WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DANCE DEGREE?

The typical career path of a dance program graduate is multilayered. Dance professionals can be arts administrators, dance teachers in community settings, sole proprietors who manage dance studios and provide instruction, or independent artists. They may switch from one focus to another as opportunities and preferences change. In general, the professional environment of dance and the performing arts in the 21st century is continuously evolving. Students pursuing a career in dance increase their employability by understanding how teaching, performance, creativity, technology and entrepreneurial skills function together.

There are many career options open to dance majors with the most common being concert/commercial dancer, choreographer, dance studio instructor, adapted dance instructor, adjunct professor, K-12 dance teacher, manager, dance studio owner, production manager, videographer, costume designer, arts administrator or talent agent. A dance degree also prepares students for professional studies in dance abroad or at graduate school, physical therapy/health professions, arts administration, dance therapy, creative arts, dance science and business administration.

DANCE AT SRU

Our dance curriculum is designed for students seeking multilayered careers as dance professionals. It provides the advanced training needed to pursue performance, choreography, technology, administrative and teaching careers in dance and related fields. Students study contemporary dance practices in genres including modern, jazz, ballet, Improvisation, partnering, hip-hop, Afro-Colombian and classical Indian dance. Dance majors develop advanced choreographic, leadership, pedagogy and research skills.

WHY CHOOSE DANCE AT SRU?

1. International and nationally recognized dance faculty: Dance majors have many opportunities to collaborate with acclaimed dance faculty in undergraduate research and creative projects. Each student is assigned a faculty member as their adviser who mentors and guides them through their program of study.

2. Nationally ranked program and excellent curriculum: SRU’s Department of Dance is accredited by The National Association of Schools of Dance and provides a curriculum that is unique, innovative, and meets or exceeds the industry standards developed by experts in the field.

3. Excellent co-curricular programming: Dance majors have the opportunity to participate in up to three resident dance companies that support student performance, leadership and choreography.

4. Networking with dance professionals: Dance majors have many opportunities to work with guest artists throughout the academic year to refine their performance skills and expand their professional networks. These experiences are high-impact practices.

5. Cultural programming and study abroad experiences: Dance majors have traveled to India, England, Scotland, France, Colombia and Italy to gain international research and dance training experiences.
INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The internship program is a way for dance majors to gain pre-professional experiences with cultural organizations, dance studios, health and wellness facilities, and within the Department of Dance. SRU Dance students have completed internships at various locations including:

- Wellness internship, Department of Dance
- Dance technology internship, Department of Dance
- The Disney College Program, Florida and California
- The Dance Place, Washington, D.C.
- Gibney Dance Center, New York City
- American Dance Festival, Durham, North Carolina
- Bates Summer Dance Festival, Maine
- Diavolo Dance Theater, Los Angeles, California
- Attack Theater Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- The Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

CAREER OUTCOMES

While some SRU dance majors continue their education after earning a bachelor’s degree, graduates of the department have secured careers as:

- Training associate, Gibney Dance Center, New York
- Lighting director, Italian Dance Connection NYC, New York
- Lighting designer, Greenspace, Long Island City, New York
- Operations manager and financial assistant, Dance Place, Washington, D.C.
- Professional dancer, H.T. Chen and Dancers in New York City
- Professional dancer, Abby Z and the New Utility Dance Company
- Youth dance instructor, Hubbard Street Dance, Chicago
- Professional dancer/performer, Sesame Street Live
- Professional dancer, Diavolo Architecture in Motion, International Touring, Los Angeles, California
- Director of dance and dance teacher, Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School, Midland, Pennsylvania

RESIDENT DANCE COMPANIES

- Slippery Rock University Dance Theater
- Rock Dance Company
- Afro-Colombian Dance Ensemble

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- National Honor Society for Dance Arts
- Dance Express
- Jam Rock
- SRU Tap Club

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Samantha Baker, ’16
Training associate, Gibney Dance Center, New York

Ryan McMullen, ’15
2018 Master of Fine Arts in Performance and Choreography, Florida State University

Kaitlyn Jane Dye, ’12
Teaching artist, Velocity Dance Center

Teena Custer, ’04
Hip-hop dance theater artist and dancer with Ephrat Asherie Dance

Marcy Yonkey Clayton, ’00
Dance program coordinator, associate professor, co-director of CCdanceLAB Columbia College, South Carolina

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