About the Program

Slippery Rock University is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Dance. The SRU Department of Dance offers the only Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in dance degree programs in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. The BA in dance major focuses equally on performing, choreography and teaching, thereby providing students with a well-rounded dance education. The BFA is a professional baccalaureate degree that deepens and expands artistic training at the advanced level and includes entrepreneurial skills development in Business Administration. These programs will prepare SRU dance majors to transition through different phases of their professional and personal lives. The BA and BFA require 120 credit hours. Dance majors will be able to customize their BFA degree by electing one of two areas of concentration: Business Administration or Performance and Choreography. The Business Administration concentration is built upon existing curricular strengths in the department of dance and the College of Business.

The dance faculty is well known for its excellence in teaching and ability to educate dancers by dramatically increasing students’ level of knowledge about dance as an art form, dance technique and dance as a profession as well as the many dance-related career options. Students can expect to expand and perfect their artistic and research abilities in various technique, performance, choreography and teaching courses. “Wellness for Dancers”, “Dance Kinesiology” and “Dance Technology” are strong dance science and technology components of the dance curriculum. In the SRU department of dance, students will find a warm, welcoming, secure and disciplined environment in which to explore, learn and grow. All potential incoming freshmen, transfer students or currently enrolled students must participate in a dance audition.

Performance Opportunities

• Faculty and Guest Artist Dance Concert, Slippery Rock University Dance Theater (SRUDT) Winter Concert
• SRUDT Adjudication Concert, SRUDT Fall Concert, Senior Synthesis Dance Concert
• 60X60 Experimental Music, Art and Dance Concert, informal guest artists showings, independent senior concerts
• Rock Dance Company and Afro Colombian Dance Ensemble performances at local regional elementary/secondary schools, cultural festivals and community venues

Career Opportunities

Graduates from SRU’s bachelor of arts in dance degree program have been accepted into excellent graduate programs. Numerous alumni have received graduate assistantships and scholarships to pursue advanced degrees in dance, technology, physical therapy, medicine and chiropractic care. Dance program graduates have completed MA or MFA in dance degrees at institutions such as The Ohio State University, Sarah Lawrence College, New York University, Florida State University, Texas Women’s University, Smith College, University of California Riverside, Arizona State University, State University of New York at Brockport, Chatham University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dance alumni have also garnered diverse job opportunities as teachers in or owners of dance studios/centers, dance faculty at accredited universities, dance faculty at performing arts high schools, adjunct faculty in college dance programs, dance company members, choreographers, arts administrators, dance company managers, filmmakers, videographers, costume designers, liturgical dance specialists, wellness and fitness specialists, dance blog writers and editors, office managers, event planners and summer dance program assistants. SRU dance graduates are prepared for finding and obtaining varied employment prospects upon graduation.

Student Organizations

• Sigma Rho Delta Honorary Society
• Slippery Rock University Dance Theater

Major / Concentration

• Dance (BA)
• Dance (BFA)
  • Business Administration
  • Performance and Choreography

Minor

• Dance

• Student Dance Advisory Board
• Dance Express
Dance Company Experience

Slippery Rock University Dance Theatre (SRUDT) presents several concerts each year, with additional performances at festivals and conferences. Under the artistic direction of faculty member Ursula Payne, SRUDT choreographers and performers undergo a rigorous rehearsal and audition process, which culminates in the pre-professional concert that has become a major part of the cultural life on campus. This company provides students with the opportunity to create and perform dances influenced by their knowledge of dance technology, modern, contemporary, jazz, and tap forms.

Rock Dance Company (RDC) positively impacts children’s lives through the art and creativity of dance. The student company is directed by faculty member Jennifer Keller and is comprised of 15 SRU dance majors who are dedicated to children’s and community performances. RDC provides high quality, interactive dance performances to approximately 2,000 children annually and countless community members. The company’s performance schedule includes elementary schools, senior centers, charitable and community events. Rock Dance Company is one of the many ways that SRU dance majors give back to their community and prepare for meaningful careers in the arts.

The Afro-Colombian Dance Ensemble (ACDE) promotes Latin American culture through dance. Directed by Professor Melissa Teodoro, a research specialist in Afro-Colombian dance, ACDE has performed throughout western Pennsylvania in numerous festivals, conferences and educational venues, as well as in West Virginia, Ohio and California. Members of ACDE have the opportunity to travel with Teodoro to different locations in the Caribbean coast of Colombia where they conduct ethnographic research of Afro-Colombian dance and culture.

Bachelor of Arts \ Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and Master of Science in Adapted Physical Activity Combination

This program of study is designed specifically for dance majors who desire to expand their professional credentials and apply dance in health promotion practices and wellness programs for persons with disabilities of all ages. The health status of persons with disabilities is a critical and emerging need in the human service profession. Adapted physical activity is a field of employment expected to grow 30 percent faster than most other fields during the next 10 years. Students are expected to enter the MS in APA program their senior year as a dance major taking 12 graduate credits. The student will take the remaining 18 graduate credits of the master’s program during their fifth year of studies. Students are encouraged to minor in the APA program as an undergraduate, but are not required to do so.

Mission Statement

The department of dance at Slippery Rock University promotes dance as an art form through the creative, technical, expressive and intellectual development of each student. Dance faculty members offer personalized attention to each student. Superior educational experiences in performance, choreography, teaching, with additional components of wellness for dancers and dance technology will prepare students for their chosen profession and role in society.

International Travel Experiences

The department of dance at SRU provides opportunities for a variety of international dance studies. For students who desire an in-depth and cultural immersion experience, the Dance in India Initiative allows students who have completed the “World Dance” course to travel and study classical Indian dance for one month in southern India. Students are also able to participate in various pre-session and spring break travel seminars accompanied by dance faculty. Dance students and faculty recently participated in dance seminars in the following countries:

- Spring 2012, Rome, Italy
- Summer 2012, Cartagena, Colombia
- Summer 2015, Paris, France
- Summer 2016, Rome, Italy

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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