

DANCE - BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

The University of Colorado Boulder offers a well-established, nationally recognized dance program that encourages the pursuit of one's artistic voice, embodied scholarship and pedagogical exploration.

CU Boulder has an exciting and diversified dance program. Our curriculum is designed to use dance and the body to challenge assumptions about practices, values, technology and sustainability. Our program scaffolds entrepreneurial approaches to art-making based in personal initiative, curiosity and versatility.

We support the vital cultivation of self-awareness alongside a nuanced appreciation of one's positionality within the global conversation. Somatic studies serve as the integrative tissue in our highly diverse and forward-thinking program.

We are a contemporary program—one that values and provides study in a range of styles and fusion of forms that influence and reflect the multifaceted nature of dance performance today. Our curriculum is designed to develop concrete skills in performance and choreography and to instill an appreciation of the role that dance plays in human culture around the world.

Requirements

Required Courses and Credits

The Bachelor of Arts provides a well-rounded dance education in both technique and theory courses. Students must receive a C- or better in all required courses. No more than 45 credits in DNCE may be applied to overall graduation requirements. Students must have a grade point average of at least 2.000 in the major in order to graduate. Students must complete the general requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences and the required courses listed below.

Students are expected to take a variety of technique styles. A minimum of three different styles, as well as African dance, are required. Students who have not placed in the major technique class (DNCE 2021, DNCE 3041 or DNCE 4061) by their second semester in dance program are strongly advised not to continue in the major program in dance. Placement into and successful completion of major technique is a prerequisite for enrollment in other required dance courses.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Lower-Division Courses		
DNCE 1012	Dance Production	2
DNCE 1013	Dance Improvisation	2
DNCE 1027	Dance in Cultural Perception and Expression	3
DNCE 1908	First Year Dance Seminar	1
DNCE 2501	African Dance	2
Required Major Technique Courses		
Take 6 credit hours from the following courses: ¹		6
DNCE 2021	Major Technique	
DNCE 3041	Major Technique	
DNCE 4061	Major Technique	
Upper-Division Music Course		

Choose one of the following courses: 2

DNCE 3014	Inside the Groove: Developing Rhythmic Skills
DNCE 3024	SOUND Choices: Enhancing the Music/Dance Relationship

Upper-Division Creative Process Course

Choose one of the following courses: 3

DNCE 3033	Choreographic Resources
DNCE 3043	Choreographic Process

Required Production Practicum Courses

Take 2 credit hours of production practicum, including 1 credit of Run Crew. 2

DNCE 3035	Production Practicum
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Required Upper-Division Courses

DNCE 3005	Movement Awareness and Injury Prevention for the Dancer	3
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DNCE 4017	Dancing Histories: Sex, Gender and Race in U.S. Concert Dance	3
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or DNCE 4037 Contemporary Concert Dance: Shifting Perspectives in Performance

or DNCE 4047 Hip-Hop Dance History

DNCE 4036	Dance Teaching Practices: Inclusive Approaches to Instruction	3
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DNCE 4939	Dance Internship	1
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THTR 4029	Performance and Community Engagement	3
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THTR 4081	Senior Seminar	3
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Electives in Dance Technique

Take 6 credit hours of DNCE courses with course numbers that end in 1. 6

Required Theatre Production Course

Choose one of the following courses: 2-3

THTR 2105	Introduction to Performance Design
THTR 3005	Costume Design 1
THTR 3015	Scene Design 1
THTR 3045	Stage Management
THTR 3055	Stage Lighting Design 1
THTR 3075	Sound Design
THTR 4035	Scene Painting
THTR 4055	Stage Lighting Design 2
THTR 4095	Special Topics in Theatre Design and Technology (Some sections including Tailoring or Product Design)
THTR 4105	Theatre Make-Up Design
THTR 4175	Conceptualization
THTR 5025	Costume Patterning and Construction

Total Credit Hours 47-48

¹ Students are placed at the appropriate level based on audition. Students without sufficient training will be asked to take nonmajor technique classes to make up the deficiency. These classes will not count toward the major requirement.

Graduating in Four Years

Consult the Four-Year Guarantee Requirements for more information on eligibility. The concept of "adequate progress" as it is used here only refers to maintaining eligibility for the four-year guarantee; it is not a requirement for the major. To maintain adequate progress toward a BA in dance, students should meet the requirements in the Four-Year Plan section.

Recommended Four-Year Plan of Study

Through the required coursework for the major, students will fulfill all 12 credits of the Arts & Humanities area of the Gen Ed Distribution Requirement and will fulfill the Global Perspective category in the Gen Ed Diversity Requirement.

Year One

Fall Semester		Credit Hours
DNCE 1012	Dance Production	2
DNCE 1027	Dance in Cultural Perception and Expression	3
DNCE 1908	First Year Dance Seminar	1
DNCE 2021	Major Technique	2
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Science and Lab)		4
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Lower-division Written Communication)		3
Credit Hours		15

Spring Semester

DNCE 1013	Dance Improvisation	2
DNCE 3035	Production Practicum	1
DNCE 3041	Major Technique	2
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: QRMS)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		14

Year Two

Fall Semester		Credit Hours
DNCE 2501	African Dance	2
THTR 4029	Performance and Community Engagement	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/US Perspective)		3
Elective		4
Elective		3
Credit Hours		15

Spring Semester

DNCE 3005	Movement Awareness and Injury Prevention for the Dancer	3
DNCE 3035	Production Practicum	1
Additional DNCE Technique		2
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		15

Year Three

Fall Semester

DNCE 3014 or DNCE 3024	Inside the Groove: Developing Rhythmic Skills or SOUND Choices: Enhancing the Music/Dance Relationship	2
DNCE 4036	Dance Teaching Practices: Inclusive Approaches to Instruction	3
Additional DNCE Technique		1
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences)		3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Upper-division Written Communication)		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		15

Spring Semester

DNCE 3033 or DNCE 3043	Choreographic Resources or Choreographic Process	3
DNCE 4061	Major Technique	2
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences)		3
Required Theatre Production Course		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		14

Year Four

Fall Semester

DNCE 4017	Dancing Histories: Sex, Gender and Race in U.S. Concert Dance	3
DNCE 4939	Dance Internship	1
Additional DNCE Technique		2
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)		3
Upper-division Elective		3
Upper-division Elective		3
Credit Hours		15

Spring Semester

THTR 4081	Senior Seminar	3
Additional DNCE Technique		2
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences)		3
Elective or Upper-division Elective (if needed)		3
Upper-division Elective		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		17
Total Credit Hours		120

Learning Outcomes

The following areas of knowledge and experience are central to all the undergraduate degrees in dance:

- Physical accomplishment in a range of dance styles and within fusions of various forms, including contemporary, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, transnational fusion, African dance, performance improvisation and other dance traditions from around the world.
- Experience with the process and underlying aesthetics of dance creation, composition and collaboration.
- Basic familiarity with cultural, sociological and aesthetic issues important to the contemporary realities of the field of dance,

including a working knowledge of major world dance styles, works of dance literature, theoretical lenses and the history of dance.

- Knowledge of the various means, such as stagecraft, costuming, lighting, make-up, production and projections, through which a public presentation of dance is realized.
- Study and practical experience in dance pedagogy, identifying our purpose, goals and objectives as future educators.
- Basic knowledge of tactics for sustaining wellness, including various somatic approaches to dance training, injury prevention and rehabilitation from injury.
- Experiential study of the relationship between dance and music, including concrete practice of skills in playing and hearing music.
- Opportunities to explore the power of performance for effecting positive social change.

In addition, students completing a degree in dance are expected to acquire the ability and skills to:

- Define their positionality as a maker and thinker of art with responsibility and awareness within their local setting and global conversations.
- Create and perform through dance, theatre, design, technology, research, scholarship and writing.
- Make art that is relevant to their medium of expression, that generates resistance to and expands developed techniques towards contemporary relevance, and aesthetic and artistic excellence.
- Apply diverse theories to critically analyze various performance practices, approaches, compositions, forms, histories, events and scripts.
- Engage with the histories of their art form and the impact of these histories on contemporary performance challenges and opportunities.
- Build communities of greater equity and inclusion within the cultures of theatre and dance, and the broader world.
- Cultivate their responsibility as artist-citizens to have a positive impact on the world and the future.