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 achieve proficiency in improvisation, composition, choreography and related art forms that encourage creativity and an individual point of view.
- Students should become proficient in modern dance technique and performance and a diverse range of other dance techniques in order to maximize their potential to become versatile dancers of technical excellence.
- Students should demonstrate a global and historical perspective of dance as an art form, with an emphasis on diverse contemporary approaches to dance making, research and performance.
- Students should demonstrate writing and critical-thinking skills.
- 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.)

Course	Title	Hours
General education (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
DANC 103	Survey of Dance History	3
DANC 104	Survey of Dance History	3
DANC 105	Improvisation	2
DANC 201 & DANC 202	Modern Dance Technique II and Modern Dance Technique II	6
DANC 260	Dance Production Workshop	2
DANC 301 & DANC 302	Modern Dance Technique III and Modern Dance Technique III	6
DANC 317	Anatomy for the Dancer	1
DANC 318	Dance Science	3
DANC 407	Teaching Methods for Dance	3
DANC 490	Senior Project	3
• Additional major requirements		
DANC 101 & DANC 102	Modern Dance Technique I and Modern Dance Technique I	6
DANC 107	Music and Dance Forms	2
DANC 110	Dance Workshop (Eight semesters required)	0
DANC 162	Rehearsal and Performance	2
DANC 205 & DANC 206	Composition and Composition	6
DANC 303	Choreography	3
DANC 304	Choreography/Performance	3
DANC 313	Dance in World Cultures	3
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 Modern Dance Technique IV	6
• Major electives		
Ballet technique (placement by department approval)		18
DANC 111	Ballet Technique I	
DANC 112	Ballet Technique I	
DANC 211	Ballet Technique II	
DANC 212	Ballet Technique II	
DANC 311	Ballet Technique III	
DANC 312	Ballet Technique III	
DANC 411	Ballet Technique IV	
DANC 412	Ballet Technique IV	
Dance elective (select from list below)		5
Open electives		
Select any course.		4
Total Hours		**120**

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

Electives

Course	Title	Hours
Dance electives		
DANC/AFAM 121	Tap Technique I	2
DANC 151	Jazz Dance Technique I	2
DANC 126	African-Caribbean Dance I	2
DANC 191	West African Dance Techniques	2
DANC 213	Beginning/Intermediate Pointe	1
DANC 251	Jazz Technique II	2
DANC 254	Yoga	1-3
DANC 255	Hip Hop Dance	2
DANC 321	Partnering	2
DANC 230	Dance in Hollywood	3
DANC 455	Dance Criticism	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.

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

Freshman year

Fall semester		**Hours**
DANC 101	Modern Dance Technique I	3
DANC 103	Survey of Dance History	3
DANC 105	Improvisation	2
DANC 110	Dance Workshop	0
DANC 111	Ballet Technique I	3
UNIV 101 or UNIV 103 or UNIV 191	Introduction to the University (recommended open elective) or Education and Career Planning or Student Success Special Topics	1
UNIV 111 Play course video for Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
	Term Hours:	**15**
Spring semester		
DANC 102	Modern Dance Technique I	3
DANC 104	Survey of Dance History	3
DANC 107	Music and Dance Forms	2
DANC 110	Dance Workshop	0
DANC 112	Ballet Technique I	3
DANC 162	Rehearsal and Performance	2
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
	Term Hours:	**16**

Sophomore year

Fall semester		
DANC 110	Dance Workshop	0
DANC 201	Modern Dance Technique II	3
DANC 205	Composition	3
DANC 211	Ballet Technique II	3
DANC 260	Dance Production Workshop	2
General education course		3
	Term Hours:	**14**
Spring semester		
DANC 110	Dance Workshop	0
DANC 202	Modern Dance Technique II	3
DANC 206	Composition	3
DANC 212	Ballet Technique II	3
DANC 317	Anatomy for the Dancer	1
General education courses		6
	Term Hours:	**16**

Junior year

Fall semester		
DANC 110	Dance Workshop	0
DANC 301	Modern Dance Technique III	3
DANC 303	Choreography	3
DANC 318	Dance Science	3
Ballet technique		3
General education course		3
	Term Hours:	**15**
Spring semester		
DANC 110	Dance Workshop	0
DANC 302	Modern Dance Technique III	3
DANC 304	Choreography/Performance	3

DANC 313 or DANC 413 or DANC 415	Dance in World Cultures (Performance and Social Contexts) (interdependence work culture elective) or African American Presence in American Dance, Performance and Social Contexts or Black Performance Theory	3
Ballet technique		3
General education course		3
	Term Hours:	**15**
Senior year		
Fall semester		
DANC 110	Dance Workshop	0
DANC 401	Modern Dance Technique IV	3
DANC 407	Teaching Methods for Dance	3
Dance elective		2
General Education Course		6
	Term Hours:	**14**
Spring semester		
DANC 110	Dance Workshop	0
DANC 402	Modern Dance Technique IV	3
DANC 490	Senior Project (capstone)	3
Dance elective		3
General education course		3
Open electives		3
	Term Hours:	**15**
	Total Hours:	**120**

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