DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

Center for the Arts 1002
Phone: 410-704-2760
Fax: 410-704-3752
Email: spink@towson.edu

Programs of the Department

The Towson University Department of Dance (https://www.towson.edu/cofac/departments/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 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.

As stated in the NASD Standards for Accreditation Handbook 2017: page 41 VIII.A.2 Purpose for all Professional Baccalaureate Degrees in Dance: “B.F.A. Students enrolled in professional undergraduate degrees in dance 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 alike.”

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, entrepreneurial partnerships, internships, honors programs, national honors and service programs.

Scholarships

To qualify for a dance talent recruitment 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 Recruitment and COFAC Dean’s scholarships offered to Dance majors at TU are as follows:

1. For the Foundational First-Year Courses, a GPA of a 3.00 (B) or higher must be maintained.
2. For the B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography a 2.50 GPA in Dance major courses must be maintained.
3. For the B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography and are also candidates for the PreK-12 Dance Education Concentration, must have an overall GPA of 2.75 and a GPA of 3.00 (B) in the major. 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.
4. Perform a minimum of once per year and be registered in DANC 481.
5. Demonstrate and exemplify a behavioral understanding of the relationship between rights and responsibilities within the classroom, rehearsal and all other aspects of the profession.
6. Participate fully in all aspects of the major.
7. Annual scholarship renewal evaluation by the Department of Dance faculty.

- B.F.A. Major in Dance Performance and Choreography (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/fine-arts-communication/dance/dance-bfa)
- B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography with Pre-K-12 Dance Education Concentration (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/fine-arts-communication/dance/dance-k-12-certification-bfa)

Admission to the BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography

Prospective Dance Performance and Choreography majors enter the university as Pre-Dance majors.

The Department of Dance accepts into the BFA pre-Dance majors who have (1) passed one of the auditions in October, November or February; and (2) completed all Foundational First-Year Dance Experience courses with a minimum 3.00 GPA. Applications for audition can be accessed via the Department of Dance. Students may only audition twice for the major. Students who miss the auditions, choose not to audition, or do not pass the audition by May 1 will be encouraged to take non-major classes and audition or re-audition in their first year. If students pass audition and are accepted into the Dance Performance and Choreography major, but do not enroll the following fall semester, they must petition the faculty for later acceptance.

After the Foundational First Year, Dance majors must maintain a 2.50 GPA in dance courses to be eligible for graduation with a major in Dance.

The Foundational First-Year Dance Experience courses encompass knowledge in dance technique, performance, history, music, anatomy/kinesiology and production:

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Admission to the BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography with a Pre-K-12 Dance Education Concentration

Admission Requirements for Teacher Education

The Teacher Education Executive Board, representing all initial teacher education programs at Towson University, utilizes the following minimum requirements as conditions for admission into teacher education programs, maintaining candidate status and formal entry into the capstone internship. Programs may include additional requirements for admission into the program and/or the capstone internship.

The College of Education admits students either as freshmen or as undergraduate transfer students from accredited, post-secondary institutions. During the freshman and sophomore years, students are generally engaged in pre-professional courses or courses that fulfill Core Curriculum requirements, as well as all identified prerequisites (e.g., specific and sequential courses in Core Curriculum) for admission to COE screened majors and programs.

All College of Education undergraduate programs are screened majors. As an integral part of the teaching/learning experience, students work with advisers in a strategic planning process across all years at TU. Accordingly, to support student success, all COE students are required to confer prior to registration each term with their assigned advisers.

I. PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO ALL TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. Complete a notarized self-disclosure criminal background form to be filed in the major department, with a written application. For Secondary Education content programs, the criminal background forms will be filed in the Secondary and Middle School Education Department.

2. Submit a written application for formal admission to the program. Students seeking admission to teacher education programs must contact their department chairperson or program coordinator by 45 credit hours for program-specific procedures and requirements for admission to professional education programs.

3. Document a minimum GPA of at least 3.0 during the most recent two years of the candidate’s general education. A grade of PS (Pass) is not accepted for courses required in the major/minor per the undergraduate catalog. AP credits can be applied towards requirements in the major/minor, but not towards the GPA.

4. Provide documentation of meeting the MSDE Basic Skills Assessment Requirement (http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/testing_info/praxis1.aspx).

II. ADDITIONAL TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the criteria for admission to the BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography outlined above, admission to the Pre-K-12 Dance Education Concentration requires the following, all of which are required for the internship application:

- a personal interview;
- successful completion of the speech and hearing test by spring term of first year;
- current membership in the National Dance Education Organization.