

# THE SCHOOL OF DANCE

Susan McCullough, Dean

The purpose of the School of Dance is to identify and train young, talented dancers from diverse cultural backgrounds for careers in professional companies throughout the world.

Recognizing that it is necessary to begin training at an early age when the body and mind are flexible, the School enrolls talented young students at the high school level as well as at the college level. In addition, younger ballet students of exceptional ability may also be admitted in the eighth grade. High school students who successfully complete all School of Dance requirements will receive an accredited state of North Carolina high school diploma. College graduates may receive either the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree or the Arts Diploma.

The curriculum, while based on the traditional training of ballet and contemporary techniques, remains flexible to absorb and reflect the current directions in dance, including the body therapies. Extensive performance opportunities further develop the student's versatility, a trademark of NCSA alumni.

The varied background of the permanent dance faculty and the extensive exposure to guest artists currently working in all avenues of dance, from classical ballet to the apex of contemporary dance, provide the students with an exciting palette of inspiration.

The faculty supports and assists the divisions of High School Programs, Undergraduate Academic Programs, and Student Life to provide an artistically and culturally diverse environment that nurtures and develops the whole person.

## Standards of Achievement and Evaluation

### **Admission**

Admission to the School of Dance at the North Carolina School of the Arts is based on talent and potential as assessed in an audition before the arts faculty in addition to academic transcripts, test scores and personal references. All college applicants must meet the Minimum Course Requirements (MCR) of the University of North Carolina.

### **Criteria for Physical Ability**

Dance students must be able to:

- sustain a high level of physically challenging movement sequences for extended periods of time;
- execute a full range of body movements and the basic elements of dance derived from, but not limited to, turning, jumping, balancing, falling, stretching, flexing and running while responding to musical and visual cue;
- view and reproduce sequences of classroom exercises and complicated choreography, which requires specific movements for the head, arms, hands, torso, legs and feet;
- work precisely with live and recorded music; and
- participate in solo, duet and group work that may include lifting and manipulating one's own body or that of another dancer.

### **Class Placement**

Ballet students are placed by the faculty into eight levels based on age and technical proficiency. All new contemporary students are placed into the M4 level.

Progress from level to level is based on faculty recommendations, jury classes, written progress reports and end of term conferences detailing the student's strengths and weaknesses.

### **Attendance Requirements**

Punctual and regular attendance in all classes is expected.

A student must actively participate in at least 75 percent of the classes in a given course to receive a grade. If the student's absences are excused due to injury or illness, then on the advice and counsel of the dean, the student may be either given an "Incomplete" for the course or be permitted to drop the course. If a student receives an "Incomplete," he/she is expected to make up the work for the class during the next semester by working at a "B" or above level in that class and receiving a "B" or above grade for that class at the end of the term. The grade given at the end of the term will also replace the "Incomplete" given the term before. No consideration will be made for students with unexcused absences.

There are no unexcused absences allowed in the School of Dance. An unexcused absence may result in Arts Probation, end of term grade of "F" for the course(s), reconsideration of eligibility for scholarship assistance, and ultimately, dismissal from the School. Each situation will be addressed on an individual basis by the dean in consultation with the dance faculty.

Students who cannot be present on the scheduled registration date must, in advance, notify the Dance Office and the Registrar in writing. Dance classes missed will be considered as unexcused absences unless permission to arrive late is given by the dean.

Specific regulations will be distributed at the beginning of the year and posted in the department.

### **Grading**

Grades are based on technical proficiency, comprehension, progress, attitude and attendance. Students are expected to maintain a grade point average of at least 2.50(C+) in their arts classes. A grade of "C" (2.00) is considered a failing grade and does not meet the artistic standards of the School of Dance.

The School of Dance arrives at final grades based on the average of grades given by the student's teachers. Note: See section "Office of the Registrar" for grading system.

### **Arts Probation**

Students earning less than a 2.50 grade point average in arts classes for a given term are placed on Arts Probation for the following term. Students on Arts Probation are not permitted to perform during that term, are not to be considered for merit scholarship funds, and must achieve a 2.50 average by the end of the term to be removed from Arts Probation. Students on Arts Probation for two or more terms may not be asked to return to the School.

### **Continuance in the Program**

Dance students are expected to adhere to the policies of the School of Dance and divisions of High School Programs and Undergraduate Academic Programs and the policies in the Campus Life Handbook.

The rigors of training demand a strong, disciplined mind and body. Students are expected to demonstrate substantial technical and artistic growth through their daily classes and rehearsals. Each student's growth toward technical and artistic excellence is evaluated on a continuing basis. To further evaluate the progress of the student, jury classes before the dance faculty and individual student/teacher conferences are held. Progress reports are written on each student. Invitations to continue in the dance program are extended by the faculty on a per-term or yearly basis. Students whose continuation in the program for the subsequent year is in question are notified in writing following the winter term. Students not invited to return may appeal the decision in writing to the dean of the School of Dance within 10 calendar days upon receipt of notification.

### **Withdrawal or Termination from School**

At the beginning of the academic year, each student, regardless of age, is required to sign a form indicating that they have read the School of Dance policies and that the student agrees to abide by these policies. A signature is also required of a parent or guardian of a middle or high school student. A parent or guardian signature is not required for college students. A student who does not adhere to the policies may be terminated from the School.

In certain cases, such as serious illness or injury, when the student cannot actively participate in his/her dance classes for an extended period of time, it may be recommended that the student withdraw from the School of the Arts. Each case must be discussed with the dean.

### **Performance Policy**

Performance is an integral part of the training program. If a student is selected to perform by the faculty, he/she must perform unless an exception is made by the dean. Failure to meet obligations during any production may result in dismissal from the performance and/or possibly from the School.

### **Other Policies**

Other specific policies may be distributed and posted as needed.

## **Middle and High School Programs with Concentration in Dance**

Ballet students must be at least 12 years old and in the eighth grade to be admitted to the program. Contemporary students must be in the 11th grade to be admitted, although special consideration may be given to exceptionally gifted 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

All middle and high school students follow the academic curriculum prescribed by the state of North Carolina for its high school diploma. Many students who complete their high school studies at the School of the Arts can fulfill the college undergraduate requirements in fewer than four years based on technical development.

### **Middle and High School Course Descriptions**

The following courses are offered to middle and high school students based on their technical achievement.

#### **DAN 001, 002, 003: Ballet Technique (Ballet Concentration)**

Fundamentals of ballet technique and practice, including barre and center floor work, body conditioning and/or Pilates-based work.

#### **DAN 001, 002, 003: Contemporary Technique (Contemporary Concentration)**

Contemporary dance training with emphasis on establishing a strong, traditional technical foundation while avoiding stylization in movement. Classes consist of multi-level and spatial combinations designed toward developing a technically facile dancer/performer. Adjunct classes in floor barre, body conditioning and Pilates-based training are strongly emphasized and are part of the technique grade.

#### **DAN 004, 005, 006: Ballet Technique (Contemporary Concentration)**

Fundamentals of ballet technique. Classes are designed toward developing a greater comprehension of the technique with an awareness of how it assists in developing the full potential of the contemporary dancer/performer in the competitive field of dance.

#### **DAN 004, 005, 006: Contemporary Technique (Ballet Concentration)**

Fundamentals of contemporary dance technique. Special emphasis is given to the ballet student in the area of developing more spinal/torso flexibility, a sense of weight and dynamic use of space. Classes are designed to assist the student in obtaining expanded aesthetic sensibility and allow for further discovery in self-expression.

#### **DAN 011, 012, 013: Pointe/Variations/Repertory**

Basic technique of ballet on pointe. Ballet repertory and variations will be introduced to the student.

#### **DAN 014, 015, 016: Men's Repertory/Variations**

A class in which special attention is given to the technical requirements of the dance as it pertains to the role of the male dancer. Men's ballet vocabulary, repertory and variations will be introduced to the student.

**DAN 020: Character Dance**

Basic ethnic dance styles as used in dance performances.

**DAN 031, 032, 033: Ballet Partnering**

Basic technique of partnering in dance performances.

**DAN 034, 035, 036: Contemporary Partnering**

This course is designed primarily to build strength and confidence in the dancer while manipulating, lifting and supporting each other in a kinetic relationship. Traditional as well as improvisational material is presented in order to allow for possibilities of interaction in partnering that are not limited by gender alone.

**DAN 071, 072, 073: Dance Composition**

Principles of techniques of choreography for students in contemporary concentration.

**DAN 074, 075, 076: Improvisation**

Offers students a deep exploration of movement which acts to extend their choreographic vocabulary for dance composition. It also offers the opportunity to develop sensitivity working with groups in an instant “performance” situation.

**DAN 077, 078, 079: Theatre Dance**

A variety of dance and dance-related courses such as Yoga, Tai Chi, Acting for Dancers and Jazz are explored. The experience broadens the dancer’s vocabulary, provides him/her with additional choreographic materials and promotes open-mindedness and discovery.

**DAN 081, 082, 083: Contemporary Repertory**

Emphasis is placed on developing both technical and practical skills necessary to adjust to a wide variety of contemporary repertory. Faculty direct classes working from video or personal experience in works of traditional and more contemporary choreographers. Consideration is given to solo as well as group choreographies. Repertory classes are part of scheduled workshop performances.

**DAN 087, 088, 089: Theatre Dance**

Continuation of DAN 077, 078, 079. Prerequisites: DAN 077, 078, 079.

**DAN 090: Performance Attendance**

Required of all dance students. Attendance at a minimum of one entire performance of each concert series – Fall Dance, “The Nutcracker,” Winter Dance, Spring Dance, Emerging Choreographers, each end of term workshop – and lecture/performances by guest dance companies. In addition to required attendance, students may be required to submit a written critique to his/her major teacher. Pass/Fail.

**DAN 098: Introduction to NCSA**

For all new high school students, this required course is an extended orientation to NCSA: to academic, arts, and social aspects of the campus community. Pass/Fail.

**DAN 0599: Intensive Arts Projects**

Special projects, programs, classes, seminars and performances developed by each of the arts areas, during the two-week period immediately following the Thanksgiving break. These may be either intradisciplinary or interdisciplinary among the arts areas and/or academics. Students must enroll in this course each fall term they are in attendance at NCSA. The course will be graded Pass/Fail.

## Ballet and Contemporary Bachelor of Fine Arts and Arts Diploma Programs

The Bachelor of Fine Arts and Arts Diploma are awarded on the attainment of professional standards as determined by the faculty of the School of Dance.

All arts courses required for the Bachelor of Fine Arts are also required for the Arts Diploma. No academic courses are required for the Arts Diploma, but elective courses may be taken.

To receive the B.F.A. or Arts Diploma, college students must be enrolled and actively participate in the program for a minimum of three years. Upon petition, consideration will be given on an individual basis for advanced placement in select dance courses for:

- NCSA high school graduates who enroll in the NCSA college program
- fourth-year college students who present evidence of the successful completion of one year with a professional dance company as recognized by the Dance faculty.

### **Arts Requirements for a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree or Arts Diploma in Ballet**

<b>Year One</b>		<b>Credits Per Year</b>
DAN 101, 102, 103	Ballet Technique	9
DAN 104, 105, 106	Contemporary Technique	6
DAN 111, 112, 113	Pointe/Variations/Repertory	6
or		
DAN 114, 115, 116	Men's/Repertory/Variations	6
DAN 120, 220, 320	Character Dance	3
DAN 131, 132, 133	Ballet Partnering	3
DAN 151, 152, 153	Music and Motion	3
DAN 390	Performance Attendance	1
DAN 599	Intensive Arts Projects	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
DAN 201, 202, 203	Ballet Technique	9
DAN 204, 205, 206	Contemporary Technique	6
DAN 211, 212, 213	Pointe/Variations/Repertory	6
or		
DAN 214, 215, 216	Men's/Repertory/Variations	6
DAN 231, 232, 233	Ballet Partnering	3
DAN 251, 252, 253	Music Perspectives	3
DAN 390	Performance Attendance	1
DAN 161, 162, 163	Dance Perspectives	6
DAN 599	Intensive Arts Projects	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>36</b>
<b>Year Three</b>		
DAN 301, 302, 303	Ballet Technique	9
DAN 304, 305, 306	Contemporary Technique	6
DAN 311, 312, 313	Pointe/Variations/Repertory	6
or		
DAN 314, 315, 316	Men's/Variations/Repertory	6
DAN 331, 332, 333	Ballet Partnering	3
DAN 390	Performance Attendance	1
DAN 599	Intensive Arts Projects	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>27</b>
<b>Year Four</b>		
DAN 401, 402, 403	Ballet Technique	9
DAN 404, 405, 406	Contemporary Technique	6
DAN 411, 412, 413	Pointe/Variations/Repertory	6
or		
DAN 414, 415, 416	Men's/Variations/Repertory	6
DAN 431, 432, 433	Ballet Partnering	3

DAN 390	Performance Attendance	1
DAN 599	Intensive Arts Projects	2
Total		27

**Total Four Year Arts Credits** 123

***Academic Requirements (B.F.A. program) Ballet***

GES 101, 102, 103	Critical Perspectives	6
HUM 121, 122, 123	The Arts in Context	6
GES 211, 212, 213	Foundations of Western Thought	6
Foreign Language	French, German or Italian	6
SCI 210	Nutrition, Behavior and Culture	2
SCI 221, 222, 223	Human Anatomy and Physiology	6
SCI 227	The Biology of Movement	3
Social Science Elective		2
Academic Electives		8

**Total Four Year Academic Credits** 45

**Arts Requirements for a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree or Arts Diploma in Contemporary Dance**

**Year One** **Credits Per Year**

DAN 101, 102, 103	Contemporary Technique	9
DAN 104, 105, 106	Ballet Technique	6
DAN 151, 152, 153	Music and Motion	3
DAN 171, 172, 173	Composition/Improvisation	6
DAN 177, 178, 179	Theatre Dance	3
DAN 183	Contemporary Repertory	2
DAN 390	Performance Attendance	1
DAN 599	Intensive Arts Projects	2
Total		32

**Year Two**

DAN 201, 202, 203	Contemporary Technique	9
DAN 204, 205, 206	Ballet Technique	6
DAN 251, 252, 253	Music Perspectives	3
DAN 161, 162, 163	Dance Perspectives	6
DAN 271, 272, 273	Composition	3
DAN 274, 275, 276	Improvisation	3
DAN 277, 278, 279	Theatre Dance	3
DAN 281, 282, 283	Contemporary Repertory	6
DAN 390	Performance Attendance	1
DAN 599	Intensive Arts Projects	2
Total		42

**Year Three**

DAN 301, 302, 303	Contemporary Technique	9
DAN 304, 305, 306	Ballet Technique	6
DAN 371, 372, 373	Composition	3
DAN 374, 375, 376	Improvisation	3
DAN 381, 382, 383	Contemporary Repertory	6
DAN 390	Performance Attendance	1
DAN 130	Technical Theatre	1
DAN 599	Intensive Arts Projects	2

Total		31
<b>Year Four</b>		
DAN 401, 402, 403	Contemporary Technique	9
DAN 404, 405, 406	Ballet Technique	6
DAN 134, 135, 136	Contemporary Partnering	3
DAN 499	Emerging Choreographers*	6
DAN 390	Performance Attendance	1
DAN 599	Intensive Arts Projects	2
Total		27
<b>Total Four Year Arts Credits</b>		<b>132</b>

\*Emerging Choreographers is to be taken all three trimesters.

***Academic Requirements (B.F.A. program) Contemporary***

GES 101, 102, 103	Critical Perspectives	6
HUM 121, 122, 123	The Arts in Context	6
GES 211, 212, 213	Foundations of Western Thought	6
Foreign Language	French, German or Italian	6
SCI 210	Nutrition, Behavior and Culture	2
SCI 221, 222, 223	Human Anatomy and Physiology	6
SCI 227	The Biology of Movement	3
Social Science Elective		2
Academic Electives		8
<b>Total Four Year Academic Credits</b>		<b>45</b>

## College Course Descriptions

Courses listed below are representative of those offered by the School of Dance. An exact listing of courses offered each year may be obtained from the School of Dance office.

DAN 101, 102, 103  
 DAN 201, 202, 203  
 DAN 301, 302, 303  
 DAN 401, 402, 403

**Ballet Technique** (Ballet Concentration) (3 credits each term)

Fundamentals of ballet technique and practice, including barre, center floor work, body conditioning and/or Pilates-based work.

DAN 101, 102, 103  
 DAN 201, 202, 203  
 DAN 301, 302, 303  
 DAN 401, 402, 403

**Contemporary Technique** (Contemporary Concentration) (3 credits each term)

Contemporary dance training with emphasis on establishing a strong, traditional technical foundation while avoiding stylization in movement. Classes consist of multi-level and spatial combinations designed toward developing a technically facile dancer/performer. Adjunct classes in floor barre, body conditioning and Pilates-based training are strongly emphasized and are part of the technique grade.

DAN 104, 105, 106  
 DAN 204, 205, 206  
 DAN 304, 305, 306

DAN 404, 405, 406

**Ballet Technique** (Contemporary Concentration) (2 credits each term)

Fundamentals of ballet technique. Classes are designed toward developing a greater comprehension of the (ballet) technique with an awareness of how it assists in developing the full potential of the contemporary dancer/performer in the competitive field of dance.

DAN 104, 105, 106

DAN 204, 205, 206

DAN 304, 305, 306

DAN 404, 405, 406

**Contemporary Technique** (Ballet Concentration) (2 credits each term)

Fundamentals of contemporary dance technique. Special emphasis is given to the ballet student in the area of developing more spinal/torso flexibility, a sense of weight and dynamic use of space. Classes are designed to assist the student in obtaining expanded aesthetic sensibility and allow for further discovery in self-expression.

DAN 111, 112, 113

DAN 211, 212, 213

DAN 311, 312, 313

DAN 411, 412, 413

**Pointe/Variations/Repertory** (2 credits each term)

Basic technique of ballet on pointe. Ballet repertory and variations will be introduced to the student.

DAN 114, 115, 116

DAN 214, 215, 216

DAN 314, 315, 316

DAN 414, 415, 416

**Men's Repertory/Variations** (2 credits each term)

A class in which special attention is given to the technical requirements of the dance as it pertains to the role of the male dancer. Men's ballet vocabulary, repertory and variations will be introduced to the student.

DAN 120, 220, 320 **Character Dance** (1 credit each term)

Basic ethnic dance styles as used in dance performance. Required in ballet concentration.

DAN 130: **Technical Theatre** (1 credit)

Contemporary students in Emerging Choreographers will be taught a special lab course in lighting design by faculty from the School of Design and Production. The course presented familiarizes the dancer with technical methods, materials and systems in stage lighting with emphasis placed on developing communication skills with one's personal lighting designer. Result is lighting for Emerging Choreographers piece, required of contemporary dance concentration for graduation. Pass/Fail.

DAN 131, 132, 133

DAN 231, 232, 233

DAN 331, 332, 333

DAN 431, 432, 433

**Ballet Partnering** (1 credit each term)

Basic technique of partnering in dance performances. Required four years in ballet concentration.

DAN 134, 135, 136

DAN 234, 235, 236

DAN 334, 335, 336

DAN 434, 435, 436

**Contemporary Partnering** (1 credit each term)

This course is designed primarily to build strength and confidence in the dancer while manipulating, lifting and supporting each other in a kinetic relationship. Traditional as well as improvisational material is

presented in order to allow for possibilities of interaction in partnering that are not limited by gender alone. Required for women in fourth year, men all four years.

DAN 151, 152, 153 **Music and Motion** (1 credit each term)

Provides students with the knowledge of basic elements of music as they relate to the study of dance and choreography. These concepts are developed through improvised and choreographed studies, playing of percussion and keyboard instruments, music listening, and concert reviews. The course culminates in a student-directed presentation of music and dance.

DAN 251, 252, 253 **Music Perspectives** (1 credit each term)

An overview of music history relevant to the performer/choreographer, including music from the Renaissance to the present. Library research and concert reviews serve to broaden knowledge of musical styles, develop listening skills, and aid in music choices for choreography. Students select a dance-/music-related topic for a collaborative research performance project with Dance Perspectives at the end of the year.

DAN 161, 162, 163 **Dance Perspectives** (2 credits each term)

A multi-level survey of the evolution/revolution of dance throughout the 20th century. Through the use of current dance periodicals, library research, videos and text, the course culminates in live performance bringing dance lineage to life in the present day.

DAN 171, 172, 173 **Dance Composition and Improvisation** (2 credits each term)

Through improvisation the students are offered a deep exploration of movement, which acts to extend their technical vocabulary for dance composition. These two skills are taught concurrently in order that the freshman student is made aware of how he/she integrates in the choreographic form.

DAN 177, 178, 179 **Theatre Dance** (1 credit each term)

A variety of dance and dance-related courses such as Yoga, Tai Chi, Acting for Dancers and Jazz are explored. The experience broadens the dancer's vocabulary, provides additional choreographic materials and promotes open-mindedness and discovery.

DAN 181, 182, 183

DAN 281, 282, 283

DAN 381, 382, 383

DAN 481, 482, 483 **Contemporary Repertory** (2 credits each term)

Emphasis is placed on developing both technical and practical skills necessary to adjust to a wide variety of contemporary repertory. Faculty direct classes working from video or personal experience in works of traditional and more contemporary choreographers. Consideration is given to solo as well as group choreographies. Repertory classes are part of scheduled workshop performance.

DAN 271, 272, 273 **Dance Composition** (1 credit each term)

The class prepares the student toward the creation and organization of movement materials into small studies that have as their base the substance of dance: time, space and motion. Emphasis is placed on the development of basic theatrical communicative skills enabling the student to utilize these elements toward greater self-expression. Solos and duets allow for simple exploration while providing incentive toward more demanding work in the third year.

DAN 274, 275, 276 **Improvisation** (1 credit each term)

The course is designed to build on earlier foundations of movement exploration and present opportunities for further investigation in personal movement vocabulary as a means toward developing spontaneous performance skills.

DAN 277, 278, 279 **Theatre Dance** (1 credit each term)

Continuation of DAN 177, 178, 179. Prerequisites: DAN 177, 178, 179.

DAN 371, 372, 373 **Dance Composition** (1 credit each term)

Development of choreographic skills on a more advanced level. Group choreographies will be encouraged in order to acquire a more facile technique in larger works. Students will also be expected to articulate their ideas on paper, in the form of a grant presentation, as part of the requirement.

DAN 374, 375, 376 **Improvisation** (1 credit each term)

Extending the exploration of movement for choreographic intent through expansion of the theatrical vision. Selection of environments and spaces outside of the formal studio which will provide new stimulus for improvisational work.

DAN 390: **Performance Attendance** (1 credit each year)

Required of all dance students. Attendance at a minimum of one entire performance of each concert series – Fall Dance, “The Nutcracker,” Winter Dance, Spring Dance, Emerging Choreographers, each end of term workshops – and lecture/performance by guest dance companies. In addition to required attendance, students may be required to submit a written critique to his/her major teacher. Pass/Fail.

DAN 199, 299, 399 **Directed Studies** (3 credits each year)

Based on technical proficiency, students may be selected for special projects such as performing with the modules or additional performances away from the School which would require additional work and time from the regular curriculum. No more than 3 credits per year. Pass/Fail grade. Prerequisite: technical proficiency.

DAN 499: **Emerging Choreographers** (2 credits each term)

All graduating seniors in contemporary dance are required to choreograph a work. Those designated for public performance on the Emerging Choreographers program shall be juried by the dance faculty.

DAN 599: **Intensive Arts Projects** (2 credits)

Special projects, programs, classes, seminars and performances developed by each of the arts areas, during the two-week period immediately following the Thanksgiving break. These may be either intradisciplinary or interdisciplinary among the arts areas and/or academics. Students must enroll in this course each fall term they are in attendance at NCSA. The course will be graded Pass/Fail.

## Summer Session

The School of Dance offers an intensive program for intermediate and advanced students that includes technique classes in ballet, contemporary, pointe/variations, ballet men’s class, repertory, composition, improvisation, creative movement, partnering, jazz, character, music and body conditioning. The outstanding School of the Arts faculty is augmented by guest teachers.