

# Welcome to Dance At American University

## Department Mission

The Department of Performing Arts inspires and develops the intellectual and creative potential of the students, faculty, staff and alumni of American University. We foster excellence in scholarship, artistry, and experiential inquiry within and between the disciplines of arts management, dance, music, theatre and musical theatre. By integrating the traditions and innovations of a liberal arts education in the context of the vibrant Washington, DC arts community, we cultivate citizens who actively contribute to their local and global communities and embody the moral and ethical responsibilities of the 21st century.

## About the Program

The Dance Minor at American University provides an opportunity for concentrated study in dance within a liberal arts curriculum. The program is grounded in the development of students as articulate movers, thinkers, writers, speakers and creators of dance, providing a balance between artistic expression, technical proficiency, and scholarly inquiry. Students are instructed by experienced, professional faculty, comprised of seasoned educators and working artists.

## Program Objectives

- To be an integral part of the General Education Curriculum and Liberal Arts studies at the university
- To provide technically sound, varied course offerings in dance
- To offer courses that develop an understanding of the aesthetic, historical, and kinesiological values of dance
- To provide a student-centered curriculum, demonstrated in:
  - ▶ Course instruction
  - ▶ Performance opportunities
  - ▶ Support of student initiated activities
  - ▶ Provision of student leadership opportunities
  - ▶ The promotion of performance as integral to dance education
- To encourage and develop creative, individual expression within each student
- To provide students with rich experiences in the studio, classroom and through performance that enhance skill and knowledge of the field
- To encourage students to reflect critically, communicate effectively, and conduct themselves professionally through the study of dance

## Program Policies

- No audition is required to declare a Dance Minor.
- Auditions are required for advanced placement in technique courses.
- All prospective Dance Minors must meet with an academic advisor in the Department of Performing Arts prior to declaring the Dance Minor.
- Students may repeat dance technique courses for credit.
- Students must successfully complete a 3-credit dance technique course prior to registering for 1-credit Dance Practicum courses.
- Students must be registered for a dance technique course to perform in the Informal Dance Showcase, Dance Repertory, or the Spring Dance Concert.

## Minor Requirements

22 credit hours with grades of C or better

Students intending to pursue the Dance Minor must be assigned to a departmental advisor. Student must achieve proficiency in dance performance. Required levels of proficiency are decided individually in conference with the Dance Program Director, and take into account the student's interests, background and abilities in dance.

## Course Requirements

PERF 200: Dance and Society (3)  
PERF 307: The Principles of Movement (3)  
PERF 411: Composition of Dance I (3)

One of the following courses:

- PERF 455: Dance Styles for the Musical Theatre (3)
- PERF 306: The Moving Body (3)
- PERF 450: Rotating Topics in Theatre (3)
- PERF 596: Selected Topics Non-Recurring (3)

Two 3-credit dance technique course at the intermediate or advanced level

Four 1-credit dance technique courses at the intermediate or advanced level.

## Performance Opportunities

### Informal Showcase (*Fall and Spring Semester*)

- End of semester recital for dance, musical theatre and theatre students
- Open to all students registered for dance technique courses

### Choreolab (*Fall Semester*)

- Workshop/Showcase for student choreographers
- By audition only
- Student work is adjudicated by local professional dance artists
- Student choreographers must apply to participate

### Spring Dance Concert (*Spring Semester*)

- By audition only
- Annual concert of faculty, student and guest artist works performed by AU students

### Dance Repertory (*Spring Semester*)

- 3 credit performance course designed to give students the experience of being in a dance company

### American College Dance Festival (*Spring Semester*)

- Faculty and/or student choreographed works are performed in formal and informal concerts.

## Student Organizations and AU Athletics

AU has multiple student-run dance groups who perform on and off campus each semester. These groups include:

- AU In Motion
- AU Bhangra
- AU Jhoom,
- AU Salsa Club
- Swing Dance Club
- Step 101

Information about student groups is available from the AU Student Activities office. (202-885-3390)

For information on the AU Dance Team, please contact the American University Athletics Department. (202-885-3000)



For further information on the American University Dance Program

*contact*

Professor **Melanie George**

*Dance Program Director*

202-885-3433 / [mgeorge@american.edu](mailto:mgeorge@american.edu)