DANCE MAJOR

communication.northwestern.edu/programs/major_dance

The Department of Theatre also offers a major in dance. The dance major prepares students for further advanced academic work or a wide range of positions in professional dance. The major’s comprehensive curriculum emphasizes the study of dance as well as the act of dancing. Students are prepared for lifetime involvement in the field and for continued development intellectually, artistically, and professionally within the dance world. In addition to dance technique and choreography, the program provides students with opportunities for writing, research, and analysis in the field. The major presents a well-integrated view of dance while also providing sound technical training in a variety of forms, with modern dance and jazz as the foundation techniques. The department offers a number of dance organizations and performing opportunities.

Students must also complete the Undergraduate Registration Requirement (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/requirements-policies/undergraduate-registration-requirement/) and the degree requirements of their home school.

Program Requirements (13 units)
All courses for SoC majors, minors, fields of concentration and distribution requirements must be completed with a grade of C- or higher and may not be taken P/N.

Introductory Courses (4 units)

Course | Title
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DANCE 101-1 | Introduction to the Dance Experience
DANCE 101-2 | and Introduction to the Dance Experience
DANCE 101-3 | and Introduction to the Dance Experience
DANCE 225-0 | Dance Composition ¹

¹ DANCE 101-3 Introduction to the Dance Experience is a prerequisite

Dance Technique Courses (4 units)

A minimum of 4 units from the following list (each dance technique class carries .34 units; 3 classes add up to 1 unit of credit); classes in a dance form must be taken sequentially, each in consecutive quarters in a single academic year; classes in a sequence need not be taken at the same level. Specific Requirements:

2 yearlong sequences in Modern (2 Units)

Course | Title
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DANCE 150-0 | Modern I
DANCE 250-0 | Modern II
DANCE 350-0 | Modern III

1 yearlong sequence in Jazz (1 Unit) ¹

Course | Title
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DANCE 160-0 | Jazz I
DANCE 161-0 | Jump Rhythm Technique I
DANCE 260-0 | Jazz II
DANCE 261-0 | Jump Rhythm Technique II
DANCE 360-0 | Jazz III

¹ May include one .34 unit of Jump Rhythm Technique Tap or Jump Rhythm Technique Jazz

1 additional two-quarter sequence in a single form (.68 Units)

Course | Title
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DANCE 110-0 | Movement for the Stage
DANCE 120-0 | Topics in Preparation for Performance
DANCE 130-1 | Music Theatre Ballet
DANCE 130-2 | Music Theatre Dance I
DANCE 130-3 | Music Theatre Dance II
DANCE 140-0 | Cultural Forms
DANCE 150-0 | Modern I
DANCE 160-0 | Jazz I
DANCE 161-0 | Jump Rhythm Technique I
DANCE 170-0 | Ballet I
DANCE 180-0 | Tap I
DANCE 181-0 | Jump Rhythm Tap I
DANCE 250-0 | Modern II
DANCE 260-0 | Jazz II
DANCE 261-0 | Jump Rhythm Technique II
DANCE 270-0 | Ballet II
DANCE 280-0 | Tap II
DANCE 281-0 | Jump Rhythm Tap II
DANCE 350-0 | Modern III
DANCE 360-0 | Jazz III
DANCE 370-0 | Ballet III
DANCE 380-0 | Tap III

1 Cultural Forms course (.34 Units)

Course | Title
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DANCE 140-0 | Cultural Forms

Additional Dance Courses (4 Units)

At least 4 courses chosen from the following categories:

Performance (2 units)

At least 2 units:

Course | Title
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DANCE 202-0 | Anatomy
DANCE 235-0 | Choreography for Musical Theatre
DANCE 325-0 | Advanced Choreographic Study
DANCE 326-0 | Advanced Improvisation
DANCE 345-0 | Studies in Collaboration
DANCE 375-0 | Summer Dance Institute
DANCE 465-0 | Studies in Dance

Dance Studies (2 units)

At least 2 units:

Course | Title
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DANCE 201-0 | Cultural Studies of Dance
DANCE 215-0 | Dance History
DANCE 315-0 | Dance Criticism
DANCE 335-0 | Special Topics in Dance Research
DANCE 355-0 | Dance in Education
DANCE 356-0 | Expressive Arts Therapy
DANCE 365-0 | American Rhythm Dancing & the African American Performance Aesthetic
DANCE 399-0 | Independent Study
THEATRE 253-0 | Music Theatre History
Senior Seminar (1 Unit)

Course Title
DANCE 395-1 Senior Seminar
& DANCE 395-2 and Senior Seminar
& DANCE 395-3 and Senior Seminar (1 unit of credit received at end of sequence)

Production Courses (0 Units)

Two registrations for:

Course Title
THEATRE 121-0 Production Laboratory (This is a 0 unit of credit requirement)

Additional Requirements (29 units)

Distribution Requirements (18 units)

18 units of credit outside the school, including 8 units of credit from the School of Communication distribution areas: 2 from science, mathematics, and technology; 3 from individual and social behavior; and 3 from humanities and fine arts. In addition, 3 courses must be at the 200 level or above, and 3 courses must be at the 300 level or above.

Electives (11 units)

Electives in communication and other areas to complete a minimum of 42 units of credit.

Honors in Dance

The Dance Program offers an honors program for students who have demonstrated academic excellence in the dance major. Contact the Dance Program for more information on eligibility and requirements.

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