

DANCE

The dance program leads to the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree and is offered jointly by the Ailey School and Fordham University. Dance studio courses are given by the faculty of the Ailey School at their state-of-the-art studios adjacent to the Fordham campus. Academic coursework is based at the Fordham campus where it is taught by the University's arts and sciences faculty.

Students complete a broad curriculum of a minimum of 146 credits comprised of dance technique, creative, and dance academic classes, and liberal arts courses. The program's goals are to develop graduates who are highly versatile dance technicians, adept creators of dance movement, well-educated in the liberal arts, and knowledgeable about the history and interpretation of the arts.

The program offers a specialization in dance performance. First-year students take placement examinations in three major techniques—Horton, Graham-based modern, and classical ballet—so that each student can be placed appropriately by the Ailey School's faculty advisers.

The focus for freshmen and sophomores is on the development of discrete skills in the three major techniques, classes that are taken daily by each student. These skills are supported by somatic classes (body conditioning, barre à terre, and yoga) that both strengthen the body and render it more supple. Additional classes in West African dance, jazz, and other techniques further broaden students' technical range and complement their training in the three basic techniques. All dance technique classes are sequenced carefully with appropriate prerequisites. At the same time, students learn to analyze the body both experientially and theoretically in their anatomy and kinesiology course. Courses in improvisation and dance composition develop students' creativity while also teaching the craft of choreography. These creative courses complement the rigorous precision required of students in their technique classes.

In the junior year, students' dance technique skills are expected to be strong and their creative expertise well honed. At this point in their training, they are ready to learn the basics of modern and ballet partnering and repertory, both classical and contemporary. Repertory works are chosen annually to meet the needs of each class of students and to prepare them to meet the demands of the profession. They spend six to eight weeks working with each guest choreographer/artist-in-residence (AIR), or selected members of the Ailey School faculty, and perform the works in formal studio concerts scheduled throughout the year.

In their senior year, students further refine their dance technique and focus on showcasing their performance or choreographic skills through performance and the senior project. Under the guidance and supervision of the Ailey School faculty, students perform at locations in the metropolitan area during the winter. In the spring preceding the senior year, each junior meets with the B.F.A. director and B.F.A. codirector to determine the focus of that senior project. The focus will be on performance or choreography, depending upon the strengths and interests of each student, as approved by the Ailey School director, B.F.A. codirector and selected Ailey School faculty, and will culminate in B.F.A. concerts.

The progress of each student is formally evaluated at the end of each term with written evaluations and individual conferences held with the B.F.A. director, codirectors, and program staff. In addition, at the

end of the freshman and sophomore years, jury exams are held and all students are reassessed for their continuation in the B.F.A. program. This assessment will consist of a review of:

1. each student's written dance evaluation
2. their academic record
3. a dance jury composed of:
 - B.F.A. director
 - B.F.A. codirector
 - department chairpersons of the Alvin Ailey School
 - selected faculty members

All B.F.A. students are expected to maintain satisfactory progress in their dance classes at the Ailey School and academic classes at Fordham University.

Program Activities

Apprentice/Membership Opportunities

Full memberships in professional dance companies are available to B.F.A. students in their senior year. Apprentice memberships in professional dance companies are available to B.F.A. students in their junior or senior years. These opportunities are only available by invitation or audition and are subject to the approval of the director and codirector of the program. Apprentice membership courses include:

Course	Title	Credits
DANC 3910	REHEARSAL SEMINAR	3
DANC 3911	REHEARSAL SEMINAR	3
DANC 3920	LECTURE: DEMONSTRATION LAB	3
DANC 3921	LECTURE: DEMONSTRATION LAB	3

In addition, students in these courses must register for advanced level Ballet, Horton, and Modern technique courses. Full membership courses include:

Course	Title	Credits
DANC 4910	REHEARSAL SEMINAR	3
DANC 4911	REHEARSAL SEMINAR	3
DANC 4920	LECTURE: DEMONSTRATION LAB	3
DANC 4921	LECTURE: DEMONSTRATION LAB	3
DANC 4930	PERFORMANCE SEMINAR	3
DANC 4931	PERFORMANCE SEMINAR	3
DANC 4940	TEACHING LAB	3
DANC 4941	TEACHING ASSISTANT	3

Dance Courses for Nonmajors

Fordham undergraduates not pursuing the B.F.A. may enroll for up to four two-credit courses at the Ailey School and apply their courses toward their credit requirement for graduation. Students wishing to take intermediate and advanced level courses must first audition at the Ailey School before registering. In addition to their Fordham tuition, each student will be billed an additional fee per course through Fordham. For further information, please contact the assistant dean. Courses for nonmajors are numbered from DANC 1300 to 1399 and include "Nonmajors" in their title.

For more information

Visit the Dance program web page.

Programs

- Dance Major