DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY, BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (B.F.A.)

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and Choreography requires a total of 120 credits, with 81 of those credits as the major core curriculum. Alongside general education courses, dance-focused academics and creative process classes (i.e. composition and choreography), dance majors are typically required to take two technique classes daily throughout the majority of their studies. The continuous study of modern/contemporary dance and ballet is a strong component of the curriculum. In addition, elective courses in partnering, jazz, hip hop, West African, contact improvisation, yoga, Pilates and other studio experiences are offered, rounding out a curriculum that also involves studies in anatomy and dance science, dance history, and music, among other areas. Within the major core there are opportunities for repertory experience and for independent study.

The dance major program is rigorous. Students’ technique placement within the required major courses is determined through departmental assessment and placement processes. Formal evaluation procedures include a placement class for entering students, juried examinations at the end of the first semester of the freshman and sophomore years and every semester of the junior and senior years. In the second semester of the freshman and sophomore years the jury is folded into a comprehensive career evaluation called the Freshmen Review and the Sophomore Readmittance Exam, respectively. These career evaluations are to assess each student’s progress in relationship to the standards of the program and progress toward degree completion. Students in the major program may be notified of probationary status after the Freshmen Review. All majors must pass the Sophomore Readmittance Exam in order to continue in the major. This exam stands on its own as a separate evaluation from course grades.

The VCU dance program provides abundant opportunities for students to interact with faculty and guest artists in academic, professional, creative and performance contexts. Within the School of the Arts, dance students have frequent opportunities to work collaboratively with other students in the arts. Possibilities include the visual arts, participation in multimedia events and productions outside the dance department. Any dance major or minor can perform in numerous formal concerts, informal showings and lecture-demonstrations produced by the department. Opportunities also are available for training in teaching, but students interested in earning state certification should consult their advisers.

Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

• Students should demonstrate comprehensive and theoretical understanding of the field of dance.

Special requirements

An audition is required for acceptance into the dance program. Applicants must follow the admissions guidelines for arts students as described in the “Admission to the university” section of the bulletin.

To be eligible for graduation, dance majors must meet the proficiency requirements of having completed two semesters of level IV technique (DANC 401-DANC 402) or achieved an equivalent through departmentally approved summer study. In order to graduate, students must also complete a senior project, which is a practical presentation in creative work. Senior projects are approved in multiple stages by a review committee composed of full-time faculty members. Eligibility is based on the student’s overall academic record (credits earned, requirements met). Approval in stage one is based on the quality of the student’s written proposal; in stage two it is based upon evaluation/review of the student’s completed project proposed for presentation.

Degree requirements for Dance and Choreography, Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Major requirements</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Major core requirements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 103</td>
<td>Survey of Dance History</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 104</td>
<td>Survey of Dance History</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 105</td>
<td>Improvisation</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 201 &amp; DANC 202</td>
<td>Modern Dance Technique II and Workshop and Modern Dance Technique II and Workshop</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 260</td>
<td>Dance Production Workshop</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC 301 &amp; DANC 302</td>
<td>Modern Dance Technique III and Workshop and Modern Dance Technique III and Workshop</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 317</td>
<td>Anatomy for the Dancer</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 318</td>
<td>Dance Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 407</td>
<td>Teaching Methods for Dance</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 490</td>
<td>Senior Project</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Additional major requirements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 101 &amp; DANC 102</td>
<td>Modern Dance Technique I and Workshop and Modern Dance Technique I and Workshop</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 107</td>
<td>Music and Dance Forms</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 162</td>
<td>Rehearsal and Performance</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 205 &amp; DANC 206</td>
<td>Composition and Composition</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANC 303</td>
<td>Choreography/Performance</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC 313</td>
<td>Dance in World Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
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Dance and Choreography, Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.)

or DANC 413 African American Presence in American Dance, Performance and Social Contexts
or DANC 415 Black Performance Theory
DANC 401 & DANC 402 Modern Dance Technique IV and Workshop and Modern Dance Technique IV and Workshop

• Major electives
Ballet technique (placement by department approval) 16
  DANC 111 Ballet Technique I
  & DANZ 111 and Ballet Technique I Laboratory
  DANC 112 Ballet Technique II
  & DANZ 112 and Ballet Technique II Laboratory
  DANC 211 Ballet Technique III
  & DANZ 211 and Ballet Technique III Laboratory
  DANC 212 Ballet Technique IV
  & DANZ 212 and Ballet Technique IV Laboratory
DANC 311 Ballet Technique III
DANC 312 Ballet Technique IV
DANC 411 Ballet Technique V
DANC 412 Ballet Technique V Laboratory
DANC 315 Ballet Technique VI
DANC 413 & DANC 414 Ballet Technique VII & Ballet Technique VII Laboratory
DANC 415 Ballet Technique VIII

Creative practicum
  DANC 304 Choreography/Performance
  or DANC 319 Screen Dance
  or DANC 360 Lighting Design for Dance
  or DANC 365 Sound Design for Dance
  or DANC 491 Topics in Dance

Technique elective (select from list below) 2
  DANC 201 Modern Dance Technique I and Workshop
  DANC 205 Composition
  DANC 211 Ballet Technique II
  & DANZ 211 and Ballet Technique II Laboratory
  DANC 256 Hip Hop Dance
  DANC 257 Contact Improvisation
  DANC 315 Contact Improvisation
  DANC 321 Partnering

Approved topics courses
Dance electives
  ARTS 460 Synesthesia: Exploring Process Across Disciplines 2
  DANC 230 Dance in Hollywood 3
  DANC 408 Children’s Pedagogy 2
  DANC 455 Dance Criticism 2
  DANC 460 Business of Dance 2

Approved topics courses

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Freshman year
Fall semester
  Term Hours: 17
DANC 101 Modern Dance Technique I and Workshop 3
DANC 103 Survey of Dance History 3
DANC 105 Improvisation 2
DANC 111 Ballet Technique I
  & DANZ 111 and Ballet Technique I Laboratory 3
UNIV 111 Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations) 3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry I
General education course 3

Spring semester
DANC 102 Modern Dance Technique I and Workshop 3
DANC 104 Survey of Dance History 3
DANC 107 Music and Dance Forms 2
DANC 112 Ballet Technique I
  & DANZ 112 and Ballet Technique I Laboratory 3
DANC 162 Rehearsal and Performance 2
UNIV 112 Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations) 3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II

Sophomore year
Fall semester
  Term Hours: 16
DANC 201 Modern Dance Technique II and Workshop 3
DANC 205 Composition 3
DANC 211 Ballet Technique II
  & DANZ 211 and Ballet Technique II Laboratory 3
DANC 260 Dance Production Workshop 2
General education course 3
General education course 3

Spring semester
DANCE 202  Modern Dance Technique II and Workshop  3
DANC 206  Composition  3
DANC 212  Ballet Technique II  3
& DANZ 212  and Ballet Technique II Laboratory  3
DANC 317  Anatomy for the Dancer  1
UNIV 200  Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)  3
General education course  3

| Term Hours: | 16 |

Junior year

Fall semester
DANC 301  Modern Dance Technique III and Workshop  3
DANC 303  Choreography/Performance  2
DANC 318  Dance Science  3
Ballet technique  2
General education course  3
Technique elective  1

| Term Hours: | 14 |

Spring semester
DANC 302  Modern Dance Technique III and Workshop  3
DANC 313  Dance in World Cultures (Performance and Social Contexts) (interdependence work culture elective)  3
or DANC 413  or African American Presence in Social Contexts  3
or DANC 415  or Black Performance Theory  3
Ballet technique  2
Creative practicum elective  2
General education course  3
General education course  3

| Term Hours: | 16 |

Senior year

Fall semester
DANC 401  Modern Dance Technique IV and Workshop  3
DANC 407  Teaching Methods for Dance  3
Dance elective  2
Open electives  3
Technique elective  1

| Term Hours: | 12 |

Spring semester
DANC 402  Modern Dance Technique IV and Workshop  3
DANC 490  Senior Project (capstone)  3
Open electives  6

| Term Hours: | 12 |

Total Hours:  120

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.