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1. **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Dance Program! This handbook is designed to answer questions you may have about the dance major, course requirements, performing opportunities and other aspects of the program.

The Dance Program is a component of both the Department of Music and Dance at the University and the Five College Dance Department. It is built on its commitment to the three idioms of ballet, modern and jazz technique, along with studies in cultural dance forms. Students are expected to grow and develop through commitment to training in all three of these areas along with studies of other world dance forms. This is achieved through technique and theory classes, productions and performances as well as research and creative opportunities.

The Five College Dance Department integrates the dance faculty and programs of the University with those of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges. Through the Five College Dance Department, students may register for dance courses at any of the colleges and receive credit at the home institution. First-year University dance majors are encouraged to take all courses at the University to gain a strong foundation in the program by having a positive working relationship with their advisor, knowing dance program expectations, and understanding the academic system. Once students are familiar with and oriented to the University, their advisor will assist them with Five College course selection. Free five-college bus transportation is available for all students.

All Freshmen and new students enter the program on a provisional basis for one year. During the year, these students are assessed to see if the UMass Dance is the right program for them. If there are any problems that seem to stand in this way, the student will be notified so that there is enough opportunity to make alternate choices. At the end of the year, the faculty meet with each student to provide input on their progress.

Any entering Junior must meet the competency of his/her existing class. In order to graduate, dance students must satisfy all University General Education Requirements and those of the Dance Program for the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. In some cases, a student may have to spend an extra semester or year before graduating in order to complete all the necessary requirements.

2. **BA or BFA DEGREE?**

There are two tracks to choose from in the Dance Program: the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) and the Bachelor of Arts (BA). When choosing whether to follow a BFA or a BA track, a student will want to assess what his/her goals are while at the University and following graduation. The BFA is built to support a focus on Performance and Repertory, or Choreography and Creative Studies. In the BFA track, a higher number of technique classes are required, as well as additional classes and work in choreography, art, music, theater, and production.

In the BA track, there are fewer requirements for technique and choreography, and more requirements for taking alternative courses in individual areas of interest. The BA track is often recommended for those students who want to double major in Dance and in another academic department as well. The BA is built to support a focus in some of the following concentrations: Dance Education; Dance Production; Dance Technology; Dance Science/Somatics/Arts Therapies; and History/Cultural Studies/Aesthetics of Dance. Through Five College Dance Department classes, or classes in other departments on this campus, a student will design a curriculum focused on a particular area of interest. This will be accomplished through detailed meetings with an advisor to develop a plan that will fulfill the objectives of that focus and will engage the creative interests of the student.
The following are some of the possible areas of focus suggested by the Five College Dance Department for pursuing studies in dance. This may help you clarify your choice of degree track.

3. **AREAS OF FOCUS**

**Technique, Repertory and Performance**

*Technique* includes study of diverse idioms and the physical, cultural, stylistic, musical and performance issues they embody. In *Repertory*, students hone technical, performance and interpretive skills by learning dances from a variety of cultural and choreographic styles. Performing in formal or informal concerts/venues sharpens focus and brings this study to life. Careers in: performance, choreography, teaching, and many of the careers noted in the other areas.

Suggested Degree Track: BFA

**Choreography and Creative Studies**

Students learn to imagine, craft, and critique choreography/performance events. They study improvisation, composition, choreography, criticism, and the creative practices of other arts. They question who dances, and what themes, aesthetic forms, traditions, sites, and other media the dances involve. This area requires familiarity with music, set, costume and lighting design. It explores rehearsal processes, performance coaching and collaboration with performer, designers, and production crews. Careers in: choreography, teaching in schools or studios, community-based performance, web design/choreography for the camera, dance videography/filmmaking, movement analysis, and dance notation/reconstruction.

Suggested Degree Track: BFA

**Dance Studies: History, Culture & Aesthetics**

This area explores the historical, cultural, anthropological and philosophical dimensions of dance, drawing on such disciplines as performance studies and cultural theory to interpret the meaning of dance practices from diverse contemporary perspectives. Courses develop skills in reading, writing, and speaking about dance and the experience of watching dance, in descriptive, ethnographic, analytical, and critical ways. Students analyze and contextualize choreographic traditions in a variety of performance areas, from sacred and social space to the concert stage. Careers in: teaching, publishing, journalism, dance scholarship and critical writing in the performance arts.

Suggested Degree Track: BA

**Dance and Technology**

The intersection of live performance and digital technologies creates new possibilities and fusions in dance performance, including dance and video/film, choreography for the camera, interactive video and performance on stage and on the internet. This area challenges and transforms the ways students read the moving image beyond its most popular forms, and it creates important dialogues among the languages of dance, film/video and digital technologies. Careers in: film/video editing/directing/producing, choreography; animation or sound design, web design and interactive technologies.

Suggested Degree Track: BA or BFA

**Dance Education and Community Outreach**

Education courses in the 5CDD focus on methods and materials of teaching dance in schools, studios, and community centers, and ways of using dance to teach other subjects in those settings. In Community Outreach, students bring dance into the community in performances, lecture-demonstrations, workshops...
or inter-active activities. Students develop skills working with different populations, study the histories, environments and issues of various settings, and accommodate diverse dance styles. This area provides service and linkage to off-campus communities, internship opportunities, and familiarity with the many functions dance fulfills in society. Careers in: education (dance teacher studios or schools, Artist in the Schools specialist, or K-12 teacher who uses movement as a teaching strategy), and community development/activism.

Suggested Degree Track: BA

**Dance Science, Somatics and Arts Therapies**
This Area focuses on the human body, psyche and spirit in dance. It investigates the physical body and bodily ways of knowing and imagining. It includes studies of the physical body, applications of dance to psychological and social well-being, and dance in ritual or contemplative practices. Careers in: physical therapy, dance kinesiology, injury prevention and rehabilitation, movement analysis, somatics disciplines (such as Alexander technique or Feldenkrais), dance/movement or expressive arts therapy, arts in healthcare settings, designing dance rituals or rites of passage, yoga, and Authentic Movement.

Suggested Degree Track: BA

**Design, Production and Management**
The design and production aspects of performance include lighting, set, costume and sound design; production, stage management, arts management, grant-writing, box office management, publicity, and website design. In addition to course work, students have ample opportunities to develop skills through hands-on work on crews and production teams in a range of performance venues from large theaters to small black box studio-theaters.

Suggested Degree Track: BA
4. UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All students graduating with a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst must satisfy a set of General Education requirements. These requirements are designed to give all students a broad background in the liberal arts and sciences. Each General Education requirement has a special letter designation. Course descriptions on SPIRE indicate whether a course satisfies a General Education requirement.

A. SOCIAL WORLD: 6 COURSES
One course in Literature (AL/ALG/ALU)
One course in Arts/Liberal Arts (AL/ALG/ALU, AT/ATG/ATU) or Interdisciplinary (I/IG/IU/SI)
One course in Historical Studies (HS/HSU/HSG)
One course in Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB/SBU/SBG)
One course in Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB/SBU/SBG) or Interdisciplinary (I/IG/IU/SI)
One additional course in any of the areas within the Social World (AL/ALG/ALU, AT/ATG/ATU, HS/HSU/HSG, or SB/SBU/SBG) or Interdisciplinary (I/IG/IU/SI).

B. DIVERSITY: 2 COURSES
Undergraduate students need to take one Diversity class which focuses on Diversity in the United States, designated by “U”; the other must focus on Global Diversity, designated by “G”. The “U” and “G” designations may be combined with Social World courses with designations such as ALU, ALG, ATU, ATG, HSU, HSG, SBU, SBG, IU or IG/SI.

C. BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL WORLD: 3 COURSES
Biological Science (BS)
Physical Science (PS)
A third science course. Undergraduate students can satisfy this requirement with a BS, PS or Science Interdisciplinary (SI) course.

D. BASIC MATHEMATICS: 1 COURSE in Basic Math Skills (R1) or a satisfactory score on the Basic Mathematics Skill Exemption Test. This requirement can also be satisfied with some higher level courses that presuppose knowledge of basic math skills. A student who takes an R2 course from this list can satisfy both the R1 and R2 requirements with the same course.

E. ANALYTICAL REASONING: 1 COURSE (R2)

F. WRITING: 2 COURSES
COLLEGE WRITING (CW): Completion of either EnglWP 112 (CW) or EnglWP 113 (CW) OR a satisfactory score on the Writing Placement Test II, combined SAT I Verbal and SAT II Writing Test, OR Advanced Placement Exam (Language and Composition).
JUNIOR YEAR WRITING (No special letter designation): To be in the student’s major department. Dance majors would take Dance 368, Writing for Dance, in their junior year, unless timing of other courses makes it best to take this in a different year. The UMass Dance Program accepts Junior Year writing courses from other departments in order to fulfill this requirement

G. INTEGRATIVE EXPERIENCE (IE): 1 COURSE
This takes place in one’s junior year; in the dance program, it consists of building a piece for the Emerging Choreographers Series, through rehearsals, and a series of weekly workshops. You may fulfill the IE in another major, and you may also fulfill it through a non-ECS activity.

Notes:
A). No more than one course from your major department may count toward General Education requirements.
B). No more than three I, IU, SI or IG courses may count toward General Education requirements.
5. **DANCE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS ~ Bachelor of Arts**

I. **University General Education Requirements** (see #4).

II. Requirements in addition to the University’s General Education Requirements that pertain only to students earning a BA degree from the College of Humanities and Fine Arts - Students earning a BFA Dance degree do not have these requirements:

A. **FOREIGN LANGUAGE (FOR B.A. STUDENTS)**
Completion of a foreign language at the fourth-semester (Intermediate II) level. Satisfaction of this requirement can be achieved in five different ways:
1. Satisfactory completion of a college foreign language course at the fourth-semester (Intermediate II) level.
2. Satisfactory completion in high school of either a fourth-level course in one language or completion of both
   a) A third-level course in one foreign language, and
   b) A second-level course in another foreign language.
3. Satisfactory completion of one year in a high school where English is not the language of instruction
4. Successful completion of a semester’s or year’s study-abroad program that leads to foreign language proficiency at the fourth-semester (Intermediate II) level as approved by the appropriate language department.
5. Earning an appropriate score on a College Board Foreign Language SAT II Test, or on a College Board Advanced Placement Test deemed acceptable by a UMass foreign language department, or a special test designed by a UMass language department.

B. **COURSES OUTSIDE OF HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS (FOR B.A. STUDENTS)**
In addition to the General Education requirements, completion of two 3-credit courses from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and/or the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. (Check your Degree Audit concerning this requirement.)

III. **Dance Major Core Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dance History</th>
<th>2 courses (1 must be Dance 171: Dance in the 20th Century)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dance Composition</td>
<td>2 courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Improvisation</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythmic Analysis</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Foundations of Dance/Kinesiology</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your selection of any non-technique-based dance theory class, such as Advanced Improvisation, Contact Improvisation, Dance and Culture, Dance Education, Laban Movement Analysis, Repertory, Scientific Foundations 2, Kinesiology, etc.</td>
<td>4 3-credit courses beyond those already required; two 2-credit classes such as Advanced Improvisation, Contact Improvisation, Mindful Body, Repertory, or Yoga. may count towards one 3-credit class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing for Dance (Jr. Writing in another department is accepted)</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrative Experience (Junior Year)</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Project</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technique (Ballet, Modern, Jazz)</td>
<td>8 courses (At least 2 courses must be in each of the three idioms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance group</td>
<td>Participation for a minimum of 2 semesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choreograph at least one work for concert performance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Sample Four Year Schedule for BA

#### First Year Fall
- Dance 113 Modern I
- Dance 120 Ballet I
- Dance 130 Jazz I
- Dance 192 Improv. & Movement Exploration
- Dance 205 Dance Group I
- Analytical Reasoning (R1) or (R2)
- College Writing

#### First Year Spring
- Dance 114 Modern II
- Dance 121 Ballet II
- Dance 131 Jazz II
- Dance 151 Elem Composition
- Dance 206 Dance Group II
- Two Electives (Gen Ed)

#### Second Year Fall
- Dance 215 Modern III
- Dance 222 Ballet III
- Dance 232 Jazz III
- Dance 252 Intermediate Composition
- Electives (Gen Ed. and Dance)

#### Second Year Spring
- Dance 216 Modern IV
- Dance 223 Ballet IV
- Dance 233 Jazz III
- Dance 272 Dance History
- Elective (Gen Ed)

#### Third Year Fall
- Dance 171 Dance 20th Cent.
- Dance 241 Scientific Foundations I
- Dance 287 Rhythmic Analysis for Dancers
- Electives (Gen Ed or Dance)
- Dance Techniques

#### Third Year Spring
- Dance 368 Junior Year Writing
- Dance 261 Dance Education
- Choreograph for ECS/Dance 394 Integrative Experience (IE)
- Electives (Gen Ed or Dance)
- Dance Techniques

#### Fourth Year Fall
- Dance 495 Senior Project
- Dance Electives
- Dance Techniques

#### Fourth Year Spring
- Dance 495 Senior Project
- Dance Electives
- Dance Techniques
### 6. DANCE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS ~ Bachelor of Fine Arts

#### I. University General Education Requirements - see #4

#### II. Dance Major Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits and Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dance History</td>
<td>2 courses (1 must be Dance 171: Dance in the 20th Century)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Composition</td>
<td>3 courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Improvisation</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Production</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythmic Analysis</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Foundations of Dance/Kinesiology</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your selection of any non-technique-based dance theory class, such as Advanced Improvisation, Contact Improvisation, Dance and Culture, Dance Education, Laban Movement Analysis, Repertory, Scientific Foundations 2, or Kinesiology, etc.</td>
<td>1 3-credit course <strong>OR</strong> 2 2-credit courses such as: Advanced Improvisation, Contact Improvisation, Mindful Body, Repertory, or Yoga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art or Art History</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater (Acting Class is strongly encouraged)</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing for Dance (Jr. Writing in another department is accepted)</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrative Experience (Junior Year)</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Project</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technique (Ballet, Modern, Jazz)</td>
<td>16 courses (At least 4 courses must be in each of the three idioms.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Group</td>
<td>Participation for a minimum of 4 semesters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Music, Theater, and Art classes: consider taking classes that will also cover a Gen. Ed. Requirement. For instance, Theater 100 (AL), Music 150 (ATG), Music 100 (AT), Music 102 (ATU), Music 103 (ATU), Music 160 (AT), Art History 100 (ATG), Art History 115 (ATG), Art 104 (AT), Art 105 (AT).

Students should plan on meeting with their advisor, especially during pre-registration week, for help in fitting these requirements into their schedule.
SAMPLE FOUR YEAR SCHEDULE FOR BFA

FIRST YEAR FALL
Dance 113 Modern I
Dance 120 Ballet I
Dance 130 Jazz I
Dance 192 Improv. & Movement Exploration
Dance 205 Dance Group I
Analytical Reasoning (R1) or (R2)
College Writing

FIRST YEAR SPRING
Dance 114 Modern II
Dance 121 Ballet II
Dance 131 Jazz II
Dance 151 Elem Composition
Dance 206 Dance Group II
Two Electives (Gen Ed)

SECOND YEAR FALL
Dance 215 Modern III
Dance 222 Ballet III
Dance 232 Jazz III
Dance 252 Intermediate Composition
Dance 306 Dance Group III
Music 100 Appreciation (AT)
Electives (Gen Ed.)

SECOND YEAR SPRING
Dance 216 Modern IV
Dance 223 Ballet IV
Dance 142 African Dance
Dance 353 Advanced Composition
Dance 307 Dance Group IV
Dance 272 Dance History
Elective (Gen Ed or Dance)

THIRD YEAR FALL
Dance 171 Dance 20th Cent.
Dance 287 Rhythmic Analysis for Dancers
Dance 317 Modern V
Dance 324 Ballet V
Dance 334 Jazz V
Elective (Gen Ed or Dance)

THIRD YEAR SPRING
Dance 318 Modern VI
Dance 325 Ballet VI
Dance 335 Jazz VI
Dance 368 Junior Year Writing
Dance 241 Scientific Foundations I
Choreograph for ECS/Dance 394 Integrative Experience (IE)
Elective (Gen Ed or Dance)

FOURTH YEAR FALL
Dance 495 Senior Project
Dance 365 Dance Production
Electives
Dance Techniques

FOURTH YEAR SPRING
Dance 495 Senior Project
Electives
Dance Techniques
7. **REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL MAJORS**

**Choreography:**

**BAs To Be Completed at Least Once in Four Years**

**BFAs To Be Completed at Least TWICE in Four Years including their Senior Project**

Every dance major must present work in formal concerts. Concerts sponsored by UMass are the Emerging Choreographers Series, produced by underclassmen, and Alive with Dance, produced by seniors. However, Dance Majors may have their work produced in any concert on a five-college campus, theoretically.

**Crew: To Be Completed at Least Twice in Four Years**

Every dance major must work backstage at University concerts at least twice during their time at UMass to provide labor for the shows and for the educational value and experience. Credit for working crew is earned by working fully in support of a performance, usually backstage. Examples of responsibilities that provide credit for crew include:

- Stage Manager
- Assistant Stage Manager
- Stage Crew
- Light Board Operator
- Sound Operator
- Flies Operator
- House Manager, for entire run of concert
- Box Office Manager, for entire run of concert, including reservations

- During the fall semester the Dance Faculty will assign dancers to work crew for specific concerts. Generally speaking, freshmen will be assigned to work backstage for the University Dancers concert. Upperclassmen will be assigned to crew for the ECS concert; all will be considered for AWD and the FCDD Faculty Concert, especially when UMass is the host institution.
- Five College crew may be substituted, as long as current concerts at UMass have sufficient crew.
- It is virtually impossible to perform in a concert and to earn credit for working crew in the same concert; therefore, dancers will not be eligible to audition for the concert in which they are assigned to work crew.
- **All students must keep the week before ALL concerts open**, including the weekend prior to the concert for tech. No excuses for outside activities (family, work etc.) will be considered acceptable.
- Credit for working crew is not normally earned by working strike or a partial concert. A student assisting during a concert, with gels, props, etc. may earn credit for “strike”. Both of these tasks, however would earn one points for Dance Groups I-IV.
- Each semester the 5CDD Production Manager (Jean Baxter) will report credit earned for working crew or strike to the faculty and the office where it will be kept with each student’s records.
- Faculty may make adjustments in crew requirements for a particular student in the case of a significant amount of work in some theatre capacity that is not included in the above list.

**Dance Festivals/Workshops/Seminars taking place at UMass**

- Massachusetts Dance Festival (MDF), etc.

All UMass Dance Majors are expected to be present and to participate in, assist, or attend events throughout conferences or festivals at UMass, to ensure that UMass has a successful experience, and that all participants from other locales are welcomed to our department. Participation might be through volunteering, performing, or participating in workshops, lectures, or gatherings.
Semester Activity Requirements Each Semester:
Every major, when not enrolled in a Dance Group, must fill out a Semester Activity Summary Form (found in the Appendix) and hand it in by the posted deadline at the end of each semester. Required activities for all majors, regardless of whether enrolled in a dance group or not, are:

- Attend one of the FCDD Lecture/Panels each Fall semester or the FCDD Faculty Concert each Spring semester.
- Attend one of the dance concerts presented by the Fine Arts Center each semester.
- Attend a FCDD concert on another campus each semester.
- Help to produce (choreograph, perform, or work on crew at) the University Dancers, Five College Dance Department Faculty Concert, and/or Emerging Choreographers Series/Alive with Dance concerts. Again, students are required to be available for the full week previous to these concerts, Sunday through Saturday.

Note: Dance majors who fail to meet these requirements will not be allowed to audition, choreograph, or perform the following semester. Seniors who fail to meet requirements during the spring semester of their senior year may not be cleared for graduation.

Grade point average
- Dance majors should maintain a B average (3.0) in their dance courses each semester in order to remain in good standing. They must maintain an overall C average (2.0) at the University. Anyone who fails to maintain this average for two consecutive semesters will be dropped from the major.
- A grade of B is expected for advancement to the next level of technique. A student receiving a B- may advance with the permission of the instructor. A student receiving a grade of C+ or lower in technique or C- or lower in a theory class must repeat the course or take a comparable course that fits the core requirement, in order to graduate.
- For a senior to be cleared for graduation, grades in all required theory classes must be a grade of C or above. Grades in all technique classes being applied toward the major must be a grade of B- or above.

Physical and Mental Conditioning
Dance majors in either track must maintain a healthy physical condition appropriate to the rigor of the technical and aesthetic demands. Majors will be assisted in finding appropriate nutritional counseling if a faculty advisor and the student feel that this will aid the student in achieving health and career goals.

Dance majors are encouraged to find mental, psychological, and calendar-keeping strategies, that work according to your own personality style. Study habits, time-management, breathing techniques, and healthy methods for keeping yourself calm (meditation, constructive rest, etc.) during the most stressful times of the semester can go a long way towards keeping yourself sane, and keeping conflicts to a minimum. We encourage all students to keep some kind of ongoing electronic calendar, such as Google calendar or iCal, get plenty of sleep by going to bed early, and make wise decisions about the use of alcohol, etc. Your body is your tool; so is your mind; treat them with great dignity, and they will serve you well!
8. **REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE POLICY**

- No one student may perform in more than three dances during one cycle. Exceptions are made for University Dancers only. This policy does not include performances that come out of class work or Repertory classes. The cycles are: Fall Semester; January Term; Spring Semester before Spring Break; Spring Semester after Spring Break.
- No student may drop out of a dance unless that choreographer and the Artistic Director of the concert gives permission.
- All rehearsals are to be attended unless an emergency, illness, sanctioned University trip or exam prevents attendance.
- Dancers must be on time and warmed up. Failure to attend a rehearsal without making prior arrangements with the choreographer may result in being dropped from the dance as well as loss of the privilege to audition, choreograph, or perform the following semester.

9. **CLASS ATTENDANCE/GRADING POLICY**

The following policy will be used for grading in all Dance Major Classes:

1. Grades for Dance Major Classes will be determined by evaluating three factors: attendance, participation, and progress. It is the prerogative of each teacher to determine the importance of each factor in determining grades.
2. Attendance is of the utmost importance and any absence from class is significant.
3. Students should attend all dance classes even when they are unable to participate unless they have a contagious illness, a condition requiring bed rest or a doctor’s excuse.
4. Students who have an injury or for some reason cannot dance, should plan on using their class time performing physical therapy, constructive rest, RICE (rest-ice-compression-elevation), or a foam roller to get credit for technique.
5. Two excused, documented (doctor’s note, family emergency, University sanctioned activity) absences will not affect your grade. All subsequent absences will result in a half letter drop in grade (eg: B+ to B). These may be made up, at the discretion of the faculty.
6. Every two latenesses will count as one absence and your final grade will be adjusted accordingly.
7. The length and extent of written projects will vary, and the number of classes that they make up will also vary. Teachers will discuss with each individual student the amount of written work or alternate class participation necessary to make up class absences.
8. It is proper etiquette to notify the teacher ahead of time, when possible, if you are going to be late or absent. If this is not possible, please notify the teacher as soon as possible afterwards, to show your commitment to the class.
9. Written work, when it is accepted on rare occasion for class make-ups, must be neatly typed and double-spaced, in MLA (Modern Language Association) format.
10. **DRESS CODE: FOR MODERN, BALLET AND JAZZ**

Men and women are asked to wear clothing such as leotards and tights that allow the instructor to check on alignment. Avoid baggy clothes, sweat pants or sweat shirts except for classes in Hip-Hop, and wear appropriate shoes for each idiom. Expect to wear bare feet for modern; cotton socks are acceptable if the floor is too sticky. For jazz, bring laced, split-soled shoes for classic technique; jazz sneakers for funky styles, and sneakers for Hip-Hop. For ballet, bring standard ballet shoes, and for women in upper-level classes, pointe shoes.

- Rehearsals: Please do not wear layers of clothes to replace a thorough warm-up before each technique class or rehearsal.
- Hair: Hair should be styled so it stays out of the face.
- Jewelry: No jewelry (watches included) is to be worn in class.
- Gum: Please do not chew gum in class.

11. **ETIQUETTE**

The UMass Dance Program is interested in fostering an atmosphere that enhances learning, encourages creativity, creates community, and values cooperative learning. This is best done in an atmosphere of mutual respect and dignity, in a positive environment where responses are thoughtful and considered. We have the expectation that each individual will find their own path towards expression that may differ from the rest of the group, but it is up to the individual to express his or her needs in a positive manner. We are interested in dancers who can communicate effectively, powerfully, and assertively. Learn how you can contribute to the deepening of the focus of the class, rather than detract from it.

- Cell phone use/Texting is absolutely prohibited in any class, meeting, or rehearsal situation. Please put your devices on Silent Mode during class.
- No side talk during class. Understand how you can help return the class to a place of focus.
- Carry out your own trash; if you see trash that has been left behind, be a good neighbor and help carry that out. This includes coffee cups and water bottles. See if there are ways that you can help keep the studios looking nice.
- Volunteer to sweep the floor before class begins.
- Be in place for class before the teacher begins.
- Recycle when possible and help the environment.
- Refill ice cube trays if you notice they are empty.
- Learn how you can make the department into a more positive, helpful atmosphere: avoid negative talk about another dancer, teacher, or department. Instead, creatively explore how you can contribute to the betterment of the world around you.
- If waiting around in hallways or waiting areas, keep your voices quiet so that others who are nearby are able to work.
- When using music equipment in the studios, keep the volume to a reasonable level, so that people in other rooms can carry on undisturbed.
- Be considerate of others: lend a hand when needed, offer a smile or a hello to someone who is new, be a good role model for others to grow from.
12. ACHIEVEMENT

The dance faculty cannot over-emphasize the importance of application and practice outside the studio. Only through daily practice, determination and discipline can students master the principles, techniques and elements of dance. Developing ability and potential is your responsibility. We hope that along with mastering technical skill you also discover your own artistic identity and fuse both elements into a poetic expression that is uniquely personal. When financially possible, we hope school vacations will be devoted to intensive training. Information regarding different programs and professional schools is posted on the bulletin board and is also available in the dance office.

Each fall, a jury class will be held for all majors in which all of the faculty can see people’s progress in the areas of ballet, modern dance, jazz dance, and improvisation. In the spring, there is generally a full-faculty year-end meeting with each student, to give individual advice relating to summer study and future progress.

Respect, dignity, focus, attendance, attitude, conflict resolution skills, interpersonal communication, community-building skills, right to privacy, and positive energy will help you on your own individual growth, the growth of others, and the growth and betterment of the department. If there are significant problems in one of these areas, and simple conversations with the faculty cannot quickly address and solve these issues right away, a student, regardless of year, will be dismissed from the department without qualification.

The first year, and possibly two, are considered provisionary years within the department, in which the faculty take time to assess whether this is the right program for each student. If a student’s behavior, needs, or goals, seem contrary to that of the department, the faculty may encourage a student to seek another institution of learning that may work to help the student better meet his or her needs, and the needs of the faculty.

13. DANCE GROUPS

All BFA Dance Majors are required to register a minimum of four semesters for a Dance Group. BA Dance Majors are required to participate a minimum of two semesters. The Dance Groups are listed as Dance Group I, II, III and IV, and should be taken in numerical order. The course does not meet at a scheduled class time; rather, students receive grades by tallying up the points they acquire through fulfillment of various activities, and reflecting on each of them through writing. 95 points or higher give an A grade for the course, etc. More details about Dance Group are covered online on the Moodle course instructions.

Requirements for All Dance Groups
• Attend an FCDD Lecture/Panel each Fall semester. (10 points for each lecture).
• Attend at least one of the dance concerts presented by the Fine Arts Center each semester. (5 points for each concert).
• Attend at least one FCDD concert on another campus each semester. (5 points for each concert).
• Attend the FCDD Faculty Concert in the Spring Semester. (5 points).
• Be available to help with producing the University Dancers, Five College Dance Department Faculty Concert, Alive with Dance or Emerging Choreographers Series concerts. Students must be available for the full week previous to these concerts, Sunday through Saturday. (5-30 points, depending upon the task).
• You can also earn points by choreographing for a concert (10 points), or performing (up to 2 points in a semester for UD, AWD, and ECS; additional points for other performances such as Pops, Multi-Bands, Guest Artist performances), being on committees, and contributing to the department in other ways.

REMINDER: Failure to meet Dance Group requirements will not only result in a poor grade, but will also mean loss of the privilege to choreograph, audition or perform the following semester; and may result in being dropped from the major.
14. **INTERNSHIPS**

With the approval of the Director of the Dance Program, dance majors may spend one semester in the University Internship Program, preferably during their Junior year. Many dance interns choose New York City to pursue their training in professional studios and use the Dance Collection of the Lincoln Library for scholarly research. Students may select the first semester of their Senior year in the Internship Program, but all prospective graduates must spend their last semester at the University. Opportunities are also available for study abroad programs around the world.

15. **CONCERTS**

Faculty and guest choreographed concerts for which students may audition, include:

**University Dancers (UD):** This takes place usually the week after Thanksgiving break, in Bowker Auditorium. UD is our company concert, and consists of choreography by faculty and special guest artists. This concert also participates in a schools tour the week before the spring semester begins, in January.

**Five College Dance Department Faculty Concert:** This usually takes place just before spring break, and is presented on a different five-college campus each year. Choreography is by faculty and guest choreographers, with about 15 minutes of dance presented by each campus. Often, these pieces may consist of the faculty themselves performing, as well as students. Auditions to perform in UD and any 5CDD faculty concert are generally the first week of September.

**Multi-Bands:** This concert is in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, during homecoming weekend, which features one piece from each music ensemble in the Music and Dance Department, such as the orchestra, jazz band, and marimba ensemble, concluding with a huge performance by the UMass Marching Band. University Dancers usually presents one piece in this concert, which is performed in Thursday and Friday morning shows, and a Friday evening show.

**Pops Concert:** In the spring, this dinner-and-music concert, in the UMass Ballroom, often involves dance and live music together; this set of dances is usually, but not always, developed out of a spring repertory class.

**Smith MFA Concert:** Of the off-campus concerts, this is probably the most significant one, aside from the faculty concerts, as it is choreographed by Smith MFA students, who have generally had professional careers before returning to complete a higher degree. These concerts are generally in February; the auditions to perform in them are generally the second week of school in September.

16. **CHOREOGRAPHING**

Students are encouraged at all times to explore their creative and choreographic potential at the university; there are many venues, outside of one’s choreography classes, for creative expression. The UMass Arts Council, for instance, is an available source for grants if you have a particular vision of what can take place on campus. While there are many ways to produce dances on the UMass campus, the department’s student-produced concerts, for which anyone may audition, are:

**Alive With Dance (AWD):** This is the concert for seniors to present works related to their Senior Project. It is funded via its status as an RSO (Registered Student Organization). Auditions to perform in these are in early November.

**Emerging Choreographers Series (ECS):** This is the concert for non-senior choreographers, which takes place in the Hampshire College Dance Studio Theater. Decisions about choreographers for this concert take place in
October, through meetings with the faculty and the ECS committee. Auditions to perform in these take place along with the AWD auditions in early November. Everyone who choreographs for this concert, as well as any other junior who has not yet had the course, must enroll in Dance 394CI (Integrative Experience). You do not need to choreograph to take IE, however you must plan to take IE during a spring semester, preferably in your junior year. All BFA students will need to present a proposal for choreographing a piece other than their senior piece, prior to their senior year, and this will either go on the ECS concert, or The Informal Concert.

The Informal Concert: If the UMass Dance Program is not producing any other major concerts or events in the spring, it tries to have an informal performance as a venue for any choreographers who did not have a chance to choreograph for ECS. Auditions to perform in these take place the first week of the spring semester.

17. MUSICAL GUIDELINES FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS

Choreographers are always encouraged to find musicians who can compose music for their dances. When this is not possible, the following guidelines should be followed when selecting music.

Music must be recorded on a CD, for Paul Arslanian, Musical Director for the Dance Program, to make the final concert recording.

Avoid music that is immediately recognizable. It is very easy for a piece of music to overshadow your work. If the music has strong associations outside of the dance concert hall, then your dance becomes about the music and not so much about your choreography. We are looking for a balance between the two. Types of music to avoid would include current and not so current Top 100 hits, the popular musical forms using lyrics in a verse/chorus format, and overused classical music. This rule can, of course, be broken, if you have an original idea which comments on the music itself in some sort of political or tongue-in-cheek concept.

Be very careful when choosing music that includes a lot of singing or spoken text. The danger here is that words carry a lot of weight and are often interpreted literally. They draw a lot of attention from the viewer. This attention may be better focused on what you are trying to say, not the song. If your musical selection has a lot of singing, be prepared to convince the faculty how this will serve your dance, and not merely explain your dance to the audience. Again, this rule can be broken, as words can be extremely powerful in a dance; just be careful of making a dance that is “sentimental,” and is not saying something that the music has already said. Other challenges with popular music is in its Verse-Chorus-Verse-Chorus format, which doesn’t allow for the kinds of changes that a dance needs. Avoid music that has a commercial sound to it when possible, unless you are going for a particular kind of comedic or sarcastic effect.

Part of your education in dance must include an exploration of new music and sounds, and how these can be incorporated into your development as a choreographer/teacher. We suggest and strongly encourage the use of original music. There is no time like the present to begin that exploration.

Use of music for choreography must be approved by the faculty. Set up a meeting with Paul in October to discuss your music with him. Plan on bringing this music to the faculty during the fall choreographer check-in. Final music selections must be given to Paul in February for recording for the concerts. Subsequent changes are allowed ONLY with explicit approval from Paul.
Overview
The Senior Project is designed to be a culmination of a dance major’s four-year course of study. The Senior Project may culminate in either a community outreach project, completed in the fall or a choreographic project which can be performed on the Alive With Dance concert in the spring. It should demonstrate ability in writing/research, performance and creativity. Research and writing ability should be demonstrated in the process paper that will be due at the completion of the project. This paper will also provide an in-depth self-reflection and evaluation.

If you are doing a community-based project, or if you are under special circumstances, register for Dance 495, Senior Project, during the Fall Semester. Otherwise, if you are doing the choreographic project, register for this class in the Spring Semester.

Community-Based Project
Develop and implement an 8-week project in which dance and movement activities are presented to a specific off-campus community. For instance, a dancer might choose to teach creative movement for pre-schoolers, or rhythmic movement for the elderly. The community chosen should be one found outside the realm of studio or college dance classes, and instead be composed of those people not normally associated with dance. Public schools, K-12, day care, nursing homes and assisted living residences, and community youth groups would be possible settings for this project. The project should consist of:

A two-page proposal of your project, with suggested bibliography, which will be due at the end of the first full week of the semester.
• An annotated bibliography of at least five sources: discuss what was useful and why.
• Evaluations and observations of two-three practitioners in the field, or videotapes of best practice in the area of choice.
• An overview: what you would like to accomplish over an eight-week course.
• Lesson plans for the entire course. Lesson plans should include:
  • goals for each class.
    • activities related to each goal.
    • objectivities written for each activity.
    • a detailed evaluation of each class, to include: what was successful, what wasn’t; what you would change if you were re-teaching the class.
• In the middle of the Fall Semester, you will be required to submit a 2-3 page process paper which summarizes the current stage of your project.
• Evaluation of the whole project is to be completed at the conclusion of the course. This paper should be 2-3 pages long in MLA format.

Choreographic Project
1) Research the artistic components of the idea for your spring dance, creating a portfolio that informs your work, with sources, quotes, visuals, drawings, writings, fabric, and research that will help you understand your theme with crystal clarity from an artistic point of view.
2) Choreograph the dance which will be performed at the Alive With Dance concert, in the spring semester.
Timeline:
• At the beginning of the fall semester, you will be given a due date for a proposal for your project. This proposal is to help you narrow and focus your concept.
  Format of proposal:
    • Your topic
    • Discography of three sources
• Videography of three sources (dances, films, web)
• Bibliography of three sources (texts, articles)

• In the middle of the fall semester, a rough draft will be due. This should be presented as complete as possible, so that there is an opportunity to really get some strong feedback for the direction you are going.
• Full portfolio due at the end of the fall semester. Present these writings, sources, images, and gatherings in a **three-ring notebook** at the end of the fall semester. Included should be an extensive discography, a videography, and a bibliography. Your grade will be determined by: organization, thoughtfulness, depth of information-gathering, creativity, clarity of ideas and themes. All of these should help you in making specific choreographic choices in the spring.
• In the middle of the spring semester, you will be required to submit a 3-page **process paper**, which summarizes the current stage of your project. Discuss your artistic process, and what you have been learning. This will be added to your notebook, along with your rehearsal notes.
• **Evaluation** of the whole project is to be completed at the end of the spring semester. In this paper discuss what went well, what could have been better, what you learned, what you would have done differently next time around, where you are as an artist. This paper should be 3 pages long. Please have this, as with all papers, in MLA format and include the rest of **your portfolio** with your final presentation.

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19. **DANCE TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

All non-major dance classes are taught by upper class dance majors. These Dance Teaching Assistants (TAs) are selected by the dance faculty and courses taught are monitored and mentored by a designated dance faculty member. Students who are selected will commit to the following parameters of the program:

• A pre-semester orientation meeting where teaching materials, student rosters and departmental handouts will be distributed. Discussion will center on preparing the TA for the dynamics of the classroom, including teacher/student relations, organization of class time, grading procedures, as well as any and all questions that the TAs need to clarify.
• TAs must have a prepared syllabus to be analyzed at orientation and approved for distribution to the non-majors.
• The designated faculty advisor will observe class two or more times. A meeting to discuss the progress of the class will follow each visit by the advisor.
• The TA must notify students and the faculty advisor in advance of cancelled classes.
• TAs will be allowed a maximum of two cancelled classes, but only in case of illness, injury or emergency.
• TAs will receive 3 credits with a passing grade in Dance 395. Grades will be based on the following measures:
  • Consistency in attendance
  • Proper comportment and dress for teaching
  • Progress made in pedagogical effectiveness
  • Technical progress made by students
  • Student course evaluations

Teaching assignments will be arrived at using the following factors:
• Completion of Dance 261, Dance Education.
• Program needs/times students are available to teach.
• Knowledge of material appropriate to the course.
• Musicality and the ability to impart musical imperatives to students.
• Ability to demonstrate movement clearly and correctly.
• Effectiveness in promoting a positive atmosphere and a sense of concentration in the classroom.
• Previous teaching experience.
• Scholarship requirements: Scholarship students are required to teach two semesters.
20. **MASTER CLASSES**

Dance majors have the opportunity to take master classes from visiting guest artists sponsored by the program’s Artist-in-Residence Program, the Five College Dance Department and the Fine Arts Center Series. Students are expected to attend all master classes to which they have been assigned. Assignments will be made through the appropriate technique teacher when space is limited.

21. **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Each year the Dance Program awards scholarships to worthy dance majors. Factors considered in making scholarship awards include skill, grade point average, financial need, and contribution to the Program. Once received, the scholarship is renewable each year until graduation providing the student continues to meet the qualifications for that scholarship.

Students who accept scholarships are expected to meet the following standards:

- Follow the prescribed course of study outlined for either the BA, BFA, or BDIC degree in Dance;
- Maintain a 3.0 average in the major subject, as well as a 2.5 cumulative average;
- Audition and be available to perform in the University Dancers Concert and tour, the Emerging Choreographers Series, and the Alive With Dance Concert;
- Be available to work backstage for University Dancers Concert, the Emerging Choreographers Series Concert, and the Alive With Dance Concert;
- Be available to teach in the non-major dance program for at least 2 semesters;
- Assist each year with incoming auditions;
- Set a good example by being leaders in technical skill, observing departmental policies, and being an ambassador of the Dance Program.

22. **COMMUNICATION**

**Dance Bulletin Board**

All dance announcements, rehearsal schedules, and other information are posted on the dance bulletin board outside the dance office. It is critically important that each dance major check the board daily. Majors will be held responsible for this information, the majority of which will not be announced in classes or communicated in any other way.

**E-mail**

All students are asked to check their e-mail regularly for communications from the department. You are assigned a campus email address through the OIT office that the dance office will use. It is very important to check your email frequently to stay informed. Please let us know if your email address has changed or if you are not receiving mail from us.

**Facebook Page**

We discourage students and faculty from becoming friends on Facebook or other social media sites, so that there are clear boundaries between our personal and school lives. We do certainly create and encourage Facebook pages for various kinds of events. A great way to gather UMass information is on our UMass Dance Program Twitter account, where all students, alums, fellow faculty, and friends are invited to join and be in the know regarding what’s happening in the department, with news, updates, events, photos, and videos to share. As with any social media site, we encourage the use of positive interaction, and to avoid grumblings that would necessarily be in public view for all to see.

**Apps**

There are some terrific smart-phone apps to make your life easier at UMass. The UMass Guide, the Daily Collegian, and UMass BusTrack are free and available through the iTunes store; there is also an app called
“UMass Guide” for 99 cents, also on the iTunes website.

**Important web addresses**
Check the five college calendar for all concert dates throughout the semester, and all five-college dance courses:

[www.fivecolleges.edu/dance](http://www.fivecolleges.edu/dance)

Dance Program website:
[www.umass.edu/music/dance/index-dance.php](http://www.umass.edu/music/dance/index-dance.php)

Fine Arts Center Series:
[www.umass.edu/fac/calendar/centerseries/allEvents.html](http://www.umass.edu/fac/calendar/centerseries/allEvents.html)

Snow closings:
[www.umass.edu/closing/](http://www.umass.edu/closing/)

UMass Arts Council (grant opportunities, etc.):
[www.umass.edu/fac/artscouncil/](http://www.umass.edu/fac/artscouncil/)

Mass Dance Festival:
[www.massdancefestival.org](http://www.massdancefestival.org)

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**23. MATERIALS TO BE SUPPLIED BY DANCE MAJORS**

1. Makeup for all performances.
2. Ice bag or zip-lock plastic bag. This should be carried in the dance bag at all times. Should injury occur, ice may be obtained from the freezers in the dance studios.
3. Those students who choreograph need to supply a blank CD for recording their music; this will be the property of the student.
4. Dance majors will need access to a computer/laptop and printer. The University has computers available for student use in various locations on campus.

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**24. BORROWING VIDEOS**

The UMass Library has many videos that are available either as DVD, VHS, or e-videos/online viewing. Go to the Library homepage, [www.library.umass.edu](http://www.library.umass.edu) and start by putting “dance videos” in the search bar, then narrow your field with choices on the left. There are several dance-specific catalogs that to which the University Library subscribes. There are more dance videos available, as well, in the Five College Library System, and an extensive dance video library is in place both at Hampshire College and at Smith College. These kinds of videos will often give you much more full and comprehensive viewings that are not available through the regular web or YouTube, as choreographers often only allow snippets of their work to be seen by the general public.
Appendix
DANCE MAJOR SEMESTER ACTIVITY FORM

**********Use this form when not enrolled in a Dance Group**********

NAME__________________________________   Semester__________________

DUE DATE: Last day of classes

NOTE: This list will be used as a double check with the list being kept by the Dance Faculty.

REMINDER: Failure to meet these Dance Major requirements will result in loss of the privilege to choreograph, audition or perform the following semester, and may result in being dropped from the major.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Fine Arts Center Concert (title, date)______________________________

2. FCDD Concert (title, date)________________________________________

3. FCDD Concert (title, date)________________________________________

4. Outside venue Concert (title, date)________________________________

5. Outside venue Concert (title, date)________________________________

6. FCDD Panel, Lecture or Demonstration (date)________________________

7. FCDD Panel, Lecture or Demonstration (date)________________________

8. UM Friday Workshop (date)________________________________________

9. Winter/Spring End of Semester Event (date)__________________________

10. Performer (title of piece, concert)________________________________

11. Performer (title of piece, concert)________________________________

12. Performer (title of piece, concert)________________________________

13. Choreographer (title of piece, concert)______________________________

14. Concert Production Assistance (concert)____________________________

   Job____________________________________# of nights_________________

15. Concert Production Assistance (concert)____________________________

   Job____________________________________# of nights_________________

16. Specialized work on concert production, i.e. poster, costume, mailing __________________

   Describe________________________________________________________________

17. AWD Meetings (number, dates)_____________________________________

18. Specialized Work (describe)_________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________