

Slippery Rock University Department of Dance Audition Requirements

Bachelor of Arts in Dance (BA)

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance (BFA)

Dance Pedagogy Minor

Dance Performance Minor

Audition Requirements for all programs (BA, BFA, Minor)

-Register for a dance audition date on the department audition page. (Step 1 of the registration process)

-Submit your two-page narrative (Step 2 of the registration process).

The narrative should be no longer than two (2) typed pages in which you define dance as an art form, describe your previous dance experiences, and discuss future goals. The preferred format of the document is 12-point font, one-inch margins, double-spaced, in Microsoft Word.

-(optional) Submit a dance photo or headshot (Step 2 of the registration process).

- Prior to your audition day, you will receive a specific itinerary for the day of your audition.

-The Audition Day consists of a presentation for auditionees and their families, an audition class, a peer-to-peer session with current students, and a tour of the dance facilities.

Additional Audition Requirement for Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) candidates

-Submit a link to a 1.5-2 minute solo. (Step 2 of the registration process).

The solo can be choreographed or it can be improvised. The length of the solo should be between 90-120 seconds. You may dance in the genre of your choice, such as Modern, African, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, etc. This component of the audition provides an opportunity for you to express your creative and artistic potential and share what excites you about dance.

Sample Schedule for Auditions:

Morning (9:00am) auditions:

8:40am-9:00am: Sign in, Miller Theater Lobby in the Performing Arts Center

9:00am-9:30am: Info session for all students and parents/guardians

9:30-10:00am: Info session continues for parents/guardians

9:45am-11:15am: Audition Class (BA's, BFA's, Dance Minors)

11:15am-11:30am: Peer to peer session with current students (BA's, BFA's, Dance Minors)

11:30am: BA and Dance Minor auditions are concluded

11:30am-12:00pm: BFA interviews

Optional tour of dance facilities provided upon request after the audition

Frequently Asked Questions:

Are parents permitted to watch the audition class?

Parents are invited to relax in the lobby of Miller Theater or walk through campus during the audition activities. Parents/guardians are not permitted to watch the audition class or BFA solos.

What does the audition panel look for in the audition class?

Faculty look for the prospective student to demonstrate efficient alignment and anatomically sound principles, as well as musicality and movement dynamics.

What is the schedule and where do we park on campus for auditions?

Parking is free on campus and is available in the front and back of the Performing Arts Center. You can register for a free, visitor, e-permit at this [link](#). The audition schedule, location, and a campus map will be emailed to you approximately two weeks prior the audition date.

What does the audition include?

All dancers who are auditioning meet with the department chairperson for an informational meeting. Prospective students (BA, BFA, Dance Minors) will then take a technique class. There will also be a peer-to-peer session with current SRU students to ask questions and get advice on dancing at a university. Once the peer-to-peer session is concluded, BA and Dance Minors are free to depart campus or take a campus tour. BFA students will have a brief interview with the faculty audition panel after the peer-to-peer session.

What is the audition attire?

Auditionees are asked to wear leotard and tights or dance pants; ballet shoes for the ballet portion; bare feet for the modern portion.

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 yellow "Apply Now" button 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 freshmen will be eligible in their 2nd semester to apply for dance scholarships.

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

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 between 25-30 students.

What is the focus of the dance program?

Dance majors train in contemporary modern, improvisation, ballet, jazz, Classical Indian (Bharatanatyam), partnering, 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. BFA majors are required to have a minimum of one studio practice course per day; often they are enrolled in two studio practice courses a day. Dancers can take modern, ballet, and jazz every semester, and Repertory, Bharatanatyam, improvisation, and contemporary partnering during certain semesters. Additionally, many dance courses, such as Dance Composition I and II, Repertory, and Laban Movement Analysis/The Art of Performance 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 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. BFA students will participate in juried assessments every year. The Slippery Rock University Department of Dance excels at guiding and mentoring dancers to their fullest potential.

Are there many opportunities to choreograph and perform?

There are many opportunities to choreograph and perform at SRU. We have two resident dance companies called Slippery Rock University Dance Theatre, which features the choreography of our juniors and seniors, and Palenque Colombian Dance Ensemble, a touring company that features Afro-Colombian dances. Freshmen students are encouraged to audition and perform from their first year. In addition, there are many opportunities to perform in the BFA senior capstone concerts, as well as many other venues such as 60x60, Composition I and II performances, and LMA & the Art of Performance Concerts. We encourage our students to apply for off-campus performance showcases, and often provide funding to cover travel costs.

What degree will I graduate with if I major in dance?

Slippery Rock University awards the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Dance (BA); Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance (BFA) with a Concentration in Performance and Choreography; and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Degree in Dance with a Concentration in Dance Entrepreneurship.

These degree programs require the completion of both dance and Rock Studies courses and provide a well-rounded education. The dance and Rock 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 is designed to work with a double-major, and a BFA degree is sought by many students who may stay for an extra semester or year. Popular double-major considerations are Early and Secondary Education, Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Therapeutic Recreation, Theatre, and many others such as Non-Profit Management, Strategic Communication and Media, English, Public Health, and Management and Marketing.

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 a double major, you will have an advisor in each program.

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 (optional) and appropriate dance clothes. Each dance professor will provide guidelines for attire for their class. There are special costumes for Bharatanatyam that students rent for a small fee 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 has been a leader in dance technology curricula for over 20 years that includes coursework, independent studies, and guest artist residencies. Coursework prepares students to direct, shoot, and edit screendances (dance films made for the screen), as well as choreograph interactive pieces that integrate the live dancer and the projected image. Students have access to a variety of cameras (gopro, prosumer camcorders, and DSLR), tripods, and projectors for student use, as well as a performance space equipped for projection. Alumni have gone on to be filmmakers, film festival curators, archivists, social media coordinators, and professors.

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. Dance students use the Performing Arts Complex (newly opened in 2021) that features two buildings, four dance studios with Harlequin sprung floors, a 753 seat mainstage theater, a 200 seat dance studio theater, a pilates/wellness room, and more. 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, or the CORE app, will let students know of all

campus activities. Dance majors attend professional dance concerts every year in Pittsburgh, presented by the Pittsburgh Dance Council.