DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

Dance Undergraduate Programs

The Department of Dance offers the Bachelor of Arts in Dance and the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance degrees. A minor in dance is available to students in all majors.

Courses

DANC 100. Introduction to the Dance Major. 1 Hour H.
This is a 6 week online course designed to identify what is unique about the KU Dance experience, and to introduce students to the requirements for a BA or BFA degree. The course examines issues of academic integrity, informs students about academic support available to them, familiarizes students with the expectations of a dance major and suggests career opportunities for dance majors. Students complete five modules: Getting Started, Programs and Degrees, Academic Integrity and Support, Expectations and Career Pathways to provide a foundation for academic success in the major. LEC.

DANC 101. Ballet I. 2 Hours.
Classical and modern approaches to the language of ballet for beginners. May be repeated for credit. Does not count toward the dance major requirements. ACT.

DANC 103. Modern Contemporary I. 2 Hours.
Dance technique for beginners with precedents in the movement vocabularies of Isadora Duncan, Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Merce Cunningham, and the seminal choreographers of modern dance. May be repeated for credit. Does not count toward the dance major requirements. ACT.

DANC 105. Jazz I. 2 Hours.
Dance technique for beginners based on elements of Latino, African, popular and classical jazz dance forms. May be repeated for credit. Does not count toward the dance major requirements. ACT.

DANC 108. Pas de Deux. 1 Hour.
The elements of classical ballet partnering (pas de deux) are explored. These elements include supported poses, turns, lifts, and their coordination between the partners. For men only. Women enroll in Pointe and Pas de Deux, DANC 307. May be repeated for credit. ACT.

DANC 109. Men's Ballet. 2 Hours.
An introduction to classical ballet focusing on the particular requirements of the male ballet technique including leaps, turns, batterie, and their presentation. May be repeated for credit. ACT.

DANC 150. Choreography I. 2 Hours H.
The introductory-level course in a series of four composition courses (DANC 150, 250, 350 and 550). Includes basic exploration of improvisation: movement studies for solo figure, movement themes for duet, trio, and larger groups; and dances for non-traditional performing spaces both indoors and outdoors. Students will learn fundamental ingredients of dance (space, time, weight, and energy flow) and how to organize them into short compositional forms such as ABA, verse/refrain, or narrative. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 177. First Year Seminar: ______. 3 Hours GE11 / U.
A limited-enrollment, seminar course for first-time freshmen, addressing current issues in Dance. Course is designed to meet the critical thinking learning outcome of the KU Core. First-Year Seminar topics are coordinated and approved by the Office of First-Year Experience. Prerequisite: First-time freshman status. LEC.

DANC 201. Ballet III. 1–2 Hours H.
Intermediate level technique in classical and modern approaches to the language of ballet. May be repeated for variable credit. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 203. Modern III. 1-2 Hours H.
Intermediate level technique. May be repeated for variable credit. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 210. Rhythms and Structures of Music. 3 Hours H.
An introduction to the analysis and use of rhythms and the compositional forms of music for dance. LEC.

DANC 211. Ballet II. 2 Hours.
Classical and modern approaches to ballet technique for low intermediate dancers. May be repeated for credit. Counts toward the B.A. in Dance and Dance Minor requirements. Prerequisite: DANC 101 or consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 213. Modern Contemporary II. 2 Hours.
Dance technique for low intermediate dancers with precedents in the movement vocabularies of classical modernists and contemporary choreographers of dance. May be repeated for credit. Counts toward the B.A. and the Minor in dance requirements. Prerequisite: DANC 103 or permission of instructor. LAB.

DANC 215. Jazz II. 2 Hours.
Dance technique for experienced beginners based on elements of Latino, African, popular and classical jazz dance forms. May be repeated for credit. Counts toward the B.A. and Minor in dance requirements. Prerequisite: DANC 105 or consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 220. Dance Performance. 1 Hour.
A dance repertory and performance class with emphasis on developing skills for performing ballet, modern, jazz, historic, and/or forms of theatrical dance. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: 200- or 300-level dance technique course. ACT.

DANC 240. Introduction to Classical East Indian Dance. 3 Hours.
Classical East Indian dance has an extensive movement vocabulary that emphasizes the coordination of rhythmic foot patterns with intricate hand gestures. Students will learn the mudras (hand gestures) and their significance and integration within each dance. Readings will include excerpts from the Natya Sastra and other treatises of East Indian dance and culture. LEC.

DANC 250. Choreography II. 2 Hours H.
The intermediate course in a series of four composition courses (DANC 150, DANC 250, DANC 350 and DANC 550.) Includes more complex exploration of improvisation; movement studies for solo figure, movement themes for duet, trio, and larger groups; and dances for non-traditional performing spaces both indoors and outdoors. Students will further develop the ingredients of dance (space, time, weight, and energy flow) and how to organize them into studies including compositional forms such as ABA, verse/refrain, or narrative. Prerequisite: DANC 150 or consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 260. Musical Theatre Dance. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on the dance and movement vocabulary uniquely associated with musical theatre productions, as well as a variety of popular dance styles from the 1920s to the present. Performance techniques for the stage are emphasized. LAB.

Department of Dance
DANC 290. Sophomore Review. 0 Hours H.
The Sophomore Review of all majors in the BA program in Dance provides an assessment of student progress in the degree. Transfer students to the BA program participate in the year following their admission to KU. The review process consists of verification that students are making academic progress: Students should have an overall GPA of 2.0; a self-evaluation composed of written responses to a series of questions about their own artistic, technical and discipline-specific academic progress in the program; a faculty evaluation comprised of written feedback on each student's artistic, technical and discipline-specific academic progress in the program; and participation in at least one speedback session prior to the end of the second year. Speedback is a feedback process modeled on the speed dating format. All majors sit with faculty members for 5-minute intervals to receive individual feedback. Students engage with professors with whom they have been in technique class or rehearsal for the current year. There are no prerequisites for entry into the course. The completion of the course will be a prerequisite for enrollment in DANC 550 Senior Project. LEC.

DANC 307. Pointe and Pas de Deux. 2 Hours.
An introduction to pointe and classical partnering work for the intermediate/advanced female ballet dancer, with equal emphasis on pointe technique and style, and on classical repertory for couples. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 308. Pas de Deux. 1 Hour.
The exploration of classical ballet partnering (pas de deux) including supported poses, lifts, turns, and their coordination between the partners. For men only. Women enroll in Pointe and Pas de Deux, DANC 307. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 309. Men's Ballet. 2 Hours.
A continuation of the study of male classical ballet technique including leaps, turns, batterie, and their presentation. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 310. Music for Dance. 3 Hours.
An examination of music as accompaniment for dance in both classroom and performance settings. Students will listen and analyze music from various historic periods to develop the skills necessary to select music appropriate for choreography. They will learn techniques for working with accompanists and composers. Prerequisite: DANC 210 or consent of instructor. LEC.

DANC 311. Ballet III. 3 Hours H.
Advanced level technique in classical and modern approaches to the language of ballet. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Instructor consent. LAB.

DANC 313. Modern/Contemporary III. 3 Hours H.
Dance technique for intermediate/advanced dancers with precedents in the movement vocabularies of classical modernists and contemporary choreographers of dance. May be repeated for credit. Counts toward the B.A., B.F.A., and the Minor in dance requirements. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 315. Jazz III. 3 Hours H.
Dance technique for intermediate dancers based on elements of Latino, African, popular and classical jazz dance forms. May be repeated for variable credit. Prerequisite: DANC 105 or consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 320. University Dance Company. 0-1 Hours.
A dance repertory, performance and production class. Emphasis is on the development of skills for performing and/or producing dance concerts. Admission by audition only. May be repeated for credit. IND.

DANC 330. Approaches to World Dance. 3 Hours HL AE42 / H.
This course examines dance forms from throughout the world and how they relate to the times and cultures in which they evolved. Dance forms such as African, East Indian classical, European court dance, ballet, modern, and jazz will be studied through readings, master classes, live performances, videotapes, and films. Prerequisite: 200-level English course. LEC.

DANC 334. Introduction to African Dance Theatre. 2 Hours NW / U.
An introduction to the general techniques of non-verbal theatrical conventions in African cultures. Practical training in movement vocabulary will be supplemented by lectures on the "text" of performance. (Same as AAAS 334 and THR 334.) LEC.

DANC 350. Choreography III. 3 Hours H.
The advanced course in a series of four composition courses (DANC 150, DANC 250, DANC 350 and DANC 550.) Includes in-depth development of improvisation: movement studies for solo figure, movement themes for duet, trio, and larger groups; and dances for non-traditional performing spaces both indoors and outdoors. Students will develop increasingly complex studies of dance (space, time, weight, and energy flow) including compositional forms such as ABA, verse/refrain, or narrative. Prerequisite: DANC 250 or consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 375. Anatomy and Injury Prevention. 3 Hours H.
Basic concepts of neuromuscular and skeletal education through the use of specific imagery (ideokinesis). Based on the work of Mabel Todd, Lulu Sweigard, and Irmgard Bartenieff, the emphasis is on body connectedness and dynamic alignment. The aim is to realize full movement potential in the most efficient way through intrinsic body awareness. Injury prevention is addressed by introducing principles of conditioning (strength, flexibility, endurance) and factors leading to injury such as muscular imbalances or postural deviations. LEC.

DANC 411. Ballet IV. 3 Hours H.
Advanced level technique in classical and modern approaches to the language of ballet. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 413. Modern Contemporary IV. 3 Hours H.
Dance technique for advanced dancers with precedents in the movement vocabularies of classical modernists and contemporary choreographers of dance. May be repeated for credit. Counts toward the B.A., B.F.A., and the Minor in dance requirements. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 415. Jazz IV. 3 Hours.
Dance technique for advanced dancers based on elements of Latino, African, popular and classical jazz dance forms. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 420. Introduction to Videography and Website Design for Dance. 3 Hours H.
This is a hands-on course exploring digital video technology for dance. Students are introduced to video and website production as well as the time management skills necessary to engage the multi-faceted project that is dance video. We will cover video techniques for recording dance; video editing; collaborating with national and international sites and artists; and self-promotion and marketing strategies with video and websites. The final project will be the creation of a video website for each student. No previous video editing experience is required. Prerequisite: Basic computer literacy. LEC.
DANC 430. Dance for Children. 3 Hours.
Methods and materials for teaching creative dance and the fundamentals of dance technique to children. Lessons are prepared and tested in the classroom and then presented to elementary school children. Prerequisite: DANC 313 or consent of instructor. LEC.

DANC 440. Introduction to Classical East Indian Dance. 3 Hours NW AE42.
Classical East Indian dance has an extensive movement vocabulary that emphasizes the coordination of rhythmic foot patterns with intricate hand gestures. Students will learn the mudras (hand gestures) and their significance and integration within each dance. Readings will include excerpts from the Natya Sastra and other treatises of East Indian dance and culture. LEC.

DANC 460. Dance History: Research and Reconstruction. 3 Hours HL AE42 / H.
Through research and reconstruction, students will examine major topics in dance history, such as the meaning and function of dance in pre-industrial societies, communal and court dance in Europe from the 14th to the 19th centuries, and the transformation and development of dance as a theatre art in the modern world. Texts by dance historians and treatises by dancing masters will be supplemented by readings from fields, such as anthropology, philosophy, art history, and literature, that indicate the different ways of approaching the history of dance. LEC.

DANC 475. Career Preparation in the Arts. 3 Hours H.
Designed to provide an overview of key areas in career preparation in the arts, including resume writing, audition skills, professional speaking, grant writing and development, publicity and marketing strategies, developing relationships with presenters and funders, and audience education. Through readings, class discussion, guest lectures with professionals, and projects based on real-life scenarios, students develop tools to further their careers in the arts. This focused study also provides individuals with the direction and means to employ their training in the field of performing arts administration and management at many different levels. This course prepares students for their entry into the professional arts marketplace. LEC.

DANC 490. Introduction to Flamenco Dance Technique. 3 Hours AE42/GE3H.
Using the basic compas (rhythmic structures) of Flamenco, we will explore the different components of flamenco dance technique: floreo (spiralizing fingers), brazeo (arm movements), palmas (rhythmic hand-clapping), marcaje (marking, or movement through space), vueltas (turns) and zapateado (footwork). We will cultivate an awareness of flamenco’s unique posture, learn the structure of the different rhythmic forms and introduce the possibilities for personal expression and improvisation. LEC.

DANC 498. Directed Study in: ____. 1-3 Hours.
Investigation of a special topic or project in aesthetics, dance history, movement analysis, production, or a creative project. A maximum of six hours may be counted toward graduation. Prerequisite: At least seven hours of credit in dance courses. IND.

DANC 520. Pedagogy. 3 Hours H.
Methods and materials designed to address the needs of teaching artists across genres of dance (ballet, modern/contemporary, jazz, creative movement) among children, adults and special populations. Lessons are prepared and tested in the classroom among peers. Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor. LAB.

DANC 530. Practicum in: ____. 1 Hour.
Supervised experience in teaching beginning level dance technique in the styles of ballet, jazz, or modern dance. Different approaches are analyzed, discussed, and tested in the studio. Prerequisite: Intermediate level of dance technique in the style of the practicum. FLD.

DANC 540. Field Experience in Dance Teaching. 3 Hours.
Teaching ballet, modern, or jazz dance technique to children or adults with faculty supervision in an academic or community program. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. FLD.

DANC 550. Senior Project. 3 Hours AE61.
In-depth research project in dance theory or history, or choreography project involving the complete development and presentation of a dance idea. Prerequisite: Performance option: DANC 320, DANC 350, DANC 290 (for BA students only) and permission of the dance division. Research option: DANC 340, DANC 370, DANC 375, DANC 460, DANC 462, DANC 290 (for BA students only) and permission of the dance division. IND.

DANC 580. Special Topics in Dance: ____. 3 Hours.
A study of current developments in dance with an emphasis on performance or research. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing or consent of instructor. LAB.

DANC 598. Seminar in Dance. 3 Hours.
Special studies in dance. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing and consent of instructor. LEC.

DANC 735. Analysis, Criticism, and Choreography. 3 Hours.
The choreographic approaches of outstanding dance masters of the past (for example, Marius Petipa and Isadora Duncan) and present (for example, Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham) will be analyzed in terms of their handling of gesture, time, space, structure, and meaning. Students will be expected to seek out and study readings, photographs, and films in order to do written and performance projects based on the choreographic principles of old and new masters in ballet and modern dance. Prerequisite: A course in dance choreography or consent of instructor. LEC.

DANC 898. Directed Study in: ____. 1-3 Hours.
Directed study in some aspect of aesthetics, dance history, movement analysis, production, or an advanced creative project. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. IND.