

## College of Arts and Sciences

School of Music, Theatre, and Dance  
Dance program**Overview**

The goal of Kansas State University's dance program is to provide professional studio training in partnership with a rich foundation in the liberal arts. We seek to produce creative problem-solvers with strong analytical and critical thinking skills and the ability to speak and write effectively about dance and its relationship to the rest of the curriculum. K-State's dance program has been recognized several times for excellence in performance and choreography by the American College Dance Festival Association.

K-State dance graduates are expected to demonstrate a breadth of knowledge in addition to a more focused career option and to view dance as a vital part of society and culture.

**Professional options****Alumni**

Graduates teach privately and in public education, work in the field of physical therapy, perform and choreograph throughout the country, involve themselves in the fitness industry and avidly support the arts in their communities.

**Academics****Degree options**

The dance program offers dance in a liberal arts setting and provides education in dance as a performing art and a field of intellectual endeavor. The program provides strong, versatile training in ballet, modern, jazz, tap and African dance techniques as well as movement analysis/ styles, aesthetics, teaching methodology, fieldwork, production and dance-related technology. K-State offers a dance minor and dance certificate.

**Points of pride**


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Kansas State University's dance program has been recognized several times for excellence in performance and choreography by the American College Dance Festival Association.

**Faculty**

The dance faculty is composed of artists and educators who hold advanced academic degrees and have extensive professional performance, critical and choreographic experience. Faculty members remain active in performance, choreography, musical composition, scholarship and production through state, regional, national and international organizations. Faculty have received state, regional, national and international recognition for their scholarly, administrative and creative work.

Guest artists, master classes and residencies of professional companies supplement full-time faculty members. The small student-faculty ratio allows extensive personal guidance to help each student realize and develop his or her individual potential and interests. Students are encouraged to clarify and pursue career goals in both traditional and alternative dance careers.

**Facilities**

Nichols Hall is home to multipurpose studios, all featuring maple wood sprung floors, several with polyvinyl overlay.

The Luke Kahlich studio, named after a longtime faculty member and former program director, is used primarily for jazz and tap class.

The Roni Mahler studio is the largest of the four studio spaces, measuring 2,280 square feet. It is a multipurpose studio used for ballet, modern dance classes and musical rehearsals. This studio is named after Roni Mahler, who founded the dance program in 1977.

The Jacqueline Brewer and Bill Durkee studio, named for two honored dance patrons in the Manhattan community, has seven large, sunlit windows that are a constant source of energy for the small classes of dancers and actors who use the studio.

The Ruth Ann Wefald movement studio is named after K-State's former first lady, who is a dance and theatre patron.

Performance facilities include McCain Auditorium, a nationally known theatre with a large stage, orchestra pit and flexible seating for up to 1,800 patrons; the Purple Masque Theatre, an experimental space with a thrust stage and seating for 130; and Mark A. Chapman Theater, a state-of-the-art facility with an arena/thrust combination stage and seating for 237 to 281.

Other informal performance settings are available around the campus and community. Resources include a large costume collection and audio and video equipment for classes, choreography and research.

**Activities**

Students are encouraged to be involved in performance and choreography opportunities early in their academic careers and to continue their artistic development both in class and independently.

Students enjoy four main staged concerts each year at K-State: the student/faculty/guest artist WinterDance concert in the fall semester, the faculty/guest artist SpringDance concert in the spring semester, and Student Spotlight each semester. Additional opportunities include musical theatre and opera productions; K-State TAP Dance Ensemble, a touring company; K-State African Dance Ensemble; and student concerts that provide experience in independent production planning and implementation. Check [k-state.edu/dance](http://k-state.edu/dance) for specific events and dates.

The dance program also presents lectures, demonstrations, performances and residencies for on-campus groups, community organizations and public schools.

**Financial assistance**

K-State dance students may receive both academic and professional study scholarships. Further scholarship information is available upon request.

## Suggested coursework

### Dance technique

Proficiency must be demonstrated by successful completion with a minimum grade of B in Level 3 in one technique and Level 2 in another. If a student enters the dance program with insufficient proficiency in a dance technique form, this may mean she or he will have to take several semesters of Level 1 (of that dance technique form) to achieve Level 2, and several semesters of levels 1 and 2 (of that dance technique form) to achieve Level 3.

Enrollment in a minimum of one technique course is required each semester for those seeking a dance minor or dance certificate. Dance technique courses include Ballet 1, Ballet 2, Ballet 3, Modern 1, Modern 2, Modern 3, Jazz 1, Jazz 2, Jazz 3, Tap 1, Tap 2 and Tap 3.

### Dance minor

Students are required to take all core courses and must earn a B or higher in a Level 2 course of one technique sequence and a Level 3 in another sequence. The total technique credits vary depending on whether or not a student auditions into Level 2 in any of the technique sequences. The outcome of auditions will determine if a student will be required to take three, four or five technique classes to fulfill the minor.

#### Requirements

##### Core courses

Hrs.	Courses
2	DANCE 195 Improvisational Structures
1	DANCE 200 Anatomy for Dancers
3	DANCE 205 Dance as an Art Form
1	DANCE 225 Principles of Rhythmic Notation
3	DANCE 295 Dance Composition I
2	DANCE 350 West African Styles of Social Dance and Music
0-1	DANCE 502 Performance Production
13	

##### Technique

6-10

##### Minor total

19-23

### Dance certificate

After completing a minor, students have the option to earn a dance certificate. This requires two courses — each three credit hours — chosen from the elective course offerings. Students must achieve level three proficiency in an additional technique, and take DANCE 510 Senior Project, earning 13 credits beyond the minor.

#### Requirements

##### Electives (chose two courses)

Hrs.	Courses
3	DANCE 405 Applied Movement Fundamentals
3	DANCE 495 Dance Composition II
3	DANCE 505 Methods and Materials for Teaching Dance

##### Electives Total

6

##### Minor and certificate total

32-36

#### For more information about dance, contact:

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#### For more information about Kansas State University, contact:

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Post-Graduation Statistics  
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats  
ksdegreestats.org