About the Program

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.

The dance curriculum is designed specifically for students seeking multi-layered careers as dance professionals. It provides the advanced training needed to pursue performing, choreography, technology, and teaching careers in dance. Slippery Rock University prepares its graduates to transition through different phases of their professional and personal lives.

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 and Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance degree programs in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education.

The BA in dance is a rigorous program that provides a comprehensive dance education that is compatible with other academic disciplines for students desiring a double major. The professional BFA in dance degree program will provide an excellent dance education with advanced training in performance, choreography and teaching along with elective areas of focus in business administration, wellness and dance technology. Dance BA or BFA majors can obtain a Master of Science Degree in Adapted Physical Activity (offered by the Physical and Health Education department) through an accelerated 4+1 program. This innovative program is designed for dance majors who want to expand their credentials to integrate inclusive classrooms into dance, health and wellness programs for people of all ages.

Dance Minor

The minor in dance is designed to prepare students to apply dance principles, concepts and techniques in their chosen professional environment.

Performance Opportunities

There are numerous opportunities for dance majors and minors to become involved in a rehearsal and performance process. Auditions are held annually for participation in one of three resident dance companies, guest artist residencies that occur throughout the year, repertory courses and by invitation.

Career Opportunities

The dance program is designed to prepare students to be entrepreneurial, while achieving success in their professional and personal lives. Graduates of the dance program are currently working in the following fields:

- Graduate students in dance, therapy and health related programs
- Dance teachers in studios and performing arts high schools
- College and university instructors
- Arts administrators
- Studio and dance company managers
- Dance studio owners
- Independent artist and performers
- Physical therapist, chiropractor, dance therapist
- Filmmaker, videographer

Student Organizations

- Sigma Rho Delta Honorary Society
- Slippery Rock University Dance Theater
- Student Dance Advisory Board
- Dance Express

Major / Concentration

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

Minor

- Dance
Dance Company Experience

Slippery Rock University Dance Theatre 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 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 promotes Latin American culture through dance. Directed by Professor Melissa Teodoro, a research specialist in Afro-Colombian dance, ACDE has performed throughout western Pennsylvania at 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 of all ages with disabilities. 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 in a personalized environment. Superior education in performance, choreography, teaching, with additional components of wellness for dance, dance technology and intercultural experience, prepares students for their chosen professional and entrepreneurial role in society. will prepare students for their chosen profession and role in society.

International Travel Experiences

The department of dance at SRU provides experiences for students to engage in a variety of travel opportunities and research trips.

• Dance in India
• Dance in Columbia
• Asian Pacific Dance Festival
• SRU Dance Travel Seminars (Italy and Paris)