

DANCE, BFA

Overview

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance prepares you to perform and create original dance choreography for theatrical productions. You'll complete rigorous technical and creative curriculum in traditional and contemporary dance forms, as well as coursework in mind-body practices, pedagogy, culture, theory and history. Our integrated program prepares you to become critical thinkers, creative leaders and expressive dance artists.

Special workshops and residencies are also scheduled throughout the academic year to provide opportunities for you to train with well-known guest artists and choreographers. Included in these residencies are performances and technique and repertory classes. Recent guest artists have included Jackie Lopez, Katy Pyle, Vershawn Ward, Melanie George, Kia Smith, Parijat Desai, Alfonso Cervera, Aysha Upchurch and Joe Goode.

Request Info (<https://uwm.edu/arts/request-information/>) | Visit (<https://uwm.edu/arts/visit/>) | Apply (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>)

Faculty and Staff

Our inspirational faculty and staff make sure students feel welcome and empowered to think outside the box and explore all possibilities of making art at UWM. Visit the Peck School of the Arts directory (<https://uwm.edu/arts/directory/>) to meet these artists, explore their biographies and engage with recent work.

Scholarships and Aid

Financial constraints shouldn't hinder your artistic dreams. Our comprehensive range of scholarships and aid programs (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/scholarships-aid/>) is designed to empower and support artists like you.

Study Abroad

We believe that a complete education in the arts should take you beyond the classroom and the local community. By studying abroad, you'll gain more than a change of scenery. You'll embark on a transformative educational experience and bring a global perspective to your field of study. Explore upcoming trips (<https://uwmilwaukee.studioabroad.com/?FuseAction=Programs.AdvancedSearch>) offered in partnership with the Center for International Education.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Undergraduate applicants must meet general University admission requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/admission-costs/undergraduate-admission/>) in addition to specific Peck School of the Arts requirements (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>).

Undergraduate Advising

Academic advising is a collaborative process that empowers students to realize their maximum educational potential. Students are encouraged to visit the Peck School of the Arts Advising & Student Services page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/advising/>) to meet with your advisor prior to each semester's registration period. Advisors provide students with individualized appointments to assist with degree requirements,

course selection, campus resources, college success strategies, graduation assessment, academic policies and more.

Laptop Requirement

Preparing for a future defined by digital technology is an important step in developing artists. Our digitally integrated curriculum helps you achieve a professional level with leading art-related software and practices.

Laptop ownership is strongly recommended for *all* students. However, it's required for most majors. For more information, please visit the Peck School of the Arts admission page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>).

Advance to Major and Retention

Each undergraduate dance major's coursework will be reviewed at the end of their sophomore year to determine continuance in the major, as part of the mid-program portfolio review. Students must maintain a 3.0+ GPA in the dance major.

All students are expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to their health and overall conditioning to fulfill the department's academic requirements. Each student's ability to undertake the demands of the dance program, including their overall physical ability to perform in classes, auditions, rehearsals, and/or performances, will be a factor in the following: grading at the end of each semester; the audition/rehearsal/performance process for department productions and outreach events; the mid-program portfolio review; determining "probation" status; and potentially removing a student from the program.

Credits and Courses

Code	Title	Credits
	University Core	42
	Dance Technique	38
	Dance Creative	21
	Dance Academic	14
	Dance Electives	5
	Total Credits	120

University Core

The minimum number of credits required to complete the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Fine Arts is 120. Students who need background preparation courses in math, English, foreign language, and chemistry may need additional credits.

Code	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements ¹		
<i>Competencies ¹</i>		
	Oral and Written Communication – Part A and Part B ²	
	Quantitative Literacy (QL) – Part A and Part B ²	
	Foreign Language ²	
<i>Distribution Requirements ¹</i>		
	Humanities	6
	Natural Sciences (Must include one lab)	6
	Social Sciences	6
	Cultural Diversity ²	
Electives		
	Additional Electives	12
	Credits in Peck School of the Arts ³	9

University Credits	3
Total Credits	42

¹ Learn more about the General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>).

² Credits may be utilized in required curriculum areas.

³ Chosen from three of the following departments in PSOA: Art & Design, Fine Arts, Theatre, or Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres.

Please note: For all Dance majors and minors, dance courses with a grade C- or below will not be counted toward any departmental degree.

Dance Foundations Curriculum

Students in the BFA dance degree program must complete the following Dance Foundations curriculum in their freshman year:

Code	Title	Credits
DANCE 111	Ballet I	3
DANCE 113	Modern Dance Technique I	3
DANCE 122	African Dance & Diaspora Technique I	3
DANCE 170	Hip-Hop Foundations I	3
DANCE 233	Improvisation for Dancemaking	3
DANCE 192	Freshmen Seminar	1
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble	1
Total Credits		17

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Dance Technique Courses		
<i>Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition</i>		
Minimum of 2 semesters.		6
DANCE 113	Modern Dance Technique I	
DANCE 114	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition II	
<i>Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition</i>		
Minimum of 2 semesters.		6
DANCE 111	Ballet I	
DANCE 112	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition II	
<i>African Dance & Diaspora</i>		
Minimum of 2 semesters.		6
DANCE 122	African Dance & Diaspora Technique I	
DANCE 123	African Dance & Diaspora Technique II	
<i>Hip Hop Dance</i>		
Minimum of 2 semesters.		6
DANCE 170	Hip-Hop Foundations I	
DANCE 270	Hip-Hop II	
<i>Advanced Dance Technique Study</i>		
Choose 6 credits from the following:		6
DANCE 213	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition III	
DANCE 214	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition IV	

DANCE 317	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition V	
DANCE 318	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition VI	
DANCE 211	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition III	
DANCE 212	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition IV	
DANCE 311	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition V	
DANCE 312	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition VI	
DANCE 222	African Dance & Diaspora Technique III	
DANCE 223	African Dance & Diaspora Technique IV	
DANCE 322	African Dance & Diaspora Technique V	
DANCE 350	Hip Hop III	
DANCE 417	Hip Hop IV	
<i>Physical Practice (Dance Technique)</i>		
Minimum of 6 semesters. ⁴		12
DANCE 425	Physical Practice	
<i>Somatic and Conditioning Practices</i>		
Choose minimum 4 credits from the following:		4
DANCE 103	Introduction to Yoga	
DANCE 220	Body Sense	
DANCE 321	Alexander Technique for the Performer	
DANCE 323	Body Conditioning: Pilates Method	
DANCE 403	Intermediate Yoga	
DANCE 623	Body Conditioning: Pilates Method II	
DANCE 624	Somatic Pedagogy and Practice	
Dance Creative Courses		
DANCE 231	Music and Dancers I	3
DANCE 233	Improvisation for Dancemaking ⁵	3
DANCE 352	Digital Media Portfolio for Performers	3
DANCE 412	Dance Composition I ⁵	3
DANCE 413	Dance Composition II	3
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble ^{6,7}	3
DANCE 601	Senior Project	3
Dance Academic Courses		
DANCE 192	Freshmen Seminar	1
DANCE 209	Dance Production ⁵	2
DANCE 251	Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis	3
DANCE 314	Contemporary Dance History	3
DANCE 371	Dance Anatomy & Kinesiology	3
DANCE 460	Teaching Dance in Community Settings	3
Dance Elective Courses		
Choose 3 credits from the following:		3
DANCE 110	Bodies in Motion: Dance, Identity and Culture	
DANCE 115	Jazz Dance I	
DANCE 116	Jazz Dance II	
DANCE 117	Tap I	
DANCE 309	Dance Production Practicum	
DANCE 319	Dance Service-Learning	

DANCE 321	Alexander Technique for the Performer
DANCE 323	Body Conditioning: Pilates Method
DANCE 327	Dance for the Musical Theatre I
DANCE 370	World Movement Traditions:
DANCE 403	Intermediate Yoga
DANCE 414	Dance Composition III
DANCE 420	Creating Dance in the Community
DANCE 421	Alexander Technique Practicum
DANCE 427	Dance for the Musical Theatre II
DANCE 489	Workshop in Dance:
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble
DANCE 491	Repertory/Student Choreographer
DANCE 497	Study Abroad in Dance:
Total Credits	85

⁴ If a BFA major is not enrolled in DANCE 490, they may substitute DANCE 425 up to 2x with another dance technique course (2-3 credits).

⁵ Coursework involved in MPPR guidelines.

⁶ Any dancer cast in faculty or guest artist choreography must be enrolled in a section of DANCE 425: Physical Practice associated with the section of DANCE 490 they are registered for. If there is no DANCE 425 associated with the section of DANCE 490 they are registered for, they must enroll in another dance technique course (2-3 credits).

⁷ Per departmental policy, any time a student is cast in a faculty or guest artist work and is enrolled for less than 18 credits, they must enroll in DANCE 490 for 1 credit during the appropriate semester.

Sample Plan of Study

Year 1		
Fall	Credits	
DANCE 111	Ballet I	3
DANCE 122	African Dance & Diaspora Technique I	3
DANCE 192	Freshmen Seminar	1
DANCE 209	Dance Production ¹	2
University Core		6
Credits		15
Spring		
DANCE 113	Modern Dance Technique I	3
DANCE 170	Hip-Hop Foundations I	3
DANCE 233	Improvisation for Dancemaking	3
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble	1
University Core		6
Credits		16
Year 2		
Fall	Credits	
One of two technique courses: DANCE 114 or DANCE 270		3
DANCE 412	Dance Composition I ²	3
DANCE 425	Physical Practice	2
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble ³	1
University Core		6
Credits		15
Spring		
One of two technique courses: DANCE 112 or DANCE 123		3
Somatic Course (see list of courses in requirements)		2-3
DANCE 231	Music and Dancers I ²	3
DANCE 371	Dance Anatomy & Kinesiology	3
DANCE 425	Physical Practice	2

University Core		3
Credits		16-17
Year 3		
Fall		
One of two technique courses: DANCE 213 or DANCE 350		3
DANCE 251	Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis (QL-B)	3
DANCE 314	Contemporary Dance History	3
DANCE 425	Physical Practice	2
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble ³	1
University Core		6
Credits		18
Spring		
One of two technique courses: DANCE 211 or DANCE 222		3
Dance Elective (see list on Requirements tab)		2 or 3
DANCE 413	Dance Composition II	3
DANCE 425	Physical Practice	2
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble	1
University Core		6
Credits		17-18
Year 4		
Fall		
One of two technique courses: DANCE 214 or DANCE 417		3
DANCE 425	Physical Practice	2
DANCE 460	Teaching Dance in Community Settings	3
DANCE 601	Senior Project	3
University Core		3
Credits		14
Spring		
One of two technique courses: DANCE 212 or DANCE 223		3
Somatic Course (see list of courses in requirements)		2-3
DANCE 352	Digital Media Portfolio for Performers	3
DANCE 425	Physical Practice	2
University Core		6
Credits		16-17
Total Credits		127-130

¹ DANCE 209: Dance Production is currently offered every other year. Hence students will take it either the fall of their freshman or sophomore year.

² Coursework involved in MPPR guidelines.

³ Per departmental policy, any time a student is cast in a faculty or guest artist work and is enrolled for less than 18 credits, they must enroll in DANCE 490 for 1 credit during the appropriate semester.

Dance, BFA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with the BFA in Dance will be able to:

- Demonstrate efficient body organization, effective body and spatial awareness, and physical understanding of movement patterns within their individual dance practice.
- Apply, articulate, and embody the social, cultural, and historical contexts expressed within diverse dance forms.
- Demonstrate and explain the musical components of diverse dance forms finding the intersections between music and dance.
- Utilize and integrate somatic movement practices into their dance training, teaching, and creative process.
- Develop choreographic skills through ongoing composition practices that utilize collaborative processes leading to self-expression, performance, and community building.

- Create choreographic works through individualized research that engage social, cultural, and/or artistic contexts.
- Demonstrate critical thinking by interpreting and analyzing dance through effective communication.
- Articulate the ways dance impacts and is influenced by diverse ways of knowing self and culture.

Policies and Regulations

Academic Regulations

For information on University-wide Academic Action Policy and honors for scholarship, see Academic Policies (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/>).

Auditing Courses

No studio or performance courses may be audited.

Declaration of Submajor

In most instances, after two years of basic preparatory courses in the major, students choose an area of specialization within their respective departments, known as a submajor. Students must declare a submajor after they have accumulated 45 to 75 credits to assure completion of the appropriate curriculum requirements for graduation.

Grievance and Appeal Procedures

If you have concerns about a class or a grade, or if you've been dropped from a program and would like to appeal, follow the grievance procedures found under the resources section on the Peck School of the Arts Advising & Student Services page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/advising/>).

Independent Study

Under special conditions, juniors and seniors are permitted to take courses in independent study. For regulations on independent study, see the departmental advisor.

Program Changes

All program changes must be signed by the instructor and the Peck School of the Arts Office of Student Services. Certain other courses may also require this approval indicated in the semester's *Schedule of Classes*.

Second Bachelor's Degree Candidates

Students with good scholastic records who wish to earn a second bachelor's degree in the Peck School of the Arts must obtain the recommendation of the Peck School of the Arts department in which they wish to major before they can be accepted. Upon acceptance, students must earn in residence a minimum of 30 credits beyond the studies for the first degree and must satisfy all curriculum requirements.

Semester Credit Load

A full-time Peck School of the Arts student is one who takes a minimum of 12 credits per semester. Typically, Peck School of the Arts students are not permitted to carry more than 18 credits per semester. Students who have a 3.0+ cumulative GPA may, with the permission of the Peck School of the Arts Office of Student Services, carry up to 21 credits per semester.

Transfer Students

Transfer students from other universities and colleges or UWM units are accepted by the Peck School of the Arts provided they meet the UWM admissions criteria and have a 2.0+ cumulative GPA.

Honors in the Major

- **Honors in the Major** is granted to students who have earned a GPA of 3.500 or greater in the major and the academic department's recommendation.
- **High Honors in the Major** is granted to students who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or greater and the academic department's recommendation.
- **Departmental Honors** are granted to students recommended by their academic department for Honors excellence in performance not reflected in the GPA.
- **Dean's Honors** are granted to students with major achievements in one or more of the arts.

College of the Arts and Architecture Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.

Contact Information

Advising & Student Services
Theatre Building, Room 120

<https://uwm.edu/arts/contact/>