

Appalachian State University

Department of Theatre and Dance

Dance Studies Student
Handbook

2019-2020

DANCE STUDIES STUDENT HANDBOOK

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ABOUT THE DANCE STUDIES PROGRAM

The Dance Program in the Department of Theatre and Dance offers a [Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance Studies](#), a [Minor in Dance](#), and a [Minor in Somatic Sustainability](#) as well as classes and special programs for other individuals wishing to study and participate in dance and related areas.

Mission and Vision

Department Vision Statement

We make art. The arts make us. The arts sustain life.

Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Appalachian State University is to facilitate transformative experiences for students and the public, which cultivate compassionate, creative, and collaborative communities through theatre and dance.

Dance Program Mission Statement

Our Dance Studies Program encourages students to take an integrative approach to dance training while making cross-disciplinary connections between dance and other fields of study. Our faculty share a student centered, holistic approach to teaching that guides students to develop awareness and integration of body, mind and spirit. Our curriculum prepares students to pursue interests related to dance including: teaching dance, performing, choreographing, pursuing graduate work in Dance or related fields (such as dance therapy) and/or dancing as an avocation.

Curriculum

The Dance Studies program is Modern-based but offers classes in a variety of levels of dance techniques including: Modern, Ballet, Jazz, African Dance and selected topics such Tap and Pointe. The program is unique among undergraduate programs in its broad offering of Somatics-based courses including: Somatics, Pilates Mat, Pilates Apparatus, Gyrokinesis[®], Gyrotonic[®], Yoga and Floor Barre[®].

Additional required courses in the Dance Studies curriculum include: Composition and Improvisation, Choreography, Dance History, Dance Pedagogy, Dance Production Basics, Collaborative Process, Capstone, Performance Activity and Production Running Crew.

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DANCE STUDIES PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts, Dance Studies Major

- The Department of Theatre and Dance offers a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Studies. The Dance Studies degree is designed to meet the needs of today's students, taking an integrative and cross-disciplinary approach to dance training. The Dance Studies major is open to all students. No audition is required to enroll however auditions are held for choreographers and performers.
- The B.A. in Dance Studies requires 45 credit hours in the major as specified on the [Degree Checksheet](#). In addition, the [General Education Core Requirements](#) are required of all ASU Students.

Dance Studies Minor

- The Dance minor allows students who are not majoring in Dance Studies to continue or begin their dance education and training. The minor is open to all students. No audition is required to enroll however open auditions are held for performances.
- The Dance minor requires 17 – 18 credit hours as specified on the [Check Sheet For Dance Minors](#). Courses required for the Dance minor are also part of the Dance Studies major curriculum.

Somatic Sustainability Minor

- The interdisciplinary minor in somatic sustainability bridges a range of somatic modalities yoga, Pilates, and Gyrokinesis® and courses like Principles of Sustainable Development and Somatics and Sustainable Practices. The Somatic Sustainability minor is designed to suit a myriad of majors and offers many possibilities for relational ways of thinking and understanding our actions as they impact our sustainability.
- Dance Studies majors and minors are limited to two overlapping credits with the Somatic Sustainability minor.
- The Somatic Sustainability minor requires 16 – 18 credit hours as specified on the [Check Sheet For Somatic Sustainability Minors](#).

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ADVISING

Advising for Dance Studies Majors

Students considering pursuit of the Dance Studies major should contact Dance faculty [Susan Lutz](#) or [Emily Daughtridge](#) to schedule an advising appointment immediately.

Advising Notes

- If a course you need is full, please contact the instructor. Students are added to some courses on a case-by-case basis.
- During advising sessions your advisor will help chart a schedule for completion of the major within the four-year time frame.
- Degreeworks is the online advising portal to successfully track graduation requirements and to access notes from your advisor.
- Students can find information on navigating degreeworks on the Fine and Applied Arts College website at [Advising/degreeworks](#).
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Advising for Dance Studies Minors

Students considering pursuit of the Dance minor should contact Dance faculty, [Cara Hagan](#) or [Sherone Price](#) to schedule an advising appointment and to fill out the appropriate form in order to declare the minor.

Advising for Somatic Sustainability Minors

Students considering pursuit of the Somatic Sustainability minor should contact faculty, [Marianne Adams](#) or [Laurie Atkins](#) to schedule an advising appointment and to fill out the appropriate form in order to declare the minor.

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COURSES

Core Courses

Descriptions of the courses offered in the Dance Studies program can be found at on the [Registrar's page](#)

View the Dance Studies [Degree Checksheet](#)

General Education Program

The General Education Program includes 44 semester hours of courses, plus two courses in the major program that address the General Education goals. To learn more go to the [General Education](#) Program.

- View the [General Education Checksheet](#)

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CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**1st Year Showcase:**

A night of theatre and dance featuring freshman and transfer students.

Fall Appalachian Dance Ensemble:

A dance concert featuring students performing choreography by faculty, guest artists and advanced students.

Momentum Showcase:

A dance concert choreographed and performed by the members of the student dance club, Momentum, and invited guest artists.

Spring Appalachian Dance Ensemble:

A dance concert featuring students performing choreography by faculty, guest artists, and advanced students.

Capstone Performances:

A series of dance presentations created by senior Dance Studies majors and performed by students.

Collaborative Productions:

Theatre Productions

School of Music Productions

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AUDITIONS & CASTING

Auditions are not required to enroll in the Dance program however auditions are required in order for students to be cast to choreograph or perform for productions. Auditions to choreograph and perform in fall semester productions are held during the first and second weeks of fall semester classes. Auditions for the spring semester productions are typically held either during the last two weeks of fall semester classes or first week of spring semester classes.

Participation in Production - 2.00 GPA required

Academic Policy: Production and Student Employment

Academic success is a primary goal for our theatre and dance students, therefore a minimum 2.00 GPA is required for consideration of casting, assignments of production roles and for all departmental student employees.

Choreographer Auditions and Casting

Choreographer auditions for fall semester productions are held the first or second week of fall semester classes. Choreographer auditions for spring semester productions are held within the last few weeks of the fall semester. Students auditioning to choreograph will be expected to perform some original phrase material and submit a typed project proposal outlining initial ideas for the project, *which may change*, about concept, music, number of dancers, choreographic process, costuming, etc. Upon completion and presentation, student choreographer works should 6 minutes maximum, and 4 minutes minimum.

Dancer Auditions and Casting

Auditions to perform in fall semester productions are held during the second week of fall semester classes. Auditions to perform in spring semester productions are held either the last week of fall semester classes or first week of spring semester classes.

Our sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible to audition for Fall Appalachian Dance Ensemble (FADE) (6-8 dances). Since we have many students each fall that we are trying to get to know, we feel that the freshman can get lost in the larger audition that often has over 80 students vying for roles in 7-8 dances. We typically cast half the dancers that attend this audition. We try to cast 1st year transfer students wisely their first semester to help keep them active and in good academic standing. Students auditioning to dance can be cast in up to two dances while student choreographers in the show are limited to one dance.

All students can audition for the student dance club concert, Momentum Showcase; their choreographer and dancer auditions will happen mid September to October. For complete information students should contact the Momentum, club president. The majority of Momentum rehearsals will be later in the semester in preparation for the January performance.

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All students can audition for the Spring Appalachian Dance Ensemble; auditions are typically held in late fall or early spring. The bulk of the rehearsals will be in the spring.

What to Expect at Dancer Auditions

Dancers should fill out the online audition form before they arrive at the audition. Dancers should arrive early at the audition, get a number and warm-up. Auditionees should come prepared with knowledge of their class, work and any other schedules that might affect availability for rehearsals and performances. Proper attire includes comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement yet allows the line of the body to be seen. Hair should be secured in a fashion that does not interfere with the student's movement or alignment. Auditionees do not need to prepare material or wear special shoes. Featured choreographers will teach the audition group original phrase material. Students cast in FADE or SADE are required to registered for either a studio dance technique course or a somatic sustainability studio course.

Why Freshman Dancers are Cast Only in 1st Year Showcase in the Fall

The intent of our audition policy is to be inclusive and give opportunities to as many deserving students as possible to be cast. All 1st year dance students are cast in the showcase so that we can guarantee a role for them their 1st semester. We also recognize that the first semester in college can be busing and overwhelming. The commitment to First Year Showcase is smaller than our mainstage productions and fosters an immediate connection to the department with the quick rehearsal and performance time. We typically cast 30-40 freshmen in 4-6 dances that will be created on them by faculty and upper level students.

Student Responsibility When Auditioning

It is the student's full responsibility to make complete disclosure of all commitments on the audition form at the time of auditions; giving incomplete or false information is a form of academic dishonesty. If a student does not make full disclosure of all commitments at the time of casting, this irresponsible behavior is grounds for replacement as it demonstrates a lack of ability to see how an individual must embrace a common standard for the good of the ensemble production.

Multiple Commitments

Students are responsible for learning how to balance classes, homework, social life, jobs and rehearsal commitments. Over committing one's self may lead to illness, injury, poor academic performance, and a diminished reputation if responsibilities are not met. Students should understand that activities carrying course credit, generally take precedence over non-credit activities, and production related commitments take precedence over extra curricular and social activities.

If you are not cast . . .

Although we choose choreographers and dancers with a diversity of student roles in mind, we cannot cast everyone who auditions every semester. In keeping with the

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practices of performing artists, it is important to remember that roles are not always divided equally. We encourage all students to talk directly with the faculty regarding casting decisions to receive feedback and make the audition process a valuable learning experience.

Changes in the Cast

In rare circumstance a change in the cast may be needed. Choreography students should discuss any potential cast replacements with the instructor before changes are made. Once a change has been made to the cast the choreographer should notify the appropriate people in the design, publicity and production areas.

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PRODUCTION CONDUCT

Scheduling Rehearsals

- Rehearsal schedules for program productions are agreed upon before auditions and casting.
- Students should not change their officially scheduled rehearsal days or times.
- If extenuating circumstances arise requiring a schedule change, the student must do the following:
 - 1) Study the schedule for each studio, talk with the cast and find an available time.
 - 2) Approve the change with the instructor.
 - 3) Upon instructor approval contact Caroline Daniel through the online studio reservation request portal on the departmental website to make the new request at [dance studio reservations](#). Requests should be made at least two weeks in advance and are not guaranteed. Dance Program and faculty needs have first priority, followed by Department productions in the order of scheduled opening.
 - 4) Once the request has been granted notify the instructor, costume designer and lighting designer.

Attendance

A rehearsal requires the active participation of many individuals. The absence of anyone can waste the time of all the others.

- **Promptness**

It is expected that everyone involved in the rehearsal or performance will be on time and prepared to begin the activity at the scheduled time.

- If an emergency requires an absence from rehearsal it is the responsibility of the dancer or to notify the choreographer as soon as possible. Likewise if an emergency requires an absence from a technical rehearsal or performance it is the responsibility of the dancer to notify the choreographer and stage manager immediately.
- No one should leave a rehearsal until dismissed by the choreographer.

Meeting Production Deadlines

Student choreographers are responsible for meeting deadlines related to costumes, publicity, lighting, sound and other production elements.

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Tech Week and Performance Protocol

Sign In: Immediately upon arrival to technical and dress rehearsal and performances all dancers should locate and initial the cast call sheet.

Costume and Prop Check:

- After signing in, check costumes and props. Make sure everything is there and in performance condition.
- Do not warm up in your costume.
- Do not eat in your costume.
- During dress rehearsal and performances do not enter the house in your costume.

Green Room Conduct

During final rehearsals and performances the Green Room is a place for the participants in the production to wait for and prepare for their entrance or activity. It is necessary for those involved to concentrate upon their function in the production—other activities should be avoided. Keeping the Green Room clean is a responsibility of those using the Green Room. No food or drinks are allowed during dress rehearsals or performance.

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COMPLIMENTARY TICKET POLICY

As an academic program, we strive to support each other's artistic endeavors by regular attendance at all departmental productions. Therefore, *whenever it is possible**, complimentary tickets will be provided as follows:

Valborg and Schaefer Venues

- Department faculty and staff are encouraged to attend final dress rehearsals. Department faculty and staff unable to attend dress rehearsal will be allowed 1 ticket per event. 1 additional ticket may be purchased at the student rate.

Faculty or students overseeing an event (directors, choreographers, concert coordinators, designers, student assistants) will be allowed 1 ticket for each subsequent performance. This ticket is not transferable to another person. Please notify the Assistant Chair or Administrative Assistant to arrange this.

- Students involved in staging an event (casts, crews, other production team members or contributors) will be allowed 1 ticket per event.

NOTE: (Only one ticket per student *not* per multiple production roles.)

- Paid student staff in the department are invited to attend final dress rehearsals.
- Visiting prospective students here for regular events such as Theatre or Dance Student for a Day or Theatre in Our Schools will be allowed 1 ticket per event. All others accompanying these students may purchase tickets at the student rate.

I.G. Greer Studio

- All Department faculty and staff are encouraged to attend final dress rehearsals. Faculty unable to attend dress rehearsal will be allowed one ticket per event.
- Faculty overseeing an event will be allowed 1 ticket for each performance.
- Due to limited seating no complimentary tickets will be provided to students involved in the production. These students will be allowed to invite 1 guest to final dress rehearsal.
- Paid student staff in the department are invited to attend final dress rehearsals.

All comps should be arranged in advance during daytime box office hours. Faculty or staff that need to see shows throughout the run should contact the box office manager in advance to make sure house seats are held.

Please NOTE: Those faculty, staff and students that need to oversee some aspect of a production on multiple nights but that do not wish to occupy a seat are not required to obtain a ticket but rather can use "standing room" access. Please notify the house manager of your intentions.

Please NOTE: Tickets for media advertisers and sponsors are handled on a case-by-case basis subject to availability.

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** Exceptions to this policy may be instituted due to special circumstances that dictate the need for more revenue on certain productions due to large cast sizes, unusually high royalties, etc. Such decisions will be made as far in advance as possible by the Chair in consultation with the faculty and staff production team for the event in question.*

Revised and approved August 16, 2019.

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FACILITIES

Varsity Gym 208A, 208B, 208 A/B, 203

Dance studio spaces may be reserved on a limited basis, as they are available. Access is limited to 4 hours/week and 2 hours/session, in order to accommodate multiple requests. Theatre and Dance classes, events, productions and program initiatives have priority over the dance studio spaces. Requests are confirmed only when applicant is notified by e-mail or phone, within 1 week. All reservations end by reading day of the semester reserved.

Studios must be left as found. Only bare feet or clean, soft-soled dance shoes that are never worn outside the studios are allowed on studio floors. No food or drink inside the studio except for water in closed bottles. Turn off all lights, fans and close windows and lock doors when leaving the studio. No glitter fabrics or shoes that mark the floor are allowed.

Schedules for studio will be posted on the door at the beginning of each week. If there are multiple users wishing to use the space at the same time, consult the online calendar for the most updated reservations. Individuals and small groups must courteously share the space during open time slots. If there are open times that remain the studio is on a first come/first serve basis with priority given as listed.

Priority for request approval:

1. ASU Dance Faculty (class preparation, rehearsals, creative activity or research)
2. ASU Dance majors engaging in a class or performance related project
3. Dance students engaging in academic projects for classes
4. Department affiliated clubs or groups
5. Organizations/groups not affiliated with ASU that are approved by the department

Any misuse, misrepresentation and/or damage to studio or equipment will result in the denial of subsequent requests. Anyone using the space or scheduling the space under false pretenses will be denied future access. Anyone requesting use of studio space must go through the reservation procedure by following this link:

<https://theatreanddance.appstate.edu/students/dance-studio-reservations>. No request is final until reservations are confirmed online, within 1 week. No keys for the studio are to be given or loaned to anyone. Users needing sound equipment must provide their own systems.

Outside groups eligible to reserve this studio are those organized and run by ASU faculty or staff or community organizations with special needs. (i.e. Office of Cultural Affairs, etc.) All departmentally sponsored clubs or events must follow the same online reservation procedure. All requests that come to the chairperson, faculty, or students must follow the same reservation procedure by the organizer/leader of the group who must provide complete contact information.

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Varsity 207: For safety reasons, this space is to be utilized only by those individuals who have received permission to do so by either Marianne Adams, Laurie Atkins, or Rebecca Quin.

Lockers

Lockers in the Varsity Gym Dance Studies hallway are available for checkout on a first come, first serve basis with priority given to upperclassmen. Students may claim an empty locker by placing a combination lock on it and submitting the locker number and lock combination to the program assistant (Holly Roark). Students should remove their locks on the last day of classes. After final exams unclaimed locks and contents of lockers will become property of the Dance program.

Responsibility and Withheld Grades

Students enrolled in Department of Theatre and Dance courses or enrolled in department sponsored productions are given the privilege of using Department of Theatre and Dance facilities and resources. Failure to return facilities and materials in proper condition, to the proper location on time may result in the student's grade being withheld until these requirements are met and could result in a failing grade for the course.

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The [Dance Studies Program](#) offers additional opportunities for our students and community members to study and participate in dance and related areas. These include:

[Summer Dance Series](#) is a four to six weeks run of dance classes offered two to three days a week every summer. Dance teachers from ASU and local communities offer classes in a wide range of dance styles and somatic bodywork. There is no fee or registration to attend. Donations are welcome and help fund our Visiting Artist Fund and Dance Scholarship. For more information for next summer's series and to be included on Summer Dance Series email list, contact dance faculty member, Regina Gulick at Jamesrg@appstate.edu

[Classical Pilates Teacher Training Program](#): The dance faculty from the Department of Theatre & Dance offers a comprehensive teacher-training program in Pilates. The emphasis of the program is to produce quality teachers who are trained in the authentic, classical, style of Joseph Pilates. This unique program combines 6 hours of academic coursework in Pilates with a spring/summer intensive, exams, and an apprenticeship training program.

Master Classes with Guest Artists vary semester to semester. Typically, the department will have one week long residency with a guest artist that may include classes and setting a work on students for a mainstage show each year. In addition, the campus wide [Performing Arts Series](#) will usually sponsor a short 1-2 day residency with one of the dance touring dance companies each year.

STUDENT DANCE CLUBS – MOMENTUM and ENTROPY

Momentum is a student organization that is open to all students on campus who are interested in dance. The Club sponsors the annual Momentum Showcase, a dance concert choreographed, performed and adjudicated by students. Proceeds from the Showcase go to fund master classes with guest artists and support students in expanding their dance experience.

Entropy Dance Crew brings together different individuals with a shared passion for dance. By creating a welcoming environment focused on both personal and collective growth, Entropy helps members of all backgrounds and experience levels express themselves through the art form of dance. Entropy is actively involved in the campus and local communities, hosting open classes and participating in a variety of service activities. Entropy also travels throughout North Carolina and Virginia to train, perform, and network with other dancers in our community

For information about teaching or taking a Momentum open class, or for information about auditioning to choreograph or perform in the Momentum Showcase, please visit: [Department of Theatre and Dance Affiliated Clubs.](#)

DANCE FACULTY AND ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PEOPLE TO KNOW

[Department of Theatre and Dance Faculty and Staff Directory](#)

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ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Security/Campus Police Department non-emergency: 262-2150

Campus Police Department EMERGENCY: 262-8000

Counseling and Psychological Services Center: 262-3180

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at <http://www.ods.appstate.edu/> or call 828-262-3056

Writing Center: a free service available M-Th 9-6pm and F 9-1pm, located in new Belk Library, room 008, phone 262-3144 or visit: www.writingcenter.appstate.edu

Computer Help Line: 262-8324

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FORMS

The following forms can be found on the subsequent pages of this handbook:

- Request for Permission to Use Recorded Music for a University Dance Concert...
- Dance Costume Checkout Form

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Request for Permission to Use Recorded Music for a University Dance Concert

Form to be sent to music publisher at earliest possible date before a production, preferably 6-8 weeks prior to performance date.

Information about Performance

1. Faculty/Student University Concert: Appalachian State University, Theatre and Dance Department, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608
2. ASU is a Public State Institution, Tickets are \$__ students, \$__ for adults, all proceeds generated go towards supporting the next departmental production
3. Dates of Concert _____
4. Typically the dance concert consists of 7-10 pieces, with faculty works ranging from 8-15 minutes and student works limited to 6 minutes.
5. All works are dance performances.

Information about Song, Proposed Use of Song, and Owners of Rights

1. Name of song requested _____
2. Artist who performed the song _____
3. Who wrote the song _____
4. Album/CD title _____
5. Record Company
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
6. How much of song (in minutes and seconds) to be used in performance?

7. Title of dance in which song (or portion of song) will be used _____
8. Will song be edited or will portions of song combined with portions of one or more other songs? _____ If yes, explain. _____
9. Permission is requested to film the original performance of this play with the above-described music included in the audio portion, for Departmental Archives and critique, educational use or promotional clips. We ask permission to make only one departmental copy and will not reproduce. Is video/film permission granted? _____

Please keep a copy for your records, file request and response in the departmental office.

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DANCE COSTUME CHECKOUT FORM

Name_____

Email_____

Phone_____

Date costumes checked out_____

Planned date of return_____

*****DO NOT TAKE INVENTORY TAGS OR HANGERS!***
LEAVE THEM IN THE LAUNDRY BASKET IN THE CLOSET.**

Identify costumes borrowed:

<u>Inventory</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	
<u>Group number</u>	<u>(tops, sets, etc.)</u>	<u>taken</u>	<u>Description</u>
<i>Example:</i> #2	pants	2	coral
		3	burgundy

NOTE: Costume pieces MUST BE signed out of dance storage.

REHEARSAL BORROWING, INDEPENDENT PROJECTS, CAPSTONE PROJECTS, MOMENTUM SHOWCASE: It is your responsibility as the choreographer to keep track of costumes, gather them back up from the dancers, and return them. The Costume Shop will take care of them from there.

1ST YEAR SHOWCASE, NCDF, FADE, SADE: Costumes used in these productions will be returned to the shop by the costume crew.