

# DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

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## Programs of the Department

The Towson University Department of Dance advocates **Dancing for a Lifetime** by challenging students to examine and refine their approaches to the arts of dancing, choreography, and dance education. Students in the **Bachelor of Fine Arts program in Dance Performance and Choreography**, as stated in the NASD Standards for Accreditation Handbook 2023-2024, p. 99, VIII.A.2.purpose, are expected to develop the knowledge, skills, concepts, and sensitivities essential to the artist in the field of dance. To fulfill various professional responsibilities, the dance artist must exhibit not only technical competence, but also broad knowledge of dance and dance repertory, the ability to integrate dance-related knowledge and skills, sensitivity to dance and musical styles, and an insight into the role of dance intellectual, education, and cultural life.

B.F.A. majors in dance adhere to rigorous standards for merging technique with performance by maintaining a state of mind and body that is focused, purposeful, and appropriately nuanced with expression. Majors learn a variety of approaches for taking dances from the studio to the stage that are somatically sound, choreographically consistent, and artistically excellent.

TU is accredited by the **National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) since 1984**. It fulfills a state and national need for dance performers, choreographers, and teachers trained in 21st-century skills. National and international artists bring their choreography and pedagogical practices as faculty and guest artists to prepare dancers for a lifetime of dancing.

Auditioned Dance majors may elect to take courses that will enable them to meet university, college, and Maryland teacher certification requirements in the **PreK-12 Dance Education Concentration**.

The Department of Dance offers opportunities in leadership, internships, honors programs, national honors, and service programs.

## Scholarships

To qualify for a Dance Talent scholarship, or for a COFAC Dean's scholarship, students must successfully pass the pre-dance audition, be accepted into the major, be full-time Dance majors, and be nominated by a dance faculty member.

The terms/criteria for automatic renewal of Dance Talent and COFAC Dean's scholarships offered to Dance majors at TU are as follows:

1. For the Foundational First-Year Courses, a GPA of 3.00 (B) or higher must be maintained.
2. For students in the B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography, as well as students who are candidates for the PreK-12 Dance Education Concentration, a 3.00 GPA in Dance major courses must be maintained. Students whose GPA falls below this minimum requirement will automatically lose all scholarship awards. Once students have re-established an overall GPA of 2.75 and a GPA of 3.00 in the major, the remainder of their scholarships from that date forward to graduation will be reinstated.

3. Demonstrate and exemplify a professional disposition within the classroom, rehearsal, and all other aspects of the profession.
4. Participate fully in all aspects of the major and actively contribute to service within the department.
5. Annual scholarship renewal evaluation by the Department of Dance faculty.

## Majors

- B.F.A. Major in Dance Performance and Choreography
- B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography with Pre-K-12 Dance Education Concentration

## Faculty

*Professors:* Catherine Horta-Hayden (Chairperson), Mary Susan Kirchner, Jaye Knutson (Graduate Program Director), Susan Mann, Vincent Thomas

*Assistant Professors:* Robert Kleinendorst, Caroline Rocher Barnes, Alison Seidenstricker (PreK-12 Education Program Director)

*Lecturers:* Runqiao Du, Nancy Wanich-Romita