Dance

Students may select dance as a major through the Performing Arts Department (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artscl/performingarts/). This Bachelor of Arts course of study combines intensive studio work in the technique and theory of modern dance, ballet and composition with seminars that examine dance both as a global phenomenon reflecting culturally historic and aesthetic features as well as an area of scientific research with therapeutic applications. The major also includes a broad range of courses, such as stagecraft, music resources, improvisation, anatomy for dancers, pedagogy, dance therapy, musical theater dance, world dance forms, jazz and tap. Students may also choose to minor in dance or in world music, dance and theater. The interdisciplinary minor in world music, dance and theater encourages students already interested in the performing arts to explore performing arts outside of Euro-American traditions. In addition, a certificate program in somatic studies is offered through the School of Continuing & Professional Studies.

Students who study dance at Washington University learn from faculty members who have both professional experience and academic degrees. Students also have the opportunity to study with guest artists in residence who teach master classes and set choreography.

The department offers many opportunities for students to perform and present their work. Washington University Dance Theatre holds annual auditions, and selected students appear in faculty- and guest artist-choreographed concerts in Edison Theatre. Students particularly interested in performing may audition for the student repertory company Washington University Dance Collective (WUDC). WUDC rehearses and performs throughout the year at area venues as well as on campus. Every spring, student choreographers can audition their work for the Student Dance Showcase, which is directed and produced by Washington University dance students. Each year, students have the opportunity to attend the regional American College Dance Conference, where they may take master classes, perform, present choreography and receive feedback from internationally recognized professional dance artists.

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