

Dance Major

35 credit hours required.

The SUNY Potsdam dance program is housed in the Department of Theatre and Dance. A Bachelor of Arts degree is available to students who have a strong interest in dance and choose the dance major. Students may also choose to minor in dance, while pursuing another major or a double major. The goals for the B.A. program focus on preparing students for careers in the dance professions as artists and teachers, and to pursue graduate study. We strive to develop dance artists and educators who possess an integrated knowledge of the aesthetic, critical, historical, cultural, choreographic, and performance dimensions of the discipline of dance.

Through our close alignment with the theatre program students broaden their experiences and expand their interests in such areas as acting, technical theatre, and design. Every few years the Department of Theatre and Dance joins the Crane Opera Ensemble for a musical production: *Cabaret* (2002), *Working* (2004), and *Urinetown—The Musical* (2007).

Dance at SUNY Potsdam also allows for a wide variety of combinations of interdisciplinary work in such areas as theatre, music, psychology, community health, archeology, anthropology, history, business, and communication. These combined courses of study prepare students for further investigation and work in such fields as dance therapy, nutrition, fitness, dance ethnology, arts administration, and private studio ownership.

Students in the major program focus on two tracks: technique and composition. The dance curriculum is enriched through the study of such topics as improvisation, repertory, Laban Movement Analysis, dance education, history, Pilates-based conditioning, and yoga. Students' technique levels are determined during a placement class. Along with ongoing review in their dance coursework, students participate in end-of-year interviews with faculty to assess progress in all aspects of their dance studies.

Required Courses:

	Credits
DANC 211 Dance Improvisation	3
DANC 311 Dance Composition I	3
DANC 319 Movement, Theory and Notation	3
DANC 321 Modern Dance II (Fall)	4
DANC 322 Modern Dance II (Spring)	4

The Technique Track:

6 credit hours

DANC 234 Intermediate Ballet (Fall)	2
DANC 235 Intermediate Ballet (Spring)	2
DANC 421 Modern Dance III (Fall)	4
DANC 422 Modern Dance III (Spring)	4
DANC 441 Modern Dance IV (Fall)	4
DANC 442 Modern Dance IV (Spring)	4

The Composition Track:

6 credit hours

DANC 312 Dance Composition II	3
DANC 325 New Repertory	1
DANC 390 Special Problems in Dance Composition	1-3

DANC 411 Group Forms	3
DANC 498 Senior Project	1-3

The Enrichment Area:

6 credit hours

DANC 201 Dance as an Art Form	3
DANC 205 Production Techniques in Dance, Drama, and Music	3
DANC 302 Dance Education and Performance for Children (K-4)	4
DANC 391 Special Problems in Dance History	1-3
DANC 450 The Teaching of Dance	3
DANC 490 Special Problems in Teaching	3
DANC 491 Special Problems in Movement, Theory and Notation	3

Required Cognate Courses: (or approved substitute)

9 credit hours

DRAM 235 Acting I	3
PHIL 320 Aesthetics	3
Approved Music Cognate	3

Recommended Coursework Outside the Major:

Consult with a Dance adviser.

Special Notes:

1. An interview is required to declare a dance major. An audition is not currently required.
2. Appropriate technique levels for students are determined during a placement class. Only credit from the above-listed technique courses will be applied toward the fulfillment of the required technique track of the major. The focus of the technique track is modern dance. The academic adviser or program chair will determine applicable credit hours from other dance genres, such as ballet.
3. Students in the major are expected to focus on two tracks: technique and composition. They may then branch out into history, repertory, movement theory, and/or dance education.
4. A minimum of 16 credit hours for the major must be taken at the upper-division level.