

DANCE

- * WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN DANCE?
- * WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MYSELF MORE MARKETABLE?
- * WHERE CAN I FIND CAREER INFORMATION?

• CAREER PLANNING • SUNY POTSDAM • 106 SISSON
HOMEPAGE: www.potsdam.edu/career TEL: 315-267-2344

WHAT DANCERS DO TODAY:

1. Create and teach original dances for ballet, musicals or revue to be performed on stage, television, motion pictures or night clubs.
2. Entertain by performing rhythmic body movements to music to express or interpret ideas or tell a story.
3. Plan and carry out physical, mental, social or developmental recreational programs.

EXAMPLES OF FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR DANCE MAJORS:

1. Modeling Associations
2. Television
3. Advertising Agencies
4. Theaters
5. Dance Companies
6. Hospitals
7. Motion Picture Studios
8. Ships
9. Community Centers

WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH A MAJOR IN DANCE?

Bachelor's Degrees/Entry Level

- * Dancer/Dance Teacher
- * Movement Notator
- * Arts Administrator
- * Recreation Dance Leader
- * Dance Studio Owner/Manager
- * Ballroom Dance Instructor
- * Choreographer
- * Sales Representative

Further Education or Experience Often Required

- * Aerobics Instructor
- * Fund-raiser
- * Cruise Director
- * Model
- * Dance Therapist
- * Dance Talent Agent
- * Booking Agent
- * Dance Critic

SAMPLE JOB TITLES OF SUNY COLLEGE AT POTSDAM ALUMNI:

- * Dancer
- * Assistant Office Manager
- * Accountant
- * Committee Analyst
- * Art Teacher
- * Combat Documentation and Production Specialist
- * Dance Teacher
- * Flight Attendant
- * Owner/Doctor of Chiropractic
- * Dancer/Choreographer



SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Dance Therapist: uses movement to enhance physical and emotional health. The Dance Therapist may work with a child with a physical disability or an adult with a severe emotional disorder.
2. Choreographer: creates and teaches original dances for ballet, modern musicals and reviews performed for live stage, TV, movies, or night club performances. They audition, select and coach the performers. They may direct performances.
3. Model: assumes different poses for photographers. They might speak, sing, dance, or demonstrate products in TV commercials, at trade shows, or convention services.
4. Cruise Director: responsible for all entertainment activities on board ships as well as any planned on shore. Meet with public, run passenger entertainment programs, social parties and single parties. The director, along with the staff, act as hosts and hostesses to the passengers.

ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY:

1. Get involved in the career development process early, freshman year.
2. Select minors/elective courses that will demonstrate interest/applicability to your career objective.
3. Get work experience: cooperative education programs, INTERNSHIPS, volunteer and summer employment.
4. Develop the following job search and self-marketing skills: resume writing, cover letters, portfolios, employer research, interviewing, networking, and employment searching.
5. Skills to develop: anatomical understanding of how the body works, ability to relate well to people, ability to choreograph dances, patience and perseverance, administrative ability, good perceptual-motor coordination.

SAMPLE HANDS ON INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE:

- * Pacific Dance Centre
 - The Pacific Dance Centre is composed of 3 entities: 1) Dance Center- a dance school with classes in all forms of dance for children, teenagers and adults; 2) Pacific Dance Company- a freelance company with Pat Farmer as choreographer; have performed in site specific settings and in commercials; and 3) Pacific Foundation for the Performing Arts-dance performance and dance therapy to special populations (mentally ill, handicapped and the disabled), where the focus is to achieve therapeutic improvement through dance).
- * Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre Summer Workshop
 - The Dell'Arte Players Company is a professional award-winning touring company which specializes in a distinct modern approach to traditional comedy forms. They teach and perform nationally and internationally; when not on tour they are in residence as faculty of the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre. Seven workshop are offered, two weeks each, between mid-June and Labor Day. All workshops take place in the Dell'Arte School .

STRATEGIES FOR CONTACTING EMPLOYERS:

- * resume and cover letter writing
- * preparing for an interview
- * job search strategies
- * portfolios
- * networking
- * networking cards
- * use SUNY College at Potsdam's Career Planning reference books
- * use SUNY College at Potsdam's Career Planning Internet Homepage

SOME EMPLOYERS OF SUNY COLLEGE AT POTSDAM DANCE ALUMNI:

- * Windover Center for Performing Arts
- * Community Behavioral Services
- * Chilmark Pottery
- * Camillus Dance Center
- * Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company
- * Northwest Airlines
- * Clinical Chiropractic Center
- * New York State Sente Insurance
- * Cortland Copy Plus

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:

1. DANCE DEPT., SUNY College at Potsdam, 110 Dunn Hall

- * talk with faculty

2. CAREER PLANNING CENTER, SUNY College at Potsdam, 106 Sisson Hall

- * individual career assistance
- * workshops/seminars
- * employer literature
- * SUNYCDO Job Fair
- * computerized assessment programs
- * career testing
- * networking assistance
- * free handouts available
- * job vacancies
- * summer jobs
- * reference file
- * career fairs
- * Career Planning Internet Homepage
- * career library
- * alumni contacts

WHAT IF I WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL?

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING CENTER:

- * graduate school handout
- * GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and MAT forms and bulletins
(GRE computerized tests and graduate study books)
- * graduate books-schools and programs
- * financial aid information about graduate school
- * Peterson's Graduate Programs (G7F,G,H,I,J,K)

RESOURCES FOR FINDING EMPLOYERS:

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING CENTER:

- * Career Guide Opportunity Directory (R8B)
- * Dun's Regional Directories (R5I), (R5J), (R5K)
- * Job Hunter's Sourcebook (H9B)
- * The New Careers Directory (I6C)
- * National Directory of Arts Internships (I5A)
- * Making a Living In The Fine Arts: Advice From The Pros (C5C)
- * Summer Theatre Directory (S4B)
- * Arts Search (V9A)
- * Entertainment Employment Journal (V6A)
- * Current Jobs In Art (V2A)

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT CRUMB LIBRARY:

- * Theatre Crafts Directory (REF PN2289.T48)
- * Handel's National Directory For The Performing Arts and Civic Centers (REF PN2289.N35)
- * Theatre Profiles (REF PN2266.T48)

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- * National Dance Association
1900 Association Drive
Reston, VA 22091
(703) 476-3400
- * National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts
3915 Biscayne Blvd.
1st Floor
Miami, FL
(305) 377-1140 or (800) 970-ARTS
- * American Dance Guild
31 W. 21st Street
3rd Floor
New York, NY 10010
(212)627-3790
- * Dance Educators of America
P.O. Box 509
Oceanside, NY 11572
(516)766-6615

