are also integral to the undergraduate core, because many students find careers in theater and teaching.

**Goals for the Undergraduate Dance Major**

1. Explore the field of dance from a liberal arts perspective
2. Explore disciplined technique and creative processes involved in the artistry of dance
3. Formulate an intellectual understanding of the historical, philosophical, and culturally significant aspects of dance
4. Develop a working knowledge of music and science as they relate to and enhance the dance experience
5. Develop an understanding of dance as a unique art form in conjunction with its relationship to other art forms and disciplines
6. Develop a level of competence in performance, creative, and theoretical aspects of dance to pursue graduate studies or other professional goals

**Preparation**

High school students planning to major in dance should include preparation in music, drama, art, and dance.

Students transferring to the UO as dance majors after two years of college work elsewhere should have completed two terms of college-level English composition, as many of the university’s general-education requirements as possible, and training in modern dance.

**Careers**

Career opportunities include performing in regional dance companies and teaching in community centers, fitness centers, and private studios. Business and technical theater management, dance science, dance research, and dance journalism offer alternatives to performance and creative work.

**Bachelor’s Degree Program**

Students eligible for admission to the university may declare dance as a major. Candidates for the bachelor’s degree with a major in dance must satisfy general university requirements, select appropriate courses in related areas, and complete dance course requirements with a grade of C– or better. The faculty regularly reviews students for evidence of satisfactory progress toward fulfilling degree requirements. Students who receive grades lower than C– or l (incomplete) or Y in dance courses are placed on departmental probation and must repeat or complete the course with a minimum grade of C–. Students placed on departmental probation have one term to achieve the goals they agreed upon with their academic advisors. While students are on probation, they receive guidance to help them achieve satisfactory progress toward the degree.

Courses required for a dance major or minor must be taken for letter grades when that option is available. A grade of P must be earned in courses designated pass/no pass (P/N) only.

**Advising**

Students admitted as majors must meet with a dance faculty advisor prior to registration each term. These meetings inform students about prerequisites and progress toward the degree. Appointment schedules for advising are posted by each advisor. Students must have a signed advising contract in their departmental academic file before they may register each term.

University requirements for the BFA, BA and BS degrees are explained in the Bachelor’s Degree Requirements section of this catalog.

**Honors College Program**

See the Robert Donald Clark Honors College section of this catalog for specific honors college requirements. Departmental requirements for dance majors enrolled in the Clark Honors College include the following:

- 6 credits of independent study in choreography, technical production, or related research leading to the senior honors thesis
- Either a choreography (minimum of ten minutes) with written description and discussion or an honors essay on an approved research topic
Four-Year Degree Plan
The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Courses that apply to the major must be passed with grades of C– or better.

Bachelor of Arts in Dance

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Maintain an overall GPA of 2.50 or higher. Identify a minor, certificate program, or second major.

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Maintain good academic standing and complete general-education requirements. A degree audit is recommended.

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Maintain an overall GPA of 2.50 or higher.

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Bachelor of Science in Dance

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Maintain good academic standing and complete major, minor, and/or certificate programs.
DANC 399 Special Studies: [Topic]
Elective course 4

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Maintain an overall GPA of 2.50 or higher. Identify a minor, certificate program, or second major.

Graduate Studies

The graduate program in dance has been temporarily suspended. No new graduate students are being accepted at this time.

Introductory Dance Courses

DANC 170. Contemporary I. 1 Credit.
DANC 170 Contemporary I is the study of basic principles of dance movement with an emphasis on the elements of space, time and energy. Repeatable twice for maximum of 3 credits.

DANC 172. Ballet I. 1 Credit.
Repeatable twice for maximum of 3 credits.

DANC 175. Jazz I. 1 Credit.
Repeatable twice for maximum of 3 credits.

DANC 185. African Dance. 1 Credit.
Repeatable twice for maximum of 3 credits.

DANC 199. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable. Recent topics include Tango, Hip-Hop, Salsa, Drumming, and Swing.

DANC 270. Contemporary II. 1 Credit.
DANC 270 Contemporary II is intermediate dance training designed to build upon previously developed technical skills and artistic expression, with a focus on contemporary aesthetics. Repeatable twice for maximum of 3 credits.
Prereq: Three terms of DANC 170.

DANC 272. Ballet II. 1 Credit.
Repeatable twice for maximum of 3 credits.

DANC 275. Jazz II. 1 Credit.
Repeatable twice for maximum of 3 credits.

DANC 299. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable when topic changes.

DANC 372. Ballet III. 1 Credit.
Repeatable twice for maximum of 3 credits.

DANC 375. Jazz III. 1 Credit.
Repeatable twice for maximum of 3 credits.
DAN 399. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable. Recent topics include Tango, Hip-Hop, Salsa, Drumming, and Swing.

Professional Dance Courses

DAN 125. First Year Seminar: [Topic]. 1 Credit.
DAN 125 provides a general introduction to dance as a field of study in higher education with a specific focus on opportunities in Dance and allied studies at UO. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 3 credits.

DAN 171. Dance Improvisation: [Topic]. 1 Credit.
Dance Improvisation covers a range of solo and group improvisational techniques to develop improvisational skill and heighten creative instincts. Attention will be given to developing safe practices to heighten movement exploration. Topics vary based on the chosen focus of the teacher of record. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 3 credits.

DAN 198. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-2 Credits.
Repeatable. Recent topics include Performance, Production Experience, Repertory.

DAN 199. Special Studies: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

DAN 241. Screendance: History and Theory. 4 Credits.
This Arts and Letters group satisfying course explores the historical, theoretical, and cultural contexts of screendance, an interdisciplinary art form at the intersection of dance, film, and new media technologies. It focuses on critical inquiries into screendance while locating that subject in a broader context.

DAN 251. Looking at Dance. 4 Credits.
Overview of dance as a cultural and aesthetic experience. Examines its meaning and impact on contemporary United States society.

DAN 255. Dance Production I. 3 Credits.
Introduction to production planning, management, lighting, design, costuming, and publicity for the dance concert. Practical experience in Dougherty Dance Theatre.

DAN 256. Dance Somatics. 3 Credits.
Exploration of patterning in movement. Various body therapies—Bartenieff Fundamentals, ideokinesis, and body-mind centering—provide a framework for experiential investigations.

DAN 260. Anatomy of Human Movement. 4 Credits.
An introduction to scientific reasoning focusing on methodology and current research in dance anatomy and kinesiology.

DAN 271. Contact Improvisation: [Topic]. 1 Credit.
This course is designed to develop skills, experience and awareness of contact improvisation. Sequence with DAN 171. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 3 credits.
Prereq: DAN 171.

DAN 294. Modern Dance Laboratory. 3 Credits.
Rigorous training in modern dance as a performing art form emphasizing use of the body as an instrument, elements of movement, and performance skills. Repeatable for a maximum of 24 credits.
Prereq: placement audition.

DAN 301. African Dance Aesthetics. 4 Credits.
Using the field of dance studies to examine African dance aesthetics in popular culture, daily media landscapes, and expressive cultures in Africa and the diaspora.

DAN 351. Dance Composition I. 3 Credits.
Introduction to creation of dance movement as a communication tool. How to select, develop, vary, and phrase dance movement. Choreography of short dance studies.
Prereq: DAN 252; DANC 271, 370 or above.

DAN 352. Dance Composition II. 3 Credits.
Compositional forms in dance. Crafting of movements into studies.
Prereq: DAN 351.

DAN 355. Dance Production II. 1-2 Credits.
Extended application of skills and procedures used in producing a concert. Practical backstage work; pre- and postconcert sessions. Repeatable eleven times for maximum of 24 credits.
Prereq: DAN 255.

DAN 360. Dance Kinesiology. 4 Credits.
Applications of anatomical, muscular, and motor control information to dance training and injury prevention.

DAN 394. Contemporary III. 3 Credits.
Intensive 5 days-a-week studio course integrating the study of contemporary dance theory and practice. Fall term focuses on music in dance, winter on dance in culture, and spring term focuses on science and somatics in dance. Repeatable seven times for a maximum of 24 credits.
Prereq: 3 terms of DANC 270, placement audition or instructor approval.

DAN 401. Research: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Repeatable twice.

DAN 403. Thesis. 1-12 Credits.
Repeatable three times.

DAN 404. Internship: [Topic]. 1-4 Credits.
Apprenticeship under the guidance of a supervising teacher in areas such as teaching, arts management, administration, and dance production. Repeatable twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.
Prereq: Junior standing.

DAN 405. Reading and Conference: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable up to six times.

DAN 406. Special Problems: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable up to six times.

DAN 407. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable. Recent topics include Choreographic Analysis, Contemporary Issues. Repeatable when topic changes.

DAN 408. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable. Topics include rehearsal and performance for department-sponsored events.
Prereq: Audition for performance experiences.

DAN 409. Practicum: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable. Current topics are Choreography, Production Design, and Management.

DAN 410. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable. Current topics include Neuromuscular Bases of Dance, Topics in Technique, Composition III.

DAN 411. Senior Project. 3 Credits.

DAN 412. Student Dance Concert. 1-6 Credits.
Students apply ideas learned about concert choreography, production, and management. In a cooperative venture, students produce dance works in Dougherty Dance Theatre. Repeatable for maximum of 24 credits.
Prereq: DAN 255, 352.
DAN 425. Senior Seminar: [Topic]. 1 Credit.
This multi term topics course focuses on professional development within dance for senior dance majors. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 3 credits.

DAN 436. Dema African Performance Ensemble: [Topic]. 3 Credits.
Dema is the concept of total performance experience through dance, music, singing, storytelling, and costume-making through education, teaching, and to entertaining. Dema is a means of encouraging independence, critical thinking, self-worth, and freedom of the mind for students to discover their voices. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 9 credits.

DAN 443. Dance and Power. 3 Credits.
This course uses identity as a lens through which we examine structures of power in dance, including, but not limited to, intersections of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic status, language, (dis)ability, age, religious commitment, and political perspective. Sequence with DAN 444.
Prereq: DAN 251.

DAN 444. Contemporary Issues in Dance. 3 Credits.
This course engages critical conversations about dance in contemporary society with emphasis on understanding various ways that dance functions within communities, how dance can participate and promote social change, and ways that dance makers are expanding possibility in dance. Sequence with DAN 443.
Prereq: DAN 251, DAN 443.

DAN 452. Dance Composition III. 3 Credits.
Advanced skills in dance composition to engage critical creative processes for the development of substantial choreographies. Repeatable once for a maximum of 6 credits. Sequence with DAN 351, DAN 352.
Prereq: DAN 352.

DAN 458. Music for Dancers. 3 Credits.
Surveys musical form, style, and expressive content as it relates to dance. Examines the interrelationship of elements of music and dance in significant works from around the world.
Prereq: DAN 252.

DAN 481. Repertory Dance Company: Rehearsal. 1-12 Credits.
Creating and rehearsing new or existing material in preparation for the summer tour. Repeatable four times.
Prereq: audition or application; coreq: DANC 300 level or above in ballet and modern.

DAN 482. Repertory Dance Company: Touring. 1-12 Credits.
Lecture-demonstrations and formal performances of repertory learned in winter rehearsals. Repeatable four times.
Prereq: DAN 481; coreq: DANC 300 level or above in either ballet or modern.

DAN 491. Teaching Dance. 3 Credits.
Application of teaching theories, course planning methods, teaching resources and techniques. Emphasis on teaching in university situation.
Prereq: DAN 252, 394; DAN 271; coreq: DAN 490.

DAN 494. Contemporary IV. 3 Credits.
Deep investigation and professional training in contemporary dance as a performing art form emphasizing mastery of space, time and energy in movement with a focus on performance skills. Dance Studies and scholarship are also included. Repeatable for a maximum of 24 credits.
Prereq: DAN 394, placement audition or instructor approval.

DAN 503. Thesis. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable nine times.

DAN 507. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Recent topics include Choreographic Analysis, Contemporary Issues. Repeatable when topic changes.

DAN 508. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-21 Credits.
Repeatable. Topics include rehearsal and performance for department-sponsored events.
Prereq: Audition for performance experiences.

DAN 510. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable. Current topics include Neuromuscular Bases of Dance, Topics in Technique, Composition III.

DAN 512. Student Dance Concert. 1-6 Credits.
Students apply ideas learned about concert choreography, production, and management. In a cooperative venture, students produce dance works in Dougherty Dance Theatre. Repeatable for maximum of 24 credits.
Prereq: DAN 255, 352 or equivalent.

DAN 536. Dema African Performance Ensemble: [Topic]. 3 Credits.
Dema is the concept of total performance experience through dance, music, singing, storytelling, and costume-making through education, teaching, and to entertaining. Dema is a means of encouraging independence, critical thinking, self-worth, and freedom of the mind for students to discover their voices. Repeatable twice for a maximum of 9 credits.

DAN 558. Music for Dancers. 3 Credits.
Surveys musical form, style, and expressive content as it relates to dance. Examines the interrelationship of elements of music and dance in significant works from around the world.

DAN 581. Repertory Dance Company: Rehearsal. 1-12 Credits.
Creating and rehearsing new or existing material in preparation for the spring tour. Repeatable four times.
Prereq: audition or application; coreq: DANC 300 level or above in ballet and modern.

DAN 582. Repertory Dance Company: Touring. 1-12 Credits.
Lecture-demonstrations and formal performances of repertory learned in winter rehearsals. Repeatable four times.
Prereq: DAN 4/581; coreq: DANC 300 level or above in either ballet or modern.

DAN 594. Contemporary IV. 3 Credits.
Deep investigation and professional training in contemporary dance as a performing art form emphasizing mastery of space, time and energy in movement with a focus on performance skills. Dance Studies and scholarship are also included. Repeatable for a maximum of 24 credits.
Prereq: DAN 394, placement audition or instructor approval.

DAN 601. Research: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

DAN 602. Supervised College Teaching. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

DAN 605. Reading and Conference: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

DAN 606. Special Problems: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable. Topics include Formal Compositional Structure, Solo Composition, and student-initiated topics. Limited by faculty workload and availability.

DAN 607. Seminar: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.
DAN 608. Workshop: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable. Topics include Performance, Production, Rehearsal.

DAN 609. Practicum: [Topic]. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable.

DAN 610. Experimental Course: [Topic]. 1-5 Credits.
Repeatable.

DAN 613. MFA Professional Paper. 1-16 Credits.
Repeatable up to five times.