

### DANCE

<http://dance.gmu.edu>

#### **Name and description of the field.**

The study of Dance is an opportunity for students with aspirations toward professional careers in performance, choreography or dance education to pursue training and more general study that encourages creativity.

Professionally trained dancers with undergraduate degrees may use their skills in the following areas:

- **Performing** -- dance companies (local, national, international), commercial theatre, musical theatre, film and television, public events
- **Choreography** -- dance companies, dance schools and private studios, high school and college musicals, commercial and dinner theaters, film and television, public events, university dance programs
- **Dance Education** -- dance studios, elementary, secondary and private schools, health club programs, recreation and community centers
- **Consulting** -- theatre programs, gymnastics, athletic programs
- **Arts Administration** – program development, artist support
- **Body Therapies** – massage therapy, dance therapy, health resource management

#### **What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?**

Though some dancers discover their talents during college study, almost all Dance majors have had previous training and enter the university at an intermediate level of technical skill.

#### **If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?**

Two undergraduate degree programs are offered in Dance. The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is specifically designed for students with firm professional goals or who discover their goals soon after entering undergraduate study. The B.F.A. degree allows students to devote a large portion of their college career to intensive dance study, including the physically demanding rigors of the studio, as well as the development of creative and intellectual awareness and a sense of artistic accomplishment. It is also the preferred degree for students planning graduate study.

The B.F.A. degree program is a modern Dance major with concentrated study in performance and choreography. Technical training includes ballet and jazz, with a strong emphasis on modern dance. Theoretical studies in dance include composition, improvisation, history, dynamic alignment, rhythmic analysis, teaching principles, performance, production and choreography. Because of the professional nature of this degree, the program requires 126 hours of course work.

The B.A. degree is a more general program of study allowing the student insights into a broad range of creative and educational experiences while pursuing a liberal arts degree. In addition to general degree requirements for a B.A. degree, Dance majors must complete a minimum of 47 hours in dance. A total of 120 semester hours is required for the Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Dance.

Performance is an important and integral part of the curriculum for both B.F.A. and B.A. candidates. The George Mason University Dance Company provides a wide range of both performance and production experiences. The Company produces five formal concerts a year and several events of an experimental nature. These concerts allow Dance students the opportunity for performing works of their own choreography as well as those by faculty and guest artists.

Acceptance into all dance degree programs is by audition. Auditions are scheduled in November, February, March and April. Interested students should refer to the Dance Department web site: [dance.gmu.edu](http://dance.gmu.edu) for audition information. Transfer students are also required to audition. Approval for the Dance program does not mean that a student has been admitted to the university. For further information regarding university admittance procedures, please contact the Office of Admissions.

#### **What are recent graduates doing?**

Recent graduates of the Dance program at George Mason are involved in all professional aspects of dance. Alumni are performing with Mark Morris Dance Group, and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. Others direct their own companies which tour nationally and internationally. Graduates are also directors of dance performance spaces, directors of studios, teachers, arts managers, health professionals, therapists, videographers, musical theater performers, and college faculty.

## EXPLORING MAJORS

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**Career Library Resources & Job Hunting Information Online (links to associations and other useful sites)** – Go to [http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/danc\\_thr.pdf](http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/danc_thr.pdf) to see resources located in the Career Services Library in room 348, SUB I

### **Is it possible to minor in Dance?**

Yes. The 21 credit course of study for a Minor in Dance Appreciation is outlined in the catalog. In addition, most courses in the dance curriculum are approved for elective credit by other degree programs, and many dance courses fulfill the General Education Fine Arts or Global Understanding requirements. Also, auditions for the GMU Dance Company are open to all students and many non-majors perform with the Company.

### **Whom should students contact for further information?**

Sally Wall or Marjorie Summerall  
A300 Performing Arts Building  
703-993-1114 or 703-993-1376  
swall2@gmu.edu/msummera@gmu.edu

Academic Advising Center  
304 SUB I  
703-993-2470

University Career Services  
348 SUB I  
703-993-2370