

# DANCE

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## Mission Statement

We believe that vital dance artists and scholars develop from independent thinkers who are committed to cultivating a personal aesthetic and artistic focus, and who resourcefully engage in original research and commit to the construction of knowledge. Our mission supports the development of student artists/scholars who are informed citizens and responsible agents of positive change in a world where the moving arts are essential. Our goal of exposing students to cutting edge and experimental dance practices from diverse cultures and with global perspectives is embedded in our curriculum and ideology. The focus of our movement practices intentionally centralizes Contemporary Dance and African/African-Diasporan forms. The integration of embodied practices with scholarly inquiry is integral to our mission.

Writing within the Major: Both dance scholars and dance artists come to better understand their ideas and those of others through writing. We focus our teaching of writing on experiential and conceptual ideas prompted by and about the body to generate precise description and sophisticated analysis. Our aim is to hone students' observation and reflection skills, and ability to document these intelligently and concisely through writing.

## Student Learning Goals

**Students will be able to:**

- Broaden perspectives through risk taking, embracing ambiguity, and exposure to a range of choreography and performance.
- Synthesize knowledge and generate new, independent and original theoretical and creative projects.
- Demonstrate multifaceted practical, analytical, and reflexive understanding of languages, history, and the cultural significance of dance's various bodily-kinesthetic forms.
- Employ various methods for describing, discerning, analyzing, labeling, and categorizing human movement.
- Be proficient movers in a combination of aspects of embodied movement practices, at the intermediate level, at a minimum.
- Demonstrate a fluency in disciplinary vocabularies both orally and written that is evident across coursework and utilized within the body of student's senior research.
- Use basic 21st century technology including digital equipment and software applications in order to access and document artwork, and to use it appropriately to market or create within those media.