# DANCE

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

**PERFORMANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY**

- Ballet
- Modern
- Jazz
- Tap
- Theater Dance
- Culturally-Specific Dance

### EMPLOYERS

- Performing arts companies:
  - Dance
  - Theatre
  - Opera
  - Touring
  - Broadway
  - Off-broadway
- Television and motion picture industries and studios:
  - Television shows
  - Commercials
  - Movies
  - Music videos
- Amusement and recreation venues:
  - Theme parks
  - Cruise ships
  - Resorts
  - Casinos
  - Restaurants
  - Sporting events
- Self-employed/freelance work

### STRATEGIES

Begin formal training in classical dance and later move towards a particular style.

Join campus and community organizations dedicated to dance.

Prepare for professional auditions by participating in dance competitions and enrolling in summer training programs and workshops.

Rehearse on a regular basis to stay in top form.

Maintain good health and physical stamina.

Obtain formal training in vocal performance and drama.

Develop a broad understanding of music, literature, history, and other arts to help interpret ideas and feelings in dance.

Although completing a college degree is not essential for a career as a professional dancer, it is necessary for many other dance related occupations.

Opportunities are limited for full time work. Many dancers hold other jobs.

Understand that dancers may work long and late hours since many rehearsals and productions are in the evenings.

Prepare to relocate to areas with higher concentrations of art and dance related employers such as New York City, Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

For choreography positions, consider the following:

- Seek formal training and experience in dancing first.
- Serve as choreographer for local dance schools and camps and for student performances on campus.
- Accumulate years of dance experience to build a professional reputation.
- Develop expertise in music, costuming, and staging.
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<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<td>Formalized Instruction</td>
<td>K-12 schools, public and private</td>
<td>Acquire a teaching certificate for public school teaching. Learn about requirements by state.</td>
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<td>Recreational Instruction</td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>Earn a graduate degree to teach in higher education and many conservatories. Specialize in an area such as ballet, modern, jazz, etc.</td>
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<td>Private dance studios and schools</td>
<td>Develop strong communication skills and teaching ability through coursework and campus activities.</td>
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<td>Conservatories</td>
<td>Gain experience working with children through volunteer or part-time work.</td>
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<td>Performing arts camps</td>
<td>Become proficient in many styles and forms of dance.</td>
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<td>Community agencies</td>
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<td>Adult education and continuing education programs</td>
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<td><strong>ADMINISTRATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts Management</td>
<td>Cultural organizations and arts councils</td>
<td>Pursue education in arts management, business, or non-profit management.</td>
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<td>Company Management</td>
<td>Theaters and arts venues</td>
<td>Join organizations that plan and host campus cultural attractions and entertainment events.</td>
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<td>Artistic Direction</td>
<td>Dance companies</td>
<td>Develop administrative, leadership, and organizational skills.</td>
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<td>Promotion</td>
<td>Dance studios and academies</td>
<td>Participate in internships and/or volunteer activities to gain related experience.</td>
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<td>Tour Management</td>
<td>Musical theater production companies</td>
<td>Learn how to write grants and to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.</td>
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<td>Facilities Management</td>
<td>Dance festivals</td>
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<td>Event Planning</td>
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<td>Public Relations</td>
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<td><strong>DANCE/MOVEMENT THERAPY</strong></td>
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<td><em>Dance therapists work with individuals, couples, families or groups using both verbal counseling techniques and movement interventions.</em></td>
<td>Schools and special education settings</td>
<td>Take courses in psychology, social work, education, or child and family studies along with developing a broad education in dance.</td>
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<td>Nursing homes</td>
<td>A master's degree in dance/movement therapy, counseling, or psychology and a clinical internship in dance therapy are required. After completion, you hold the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) designation.</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation facilities</td>
<td>Learn to work well with many types of people and develop excellent communication skills.</td>
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<td>Psychiatric and medical hospitals</td>
<td>Volunteer in a rehabilitation setting.</td>
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<td>Community mental health agencies</td>
<td>Join the American Dance Therapy Association.</td>
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<td>Wellness centers</td>
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<td>Alternative health centers</td>
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### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Because of keen competition in the field, dancers and choreographers often go through periods of unemployment. Develop other skills that qualify you for alternative work when between dance jobs.
- Dance is a physically demanding profession; many dancers stop performing in their late thirties and transition to other related fields.
- Perseverance, self-discipline, and patience are important traits to cultivate along with physical stamina and creative abilities.
- Learn how to deal with rejection and criticism as these can be common when auditioning for jobs.
- Join a relevant union or guild to be eligible for work assignments.
- Some students may pursue the Master of Fine Arts in Dance to further their careers in performance or choreography. Others will earn a Master of Arts to pursue careers in dance history, dance critique, or arts management. The bachelor’s degree can also serve as preparation for a variety of other graduate programs including law and business.
- Students pursuing a degree in dance may choose to work outside the field of performing arts. Many career areas, such as sales and management, are open to people from nearly any discipline if they have developed transferable skills and sought relevant experience.
- Some niche areas exist within the dance industry such as dance notation and reconstruction which is typically done by freelancers or dance professors.

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### AREAS

**MEDIA**
- Dance Writing
- Dance Criticism
- Dance History

**EMPLOYERS**
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Websites
- Book publishers

**STRATEGIES**
- Develop excellent grammar and writing skills along with knowledge of the history and culture of dance.
- Write for campus or local newspapers. Create a portfolio of writing samples, especially those that have been published.
- Seek opportunities for recognition and networking through writing contests and freelance writing submissions.
- Learn HTML and other computer programs to prepare for online work. This area of journalism is growing while print is declining.
- Become comfortable working in a deadline-oriented atmosphere.

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