

# DANCE

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UVU™

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE AT UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

# WHY DANCE AT UVU

**“Dance is the timeless interpretation of life.”  
—Shah Asad Rizvi**

- UVU's Department of Dance faculty value a student-centered learning perspective by fostering self-discovery and individuality.
- The UVU Dance curriculum creates rich performing opportunities through which students develop the skills required to succeed in professional dance environments.
- UVU has five pre-professional performing ensembles drawn from each of the dance programs. These companies expose students to robust performance repertory, world-renowned guest artists, and strategic technical and artistic skills to support their career development. Find info on Synergy Dance Company, Repertory Ballet Ensemble, Contemporary Dance Ensemble, Esprit d.c., and our Ballroom Companies here: [www.uvu.edu/dance/companies](http://www.uvu.edu/dance/companies).

- With a 90% placement rate, our Dance Education graduates have gone on to run dance programs in numerous Utah high schools, junior high schools and preparatory academies throughout the United States.
- UVU Dance grants and scholarships help students pursue research and reach their creative and academic aspirations.

- Our students enjoy high-impact and real-world experiences in ballroom dance including participation at national and international DanceSport events such as the Blackpool Dance Festival.
- The training and performance venues for dance at UVU rank among the best in the country and offer exceptional experiential learning opportunities.

- Nationally and internationally recognized guest artists and choreographers visit campus yearly to mentor and work with students in all programs and companies.
- Bartenieff/Laban Studies is woven through our curriculum. This comprehensive system of movement observation, analysis, and embodiment provides students with a variety of lenses through which to physically and verbally articulate the language of movement. The Department of Dance has three full-time faculty who are Certified Bartenieff/Laban Movement Analysts and are currently engaged in anti-racist research as it applies to Laban and the B/LMA work.



# GETTING STARTED

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE PRE-MAJOR

Students may choose to complete the Associate of Science (AS) in Dance or go on to complete their bachelor’s degree. Every student intending to pursue a degree within Dance is placed in the pre-major program. Students may either pursue the two-year associate degree or a four-year bachelor’s degree. After completing the first year of the common core curriculum, students can audition to join specific bachelor’s degree programs.

## CHOOSE YOUR TRACK

Dance is a diverse field with several emphases that can lead to dynamic careers and professional success. In addition to technique, dance students learn transferable skills that can be applied to any profession. These skills include analytical thinking, creativity, discipline, adaptability, and clear communication. Upon graduation, students are prepared for advanced graduate work or careers as performing artists, certified teachers, choreographers, directors, somatic instructors, coaches, producers, studio teachers, studio owners, and many more.

The Department of Dance offers two different types of bachelor’s degrees. Each degree has the option of two different emphases.

For more information, visit [uvu.edu/dance/degrees](http://uvu.edu/dance/degrees).

### BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA) IN DANCE

#### BALLET

Students in the ballet program study the full spectrum of ballet technique, performance, and choreography through a historical, somatic, scientific, and theoretical lens. The common core curriculum provides a broad knowledge base that supports the ballet program’s specialized courses (pointe, partnering, ballet choreography). Annually, ballet students engage in enriching experiences, such as working with renowned guest artists and collaborating with professional companies to take their work to the next level.

#### MODERN/CONTEMPORARY DANCE

The modern/contemporary dance program blends daily rigorous physical practice with the scholarly study of dance in historical, somatic, theoretical, scientific, pedagogical, and cultural contexts. Modern dance students work with acclaimed guest artists on a yearly basis, participate in study abroad programs, and work alongside faculty mentors in scholarly and creative research.



### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) DANCE

#### BALLROOM DANCE

Ballroom students focus on technique, choreography, and performance. Specialized course offerings include teaching methods, ballroom choreography, and technical instruction in International Ballroom, International Latin, and American styles of ballroom dance.

#### DANCE EDUCATION

Dance education students dedicate themselves to innovative methods of teaching, creating, and performing. Students are encouraged to join dance and education communities through guest artists, workshops, and conferences. Coursework includes various dance techniques, pedagogy, kinesiology, choreography, performance, and production.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Two different types of scholarships are available specifically for dance students. Scholarship auditions take place in January of spring semester.

### EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Minimum of 12 credits per semester
- Member of a performing group

### DEAN’S MERIT SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Minimum of 12 credits per semester
- Minimum of six dance credits per semester

Learn more at [uvu.edu/dance/students](http://uvu.edu/dance/students).

## AUDITIONS

The Department of Dance requires an audition for matriculation and scholarships. Auditions are held in the early spring each year. Refer to the Department of Dance website for the program-specific requirements.

More details are available at [uvu.edu/dance/students](http://uvu.edu/dance/students).

### STEPS TO APPLY

1. Complete the UVU Admissions Application at [uvu.edu/admissions](http://uvu.edu/admissions)
2. Complete the UVU Application for Financial Aid by February 1
3. Complete the New or Continuing Student Dance Scholarship Application
4. Provide a letter of recommendation, letter of intent, and current transcript
5. Perform a live audition

Private scholarships such as the LEAP scholarship and the Connie Reynolds Memorial Endowed Scholarship are also available to students.

If you have questions about the scholarship or audition process, email your area coordinator.

#### MODERN/ CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Brian Gerke  
[Brian.gerke@uvu.edu](mailto:Brian.gerke@uvu.edu)

#### BALLET

Nichole Ortega  
[nichole.ortega@uvu.edu](mailto:nichole.ortega@uvu.edu)

#### BALLROOM

Chris Witt  
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#### DANCE ED COORDINATOR

Amy Markgraf  
[amy.markgraf@uvu.edu](mailto:amy.markgraf@uvu.edu)





# OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

Students at Utah Valley University have the opportunity to gain real-world experience by working with professional artists and competing at festivals.

## RECENT GUEST ARTISTS

Louis van Amstel  
Justin Bass  
Laura Brick  
Stacey Calvert  
Mike Esperanza  
Bill Evans  
Carl Flink  
Francisco Gella  
Michele Gifford  
Maria Gillespie  
Joni Judd  
Kumiko Kashiwagi  
Liz Lerman  
Anna Mansbridge  
Andy Noble  
Jennifer Scanlon  
Kim Strunk  
Natasha Washington  
Nina Watt

## FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIONS

Kennedy Center American Dance Festival Concert  
American Guild Performance Festival  
BAM Wave Rising Festival  
Dance Gallery Festival  
Utah Arts Festival  
Regional Dance America Pacific Region Festival  
Youth America Grand Prix  
Blackpool International Ballroom Competition  
National Collegiate Ballroom Competitions  
Rocky Mountain Choreography Festival  
American College Dance Association  
Northwest Regional Conference



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Department of Dance values teaching the whole person. We engage and embody the physical, intellectual, emotional, psychological, social, and spiritual aspects of dancers.

The department offers a variety of degree programs—a BFA in dance with an emphasis in ballet or modern/contemporary dance, a BS in dance education or ballroom dance, and an AS in dance. All degrees share a common curriculum that provides students with an opportunity to network and create community. We prepare student-artists with 21st-century skills and knowledge to embark on multifaceted careers in dance. Performance opportunities are available through the eight departmental companies, the capstone concert, and dance clubs. Regional, national, and international guest artists are brought in annually to enhance the curriculum. Additionally, the Department of Dance has affiliations with professional companies and provides opportunities for students to perform in collaborative projects with them.

We develop students' artistic voice, technical and performance abilities, creativity, intellectual knowledge, pedagogy, research acumen, and life skills. Graduates of our programs have gone on to pursue professional performance, graduate work, teaching, somatics, dance science, and much more.

If you are interested in majoring in dance at Utah Valley University, I invite you to learn more about our programs by visiting the Department of Dance website, meeting with our dance advisors or program coordinators, and speaking with dance faculty and students.

Come dance with us! Together we can create a powerful community that communicates “the hidden language of the soul” (Martha Graham).

—ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MONICA CAMPBELL  
Department Chair

## MEET OUR FACULTY

Our exceptionally talented faculty embody diverse areas of expertise within educational and professional realms. UVU's Dance faculty have formed international companies, directed dance centers, held professional performance careers, presented research nationally and internationally, and choreographed throughout the world. Faculty hold various certifications in Yoga, Gyrotonics, Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis, Pilates, and more!

View full faculty bios at [uvu.edu/dance/about](http://uvu.edu/dance/about).

## WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

Graduating from UVU opened many avenues for my professional dance career. Since graduating, I have performed as a freelance artist for local project-based dance companies, founded my own dance company (Atlas Dance Collective), been offered training positions on various companies including SALT Contemporary Dance and DIAVOLO: Architecture in Motion, instructed and mentored the youth at various dance studios, continued my dance education by attending national dance intensives including DIAVOLO, Vim Vigor, and American Dance Festival, and recently became an adjunct faculty member for UVU's Department of Dance. If it weren't for UVU's engaged learning environment or the opportunities I took advantage of during my undergraduate experience at UVU, I don't think I would have known how many paths my career in dance could take. I am so grateful for the mentors and opportunities I had as a student engaging in both UVU's Dance program as well as their Earth Science program. Thank you, UVU!

—WHITNEY COLLINS  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Modern Dance Emphasis



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

Learn more at [uvu.edu/dance](http://uvu.edu/dance).

### **SCHOOL OF THE ARTS ADVISORS**

Gunther Technology Building

Room 630

801.863.5397

[uvu.edu/arts/advisors](http://uvu.edu/arts/advisors)

[SOAadvisors@uvu.edu](mailto:SOAadvisors@uvu.edu)

### **DEPARTMENT OF DANCE**


Liberal Arts Building

Room 022

801.863.8610



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 [instagram.com/uvuarts](https://instagram.com/uvuarts)

 [twitter.com/uvuarts](https://twitter.com/uvuarts)

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The information provided is in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education's disclosure requirements for programs eligible for Title IV financial aid as programs that prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation as required in 34 CFR 668.6(b).