

DANCE, BFA

The Performance and Choreography/Contemporary Track in the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance prepares students to perform and create original dance choreography for theatrical productions. Dance BFA students complete a rigorous technical and creative curriculum designed to develop the student's individual artistic voice. Contemporary Track majors additionally study body/mind sciences, dance pedagogy, historical and cultural contexts for dance, and the interactive collaboration skills necessary to bring dance to the theatre with a high degree of excellence.

Requirements

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* undergraduates. However, it's required for the programs below. For more information please visit the Peck School of the Arts admission page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>).

- Art & Design (BA and BFA Programs)
- Dance (BA and BFA Programs)
- Film, Video, Animation & New Genres (BA and BFA Programs)
- Music (Composition & Technology Program)
- Theatre (BFA Production and BA Theatre Education Programs)

Credit Overview

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 Requirements¹		
<i>Competencies¹</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 Requirements¹</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 both the BFA and BA dance degree programs 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 233	Improvisation for Dancemaking	3
Total Credits		9

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Dance Technique Courses		
<i>Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition⁴</i>		
Select a minimum of 5 semesters:		15
DANCE 113	Modern Dance Technique I	
DANCE 114	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition II	
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	
<i>Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition⁴</i>		
Select a minimum of 5 semesters:		15
DANCE 111	Ballet I	
DANCE 112	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition II	
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	
Complementary Dance Technique^{5,6}		

DANCE 115	Jazz Dance I	2
or DANCE 122	African Dance & Diaspora Technique I	
Choose one:		2
DANCE 115	Jazz Dance I (if not selected above)	
DANCE 116	Jazz Dance II	
DANCE 117	Tap I	
DANCE 122	African Dance & Diaspora Technique I (if not selected above)	
DANCE 123	African Dance & Diaspora Technique II	
DANCE 217	Tap II	
DANCE 222	African Dance & Diaspora Technique III	
DANCE 325	Pointe and Variations	
DANCE 327	Dance for the Musical Theatre I	
DANCE 370	World Movement Traditions:	
DANCE 427	Dance for the Musical Theatre II	
DANCE 624	Feldenkrais for Performers	

*Somatic and Conditioning Practices*⁷

Choose 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 For Dancers	
DANCE 421	Alexander Technique Practicum	
DANCE 623	Body Conditioning: Pilates Method II	
DANCE 624	Feldenkrais for Performers	

Dance Creative Courses

DANCE 231	Music and Dancers I	3
DANCE 233	Improvisation for Dancemaking ⁸	3
DANCE 352	Digital Media Portfolio for Performers	3
DANCE 412	Dance Composition I ⁸	3
DANCE 413	Dance Composition II	3
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble ^{9, 10}	3
DANCE 601	Senior Project	3

Dance Academic Courses

DANCE 209	Dance Production ⁸	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 from the following:		5
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 310	Jazz III	
DANCE 313	History of Dance in the African Diaspora	
DANCE 315	History of the American Musical Theater	

DANCE 319	Dance Service-Learning
DANCE 320	Rituals and Culture
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 For Dancers
DANCE 414	Dance Composition III ¹¹
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

Total Credits **78**

- ⁴ 100- and 200-level technique classes taken for 3 credits; 300-level for 2 credits
- ⁵ One Jazz or African technique class is required during sophomore year. If GER-Cultural Diversity credits are desired for DANCE 122, 3-credit section is mandatory.
- ⁶ Option: Students wishing to substitute one or two semester(s) of either ballet or modern (minimum 5 semesters of ballet and modern are required) for additional Complementary Dance Technique course(s) in Jazz, Africa and Diaspora Technique, Tap, Music Theatre Styles: choose from DANCE 116, DANCE 117, DANCE 123, DANCE 217, DANCE 222, DANCE 327, DANCE 427. Student must approach his/her Dance Faculty Advisor the semester prior to enrollment for substitution approval.
- ⁷ Yoga, Pilates, Body Sense, Alexander Technique
- ⁸ Coursework involved in MPPR guidelines.
- ⁹ Any dancer cast in faculty or guest artist choreography must be enrolled in at least 3 UWM Department of Dance technique classes per week during the rehearsal semester.
- ¹⁰ Per departmental policy, any time a student is cast in a faculty or guest artist work and is enrolled for less than 18 credits, he/she must enroll in Dance 490 for 1 credit during the appropriate semester.
- ¹¹ DANCE 415 may be substituted only with prior dance faculty approval.

Recommended Course of Study

Year 1

Fall		Credits
DANCE 111	Ballet I	3
DANCE 113	Modern Dance Technique I	3
DANCE 209	Dance Production	2
University Core		6
Credits		14

Spring

DANCE 112	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition II	3
DANCE 114	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition II	3
DANCE 233	Improvisation for Dancemaking	3
University Core		6
Credits		15

Year 2

Fall		Credits
Somatic Course #1 (see list on Requirements tab)		2
DANCE 115	Jazz Dance I (3 cr. in 122 if GER-CD is desired)	2
or DANCE 122	or African Dance & Diaspora Technique I	

DANCE 213	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition III	3
DANCE 412	Dance Composition I ³	3
University Core		6
Credits		16
Spring		
DANCE 211	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition III	3
DANCE 231	Music and Dancers I ³	3
DANCE 371	Dance Anatomy & Kinesiology	3
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble ¹	1
PSOA Core		6
Credits		16
Year 3		
Fall		
DANCE 214	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition IV	3
DANCE 251	Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis (QL-B)	3
DANCE 314	Contemporary Dance History	3
DANCE 413	Dance Composition II	3
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble ¹	1
PSOA Core		3
Credits		16
Spring		
DANCE 212	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition IV	3
DANCE 352	Digital Media Portfolio for Performers	3
Dance Elective (see list on Requirements tab)		2
PSOA Core		6
Credits		14
Year 4		
Fall		
Somatic Course #2 (see list on Requirements tab)		2
DANCE 317	Contemporary Dance Practice: Modern Tradition V	3
DANCE 460	Teaching Dance in Community Settings	3
DANCE 601	Senior Project	3
PSOA Core		6
Credits		17
Spring		
Complementary Technique (see list on Requirements tab)		2
Dance Elective (see list on Requirements tab)		3
DANCE 312	Contemporary Dance Practice: Ballet Tradition VI	3
DANCE 490	Repertoire and Ensemble ¹	1
PSOA Core		3
Credits		12
Total Credits		120

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

² Any student cast in a student work must be enrolled in at least 1 UWM Department of Dance technique class that meets at least 2 times per week during the rehearsal semester.

³ Coursework involved in MPPR guidelines.

Admission and Retention Requirements

Admission Requirements

To be considered for the Dance BA or BFA program, applicants must first be accepted to UW-Milwaukee, apply to the Peck School of the Arts and complete a successful audition. Please visit the Peck School admissions page for more information.

Retention Requirements

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 minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the dance major.

All students are expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to their health and overall conditioning in order 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 departmental productions and outreach events; the Mid-Program Portfolio Review assessment; determining "probation" status; and potentially removing a student from the program.

Advising

Location: Theatre 120

Hours: M–Th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (*closed on university holidays*)

Contact: 414-229-4763 | Contact Form (<https://uwm.edu/arts/contact/>)

Academic advising is an important aspect of long-term academic success. At the Peck School of the Arts, we offer professional advising in the undergraduate disciplines of art, dance, film, music and theatre.

Our advisors provide students with individualized appointments to assist them in areas such as: degree requirements, major options, course selection, campus resources, college success strategies, graduation assessment, academic policies and procedures, and more.

For more information please visit the Peck School of the Arts advising and student services page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/advising/>).

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.