

Dance Audition Guidelines for Face to Face Auditions

The Audition Process

- The Saturday auditions generally begin with Check in-registration from 9-9:20am
- 9:20-9:50 is greetings from the Department Chairperson, Admissions/Financial Aid Personnel
- 10-12:15pm is the audition class. The class is comprised of a 50 minute Ballet session followed by a 1 hr and 15 minute Modern session. There will be 10 minutes for students to speak with current dance majors about the program.
- 12:30-1:30 BFA solo presentations will be scheduled.
- Parents can wait in the meeting room or walk around campus during the audition class. Parents are not allowed to view the class or solo presentations.
- A campus tour is optional and is provided following the audition class.
- An itinerary with times and locations will be sent by email or mailed to you prior to your audition date.

Audition Attire

For Women: Leotard and tights or dance pants

For Men: Dance pants, shorts and shirt

Does admission to the University guarantee my admission to the Department of Dance? No. The Department of Dance requires a separate audition. You must be accepted by **both** the University and the Department of Dance in order to be admitted into Slippery Rock University. Being accepted into the dance major program **must** align with receiving acceptance to the university.

Do I need to apply to the University before the audition? You do not, but it is highly recommended that you do. It is very valuable to us in the Department of Dance to know if you have been accepted, because if you are wait-listed, we could be helpful in the admission process. Applying early can also help to ensure priority housing and early registration. Click on the red "Apply Now" button in the lower left corner to access the application or visit the [Office of Undergraduate Admissions](#). All applicants are encouraged to apply for the various SRU university scholarships available to incoming freshman. Incoming freshman will be eligible in their 2nd semester to apply for dance scholarships.

Audition Decisions Acceptance into the Department of Dance as a dance major or minor is based on potential as demonstrated in the audition. Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek acceptance into the university prior to their audition but it is not necessary. A spot will be held for the prospective student only after you have being accepted into the University and paid your deposit. You will receive your Department of Dance acceptance letter two weeks after your audition. It is important that you notify us of your intention to come to SRU and place a deposit to hold your spot.

Here are some questions that are frequently asked by prospective students:

What does the audition include? All dancers who are auditioning meet with the department chairperson for an informational meeting, and will then meet with a representative from the Admissions Office. Prospective students will then take a ballet class and a modern class. There will also be time to meet with current SRU students to ask questions and get some advice on dancing at a university. A meeting with the chairperson may occur after the audition. **Do I have to perform a solo at the audition?** Yes if you are applying to the BFA program you should prepare a solo that is between 90 seconds and 2 minutes in length.

How many students audition per year and how many do you accept? Acceptance into the program is competitive. We can have anywhere between 60-80 students audition for the dance program, and our target is to accept up to 35.

What is the focus of the dance program? Dance majors train in contemporary modern, improvisation, ballet, jazz, Classical Indian, Hip Hop and Afro-Colombian dance forms. The curriculum also provides excellent training in performing, teaching and choreography, with sub-components of wellness for dancers and dance technology. The dance major provides an excellent, well-rounded education that prepares students for careers in dance.

How often do dance majors dance in a week? Dance Technique courses are offered every day, Monday through Friday. Dance majors may train in six to nine classes per week depending on their schedule. Dancers can take modern, ballet, and jazz every semester, and world dance and improvisation during certain semesters. Additionally, many dance courses, such as Dance Composition I and II, Repertory, and Laban Movement Analysis require that students participate in dance activities. Residencies and rehearsals, which happen in the evenings and on weekends, guarantee that dancers have a full, busy schedule, and are dancing many hours every day.

How will I know what level of technique in which I will be placed? The Department of Dance faculty has a very sophisticated assessment process that is used at the audition and during every semester to determine technique level placement. This assessment procedure is described in the Dance Major and Minor Handbook, which you will receive once you are a student at Slippery Rock University. The dance faculty members will also review all assessment procedures during each semester. BFA students will participate in juried assessments.

Are there many opportunities to choreograph and perform? There are many opportunities to choreograph and perform at SRU.

What degree will I graduate with if I major in dance? Slippery Rock University awards the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in dance, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance (BFA) with a specialization in Performance and Choreography, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Degree in Dance with a specialization in Business Administration. This degree requires the completion of both dance and liberal studies courses and provides a well-rounded education. The dance and [liberal studies](#) programs are an excellent combination that ensures that students will be successful in their future careers.

Can I double major at SRU? Yes. The BA and BFA degrees are compatible with other academic disciplines at the University for students desiring a double major. Disciplines suitable, but not limited to double major considerations are public health, biology, communication, education, English, exercise science, management, marketing, math, physical education, sport management, theatre, and therapeutic recreation.

Once I am a student at SRU, will I have an advisor? Yes. If you are a dance major, a dance faculty member will be your advisor. You will meet on a regular basis with your advisor to register for classes and discuss any important issues that you may have. If you have another major, and dance is your second major, your advisor will be in your first major's program. You will still need to meet with a dance faculty member before registration to ensure that you are taking the correct classes and staying on the dance sequence of courses.

What type of dance clothes should I wear to class? Dancers should be prepared for all types of dancing, and should have ballet slippers, jazz shoes, tap shoes and appropriate dance clothes. For ballet, pink, black, or tan tights with a dark leotard are required. For modern and jazz, students are allowed to wear any dance clothes, as long as they are tight fitting so that the body can be clearly seen. Hair is always worn up in a bun for ballet, but can simply be pulled back for modern, jazz and tap. There are special costumes for world dance that students rent or purchase when they take the course.

If I am interested in dance technology, what type of equipment and opportunities would be available to me? The Department of Dance and Slippery Rock University have state-of-the-art equipment for dance technology projects. The Department of Dance has its own dance technology lab for dance (five Mac desktop, and four laptop computers) for student use, as well as a performance space equipped for projection.

What is the campus like? Are there many activities on campus? The Slippery Rock University campus is beautiful, combining traditional architecture with new, modern buildings. The landscape is lovely, boasting trees, flowers and plants throughout campus, as well as ponds and excellent places to walk, run, hike and bike. The Student Government Association hosts many exciting events on campus, from lectures to rock concerts. There are also many departments on campus that hold events on a regular basis, such as the music and theatre departments. A quick look at the student newspaper, The Rocket, will let students know of all campus activities. Additionally, SRU hosts the Kaleidoscope Arts Festival each year, which brings outstanding international artists to campus. The University's Performing Arts Series features prominent dance companies every year. Dance majors attend professional dance concerts every semester in Pittsburgh, presented by the Pittsburgh Dance Council.