

Guide to Majors and programs

Dance

Mission

The goal of K-State'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 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.

The program

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 musical stage dance techniques as well as movement analysis/ styles, aesthetics, history, teaching methodology, fieldwork, production and dance-related technology.

Talent scholarships are available and are awarded each spring based on an audition and interview. Further scholarship information is available upon request.

Achievements

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

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.

K-State dance students frequently receive both academic and professional study scholarships. Faculty have received state, regional, national and international recognition for their scholarly, administrative and creative work.

Performance opportunities

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

The repertory of the dance program has included works by Doris Humphrey, Jose Limon, Isadora Duncan, Sean Curran, Susan Warden, Simone Forti, Naomi Goldberg, Karen Steele and Holly Williams, as well as faculty and student works, several of which were funded by grants and commissions.

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 www.k-state.edu/cstd/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.

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.

The full-time faculty is supplemented by guest artists, master classes and residencies of professional companies each semester. 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 contains four newly renovated multipurpose studios. All are shared with the theater program and feature 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 Modern Dance and Stage Movement.

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, jazz, theatre acting 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 and chair of the dance development board. It is primarily a theatre laboratory space, though directing, acting, improvisational and rehearsal classes are also taught in this studio.

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, an experimental space with a thrust stage and seating for 100; and Nichols Theatre, 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.

Dance program course requirements

A concentration in dance requires 41 to 44 hours and 6 hours in tool courses in other areas of the department of communication studies, theatre and dance:

Core

Hrs.	Courses	
2	DANCE 195	Improvisational Structures
1	DANCE 200	Anatomy for Dancers
3	DANCE 205	Dance as an Art Form
3	DANCE 220	Principles of Dance Technology
1	DANCE 225	Principles of Rhythmic Notation
3	DANCE 295	Dance Composition I
1	DANCE 321	Variations and Partnering
2	DANCE 380	Musical Stage Dance
3	DANCE 405	Applied Movement Fundamentals
3	DANCE 495	Dance Composition II
0-1	DANCE 502	Performance Production (minimum of three semesters)
3	DANCE 504	Performance Aesthetics
2	DANCE 505	Methods and Materials of Teaching Dance
1	DANCE 506	Dance Education Fieldwork
1	DANCE 510	Senior Project
2	THTRE 211	Drama Participation (with THTRE 267 and 368)
3	THTRE 261	Fundamentals of Acting
3	THTRE 267	Fundamentals of Stage Costume Design
3	THTRE 368	Fundamentals of Technical Production

Elective (Choose one)

2	ART 100	Design I
2	ART 190	Drawing I
3	DANCE 459	History of Dance in its Cultural Setting

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Dance minor course requirements

Students from various fields may pursue dance as a minor in related arts. The study of dance can offer broadened perspectives and direct professional application of movement for majors in theatre, music, visual arts, journalism and mass communications, education, anthropology/sociology, gender studies, pre-physical therapy, architecture, nutrition and kinesiology.

Requirements

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
1	DANCE 321	Variations and Partnering
2	DANCE 380	Musical Stage Dance
0	DANCE 420	Dance/Theatre lab (four semesters)
1-2	DANCE 502	Performance Production (minimum of three semesters)

Three hours from the following:

3	DANCE 405	Applied Movement Fundamentals
3	DANCE 495	Dance Composition II
3	DANCE 504	Performance Aesthetics
2	DANCE 505	Methods and Materials of Teaching Dance
and		
3	DANCE 220	Principles of Dance Technology
1	DANCE 506	Dance Education Fieldwork

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 Level 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 concentration in dance. Dance technique courses include Ballet 1, Ballet 2, Ballet 3, Modern 1, Modern 2, Modern 3, Jazz 1, Jazz 2 and Jazz 3.

For more information, contact:

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For more information about Kansas State University, contact:

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