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. 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.

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)

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