

# 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** 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 technique 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.

Towson University 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 technique 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.

## Transfer Credit Policy

Students transferring from other institutions must complete a minimum of 20 units of their dance course requirements at Towson University.

Most students take three years to complete the BFA Dance program after transferring to Towson University.

## 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 Towson University 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 who also are 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. Major in Dance Performance and Choreography with PreK-12 Dance Education Certification Concentration (<http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/fine-arts-communication/dance/dance-k-12-certification-bfa>)

## Admission To The Screened Major

The Department of Dance accepts pre-Dance majors who have passed one of the auditions in October, November, and February.

Students missing the auditions, choosing not to audition or not passing the audition by May 1 will be moved to the category of "open". These students will be encouraged to take non-major dance classes and audition or re-audition in their freshman year to join a cohort with first-year pre-dance majors.

Foundational First-Year Dance Experience include the following courses:

Code	Title	Units
<b>Fall Term</b>		
TSEM 102	TOWSON SEMINAR	3
DANC 227	LEVEL I MODERN	2
DANC 223	LEVEL I BALLET	2
DANC 245	SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR MOVEMENT I	3
ENGL 102	WRITING FOR A LIBERAL EDUCATION	3
ORIE	First-Year Orientation	0
<b>Spring Term</b>		

DANC 224	LEVEL I BALLET	2
DANC 228	LEVEL I MODERN	2
DANC 345	SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR MOVEMENT II	2
DANC 126	MUSICAL CONCEPTS FOR DANCERS	3
DANC 235	DANCE COMPOSITION I	3
DANC 216	SOPHOMORE CREW	1
Total Units		26

Dance Company (3) and Repertory (3) courses are popular, encouraged, and count as electives for graduation.

Dr. Susan Kirchner is the First-Year Adviser for newly auditioned first-year and transfer pre-Dance majors. The Foundational courses encompass knowledge in dance technique, performance, history, music, anatomy/ kinesiology, and production.

A student must earn a 3.00 GPA (B average) or better in the Foundational courses (total 26 units), as highlighted above.

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.

Acceptance into the university is required for acceptance into the major. Applications for audition can be accessed via the website. Applications for a certain audition date are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Students may only audition twice for the major. If students are accepted into the Dance major and do not attend the following fall, they must petition the faculty for later acceptance.

## Admission to the PreK-12 Certification Option and Internship

1. admission to the university;
2. admission to the major;
3. a personal interview;
4. completion of a Criminal Background Disclosure Form that must be notarized and kept on file in the Center for Professional Practice (CPP);
5. completion of a criminal background check that must be kept on file in the CPP before the student enters into an intensive/extensive internship in a public or private school setting (PreK through 12);
6. Required standardized test scores reflecting one of the following:
  - a passing score on Praxis Core (as determined by the Maryland State Department of Education);
  - SAT taken after 2005, math and critical reading composite score of 1100;
  - or ACT composite score of 24.
7. successful completion of the speech and hearing test by spring term of first year, and
8. Education Psychology taken by fall of second year.

All eight items listed above are prerequisites for the internship application. Continuance in the program requires the maintenance of an overall GPA of 2.50 and a GPA of 2.75 in major classes each term, the maintenance of a current membership in the National Dance Education Organization, and maintenance of behaviors and attitudes set forth by Towson University's Conceptual Framework for Professional Education.