

DANCE, BFA

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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UW–Madison’s vision for the total student experience, the Wisconsin Experience (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/about/>), combines learning in and out of the classroom. Tied to the Wisconsin Idea (<https://www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea/>) and steeped in long-standing institutional values – the commitment to the truth, shared participation in decision-making, and service to local and global communities – the Wisconsin Experience describes how students develop and integrate these core values across their educational experience.

UW–Madison encourages students to mindfully engage in four core concepts throughout their time on campus: Empathy & Humility, Relentless Curiosity, Intellectual Confidence, and Purposeful Action (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/intellectual-confidence/>).

Since its inception, the School of Education has embraced the concepts of the Wisconsin Experience, providing opportunities for students to learn in venues beyond the traditional classroom. Our students also independently seek out related activities and experiences, thus creating their own unique Wisconsin Experience.

DANCE AND THE WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

The UW–Madison Dance department provides students with a wide range of opportunities to perform, work with and learn from national/international guest artists, create and show their own work, conduct their own research, study abroad, volunteer, and connect with the local education community.

Guest Artists

The Dance department brings in guest artists-in-residence each year to work directly with students. These professionals are national or international artists who teach master classes, hold auditions, and set works on students for performance in our annual faculty concert. The department also brings in several guest artist teachers throughout the academic year to teach master classes to our students.

Student Performance Opportunities

Dance students have many opportunities to perform in student- and faculty-choreographed concerts throughout the academic year. Technique and theory courses prepare students with the technical, compositional, and artistic skills for performance in our in-house theater, the H'Doubler Performance Space, in historic Lathrop Hall.

Peer Mentorship

Several volunteer roles are available to students through the department's peer mentor program. Dance Peer Mentors support and encourage new first-year dance degree students in their adjustment to UW–Madison and the Dance department, provide support during incoming student audition days, and serve as role models and advocates for success in the dance degree program.

Study Abroad

The Dance department offers a three-credit study abroad program to Greece (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/program/?programId=330295>), as well as summer awards for students to travel and train at the American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival, Peridance Contemporary Dance

Company, Perry Mansfield, The Ailey School, Seattle Festival of Dance + Improvisation, NYU | Tisch, and the Dance Education Laboratory, among others.

Student Research

In their final year of the degree program, students design and complete their own research projects. Some of the projects include funding to do creative research which culminates in a full-length concert.

Work with the Local Community

The Dance department offers courses in Dance Education and Dance Movement Therapy which include practicum experiences with students in local schools. Students have opportunities to engage preschool and school-aged students in dance for social-emotional, kinesthetic motor, and cognitive development using trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, and student-centered practices.