

Dance- Associate of Arts

The Dance Associate's of Arts at NMU Focuses on technique, composition, performance, pedagogy, and science to create well-rounded, thinking dance professionals. Whether a chosen focus is on stage or behind the scenes, students will have the option to add on a "track" to the required coursework to create an individualized educational experience based on their needs post-graduation.

Skills and Competencies

Students will be able to take lead positions on NMU Theatre and Dance productions in performance, choreography and/or design roles. Performances are held in NMU's professional Forest Roberts Theatre, intimate Black Box Theatre and in regional venues. Northern's hometown of Marquette is a very active arts community, with additional opportunities and employment possibilities.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

General Education 32 cr.

Human Expression- 1 course
DAN305 History & Theory of Dance
Effective Communication- 1-2 courses
Quantitative Reasoning- 1 course
Social Responsibility in a Diverse World- 1 course
Integrative Thinking- 1 course
Perspectives on Society- 1-2 courses

Dance Technique Foundation Courses 8 cr.

Choose eight credits from the Following:
DAN201 Beginning Ballet Technique
DAN301 Intermediate Ballet Technique
DAN401 Advanced Ballet Technique
DAN202 Beginning Contemporary Technique
DAN302 Intermediate Contemporary Technique
DAN402 Advanced Contemporary Technique
DAN203 Beginning Jazz Technique
DAN303 Intermediate Jazz Technique
DAN403 Advanced Jazz Technique
DAN204 Beginning Tap Dance
DAN307 Intermediate Tap Dance
DAN405 Pointe Technique

Required Course Work 24 cr.

DAN130 The Dance Experience
DAN208 Conditioning for Performers
DAN304 Dance Improvisation
DAN305 History & Theory of Dance
DAN306 Dance Practicum
DAN308 Creative Composition
DAN310 Choreography Audition Prep
DAN311 Dance Pedagogy
TH132 Acting 1
TH141 Fundamentals of Design
TH432 Theatre & Entertainment Careers
TH456 Entertainment Arts Management

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship and the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society, the more ways you have to develop your professional skills and gain experience. In addition to participating in the various productions and activities offered by the Forest Roberts Theatre, NMU, and beyond, members have the opportunity to be part of a family unlike any other. Of course, your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Nationally, dance is emerging as a leading field in fitness, as well as a highly popular entertainment form and educational tool. At NMU, we strive to educate our students on the full breadth of possibilities that dance provides, along with entrepreneurial skills to blaze one's own path.

Job Outlook

A continued interest in dance and in pop culture may provide opportunities in dance and in pop culture may provide opportunities in dance schools and in venues outside of dance companies.

Potential Careers

NMU's Dance Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Advertisers are employing choreographers & dancers in their regional, national, and international marketing campaigns and at their trade shows

Movie and video game directors are using choreographers & dancers to score their animated characters

Choreographers are being hired to stage static & 'living' museum exhibits

Teaching artists are becoming more prevalent

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

NMU School of Theatre and Dance
Jill Grundstrom, Dance Director
jgrundst@nmu.edu, 906-227-2760

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations
Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse
Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.tcg.org -Theatre Communication Group, Inc.



What to do with a major in...

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