



SCHOOL OF DANCE
 560 Parrington Oval, room 1000
 Norman, Oklahoma 73019-2071
dance.ou.edu
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WEITZENHOFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
SCHOOL OF DANCE
 The University of Oklahoma




School of Dance

The University of Oklahoma School of Dance is ranked one of the top three programs in the nation by Dance Magazine for training in ballet and modern dance techniques, pointe, composition, dance history, Pilates body conditioning, repertoire, pas de deux, teaching methods, performance practices and choreography.

Students enjoy a wide spectrum of performance opportunities, beginning with three spring and fall dance productions at OU. In addition, dance productions tour the state and region presenting full-length performances of one-act ballets, modern dance performances, lecture-demonstrations and a variety of youth concerts and workshops. Opera and musicals provide still other performance outlets, as do productions of student choreography and international tours to such countries as Japan, Ecuador, Mexico, Taiwan, France, Paraguay, China and Austria.

Degrees

While experiencing life on a large college campus, students receive the personal attention needed as they work toward a degree and career in dance. Three curricula on the undergraduate level lead to a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance, while the graduate program leads to a master of fine arts degree. Undergraduates may select a curriculum in ballet performance or pedagogy or in modern dance performance. Graduate students may elect to emphasize ballet or modern dance. All undergraduate programs include required general education courses and others in theatre and related arts. These courses, combined with the Dance curriculum, assure dance majors a complete educational experience in a demanding performing art.

Auditions

Admission to all degree programs in the School of Dance is by audition. For specific audition information, please visit the School of Dance website at dance.ou.edu/apply.

Scholarships

The School of Dance offers a variety of undergraduate scholarships and tuition waivers ranging in amount from \$1,100 to \$10,000. Scholarships are based on merit, and a scholarship audition combined with the entrance audition is required for entering students. Assuming appropriate student progress and available funding, scholarships may be continued throughout the academic career. School of Dance Scholarship applications must be submitted online by all student applicants by March 15 of each year. Assistantships and fellowships are available on the graduate level.

Faculty

The School of Dance boasts an internationally recognized faculty that blends academic skill and professional dance experience in ballet and modern dance. Faculty members have danced with the Boston Ballet, Ballet West, Alvin Ailey, the José Limón Dance Company and Pilobolus. They draw on a rich background of styles, with international balletic and contemporary roots in the Limón and Horton techniques. Future professionals thus receive outstanding technical, artistic and theatrical training, combined with a professional sense of discipline. Additional staff members include teaching assistants, accompanists, a music coordinator, four body conditioning specialists, a youth programs coordinator and two adjunct faculty.

Facilities

The School of Dance moved into its new home in the Donald W. Reynolds Performing Arts Center in March 2005. This state-of-the-art facility includes dance studios, a Pilates studio, media center, warm-up areas, faculty offices, and a European-style performance hall. Additional studios are housed in the adjacent Rupel J. Jones Fine Arts Center which includes the Elsie C. Brackett Theatre and A. Max Weitzenhoffer Theatre. These complete theatrical and educational facilities provide students with extensive technical and performance opportunities.





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Background of the School

The School of Dance had its official beginning in 1961 when Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo principal dancers, Miguel Terekhov and Yvonne Chouteau were invited to teach "a few classes." Response to these classes was so positive that Terekhov was invited to develop the present program. With a reputation for strong performance capabilities and the high quality and professionalism of its graduates, the program quickly rose to national prominence.

The School emphasizes performance and now boasts two performing companies. Oklahoma Festival Ballet has a repertoire of over 40 one-act and full-length ballets, while Contemporary Dance Oklahoma features one-act modern dance works. Both companies perform original works by faculty and others from the national repertoire.

Former students have established professional careers in dance with the Boston Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet, Houston Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Louisville Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet and the Pittsburgh Ballet, as well as in Broadway musicals, national touring companies and modern dance companies such as Jennifer Muller, Ailey II, the Graham Ensemble, ODC and Dallas Black Dance Company. Many teach in professional schools and colleges. Others serve as choreographers, managers and technicians.

Guest Artists

Helen Simoneau, Kathleen Ridlon, Darrell Moultrie and Nathan Trice, as well as Francoise Martinet, Earl Mosely, Paul Sutherland, Charthel Arthur, Violette Verdy and Sonia Dawkins have all staged or choreographed works for our companies. Kathleen Tracey, New York City Ballet ballet mistress, staged three ballets from the Balanchine repertoire for our dancers. Additional guest artists include Zippora Karz, Virginia Johnson, Dudley Williams, Mark Dendy, Howard Sayette, Helen Starr and Trey McIntyre. The School of Dance has hosted Taylor 2 for a week of master classes and open rehearsals culminating in a sold out performance.

The School of Dance is committed to continuing its guest artist program to provide our students with a national perspective as they work toward professional careers. The Susan E. Brackett Visiting Artist Chair ensures the international stature of our visiting artists. Past Susan E. Brackett Visiting Artist Chairs were the legendary Frederic Franklin and Raymondo Reibeck, the noted Ballerina Violette Verdy, Donald McKayle, Franca Russell, Jack Anderson, Virginia Johnson, David Hochoy and a remarkable visit by acclaimed modern dancers Betty Jones and Fritz Ludin.

Our Students

Students in the School of Dance are highly recruited, talented young dancers from over 30 states. Many have received scholarships to prestigious summer programs such as PNB Summer Intensive, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center Intensive, Boston Ballet Summer Intensive, ABT Summer Intensive, Alonso King's Lines in San Francisco, the American Dance Festival, the Magnus Midwest Intensive, the Joffrey Chicago Summer Intensive, Ballet Austin Summer Intensive and Ririe Woodbury Intensive. At OU they thrive in an exciting, challenging and supportive atmosphere as they dance works by Agnes de Mille, Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine, Merce Cunningham, Alejandro Cerrudo, Ben Stevenson, Darrell Moultrie, Antony Tudor, Helen Simoneau, Alun Jones and Fritz Ludin. Interdisciplinary projects with students and faculty from across the college are also inspiring creative opportunities.

Once at OU, over 40% of dance majors qualify for the Honors Program proving their dedication to realizing their educational and artistic goals.

Our students are supported by scholarships and the success of our annual fundraiser, Once Upon a Dream, and Dance Partners, an enthusiastic group of patrons committed to raising competitive scholarship funds. They are also supported by University of Oklahoma President, James Gallogly, Dean Mary Margaret Holt and an administration that values the arts in our society.



The University of Oklahoma

Created by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890, The University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic and health-care needs of the state, region and nation. The Norman campus serves as home to all of the university's academic programs except health-related fields. Both the Norman and Health Sciences Center colleges offer programs at the Schusterman Center, the site of OU-Tulsa. The OU Health Sciences Center, which is located in Oklahoma City, is one of only four comprehensive academic health centers in the nation with seven professional colleges. OU enrolls more than 30,000 students, has more than 2,400 full-time faculty members, and has 21 colleges offering 163 majors at the baccalaureate level, 166 majors at the master's level, 81 majors at the doctoral level, 27 majors at the doctoral professional level, and 26 graduate certificates. The university's annual operating budget is \$1.5 billion. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. www.ou.edu/eoo