



2024-2025

MISSION:

The mission of the Dance Department is to link critical thinking, historical perspective, and creative discovery with the distinct skills derived from physically-sound studio practice, performance, and research. Skidmore provides a rigorous four-year experience that enables students to pursue the major or minor in a way that effectively supports their personal goals and ambitions.

FACULTY/STAFF:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS:

Sarah DiPasquale, Chair

Jason Ohlberg, Associate Chair

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:

Brian Lawson

Kieron Sargeant

SENIOR LECTURER:

Erika Pujic

VISITING ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:

Chia-Ying Kao

PART-TIME LECTURERS:

David Otto

Emily Gunter

Andre Malo-Robles

Cristiane Santos

Christin Williams

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

Carl Landa

COURSEWORK:

The Skidmore College Dance Department endeavors to make dance available to all students on campus through a variety of technique, performance, theory and appreciation courses. Any student, regardless of major, is welcome to study and perform with us.

DANCE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

CORE COURSES DANCE THEORY

DA227	Improv 1	2 credits
DA228	Choreo 1	3 credits
DA230	Dance & Society I: Movement in History & Culture	3 credits
DA 279	Music for Dancers/Choreographers	1 credit
<i>DA205 Recommended for All-C Through Practice Requirement</i>	<i>for Dancers</i>	<i>4 credits</i>



**Please note that DA376 does not count toward the 20 required theory credits in the major*

** Departmental honors for senior dance majors are recommended on the basis of a distinguished academic career documented by a department GPA of 3.6 or higher in the major, faculty recommendation, and a high level of accomplishment on a department approved Senior Coda project.*

DANCE MINOR <i>20 credits total</i>
17 credit hours of technique, theory, workshop/production. (Two of the required courses in dance must be at a 300 level.)
<u>DA 230</u> Dance and Society I

LIFE IN THE DANCE DEPARTMENT

Each class has both majors and non-majors who study side-by-side. Dance professors determine the appropriate level for each student. ALL dancers are expected to work diligently to master the rigors of technique and to progress throughout the semester. All dance technique classes may be repeated for credit. *Dancers are allowed to audit up to 2 dance classes per semester, to enable them to train in the studio more often.*

Students also work toward proficiency in the major through a combined course of study, which includes dance history/criticism, dance injury prevention/management, dance theory, improvisation composition and workshop classes. As with any academic coursework at Skidmore, the highest level of integrity and discovery is expected in the pursuit of this knowledge and expansion of skills. The Skidmore Academic Honor Code must be upheld at all times. Dance majors and minors are encouraged to investigate related areas of study, and many of our majors combine the dance major with other areas of interest.

COURSE SEQUENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

For the prospective Dance Major, this sequence of courses is recommended, along with appropriate technique & workshop:

INDEPENDENT STUDIES:

Independent studies **culminating in performance** must be approved by the faculty through a written proposal process. Please download the independent study proposal template at the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DIwRcNg7r07rv9kgnfnL2HMIMAnPOFWmE-xSHYpskiA/edit?usp=sharing>

In addition to performative independent studies in dance, students may also elect to engage in independent study research projects to investigate a question, topic, or thesis of their choice. Students may also be selected to participate in faculty led research labs and/or summer collaborative research experiences. For more information on research based independent studies in dance, please contact Prof. Ohlberg (johlberg@skidmore.edu) or Prof. DiPasquale (sdipasqu@skidmore.edu).

COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS

In rare instances, students may petition the faculty to substitute a required course in the dance major with a course/intensive/workshop taken outside of Skidmore. To petition a course substitution please fill out the petition form at the link below and submit to the department chair. Petitions will be assessed on an individual basis and accepted at the discretion of the faculty.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UyOAsia0wtmqC3-MsYcBoD1rgRc4fKTXQr4BaCys80/edit?usp=sharing>

TAKING COURSES OUT OF SEQUENCE

In rare instances, students may petition the faculty to take a required course in the dance major out of sequence. To petition a course substitution please fill out the petition form at the link below and submit to the department chair. Petitions will be assessed on an individual basis and accepted at the discretion of the faculty.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-HF_fP-rKDhd1ilULKdycF0x2mZd-tXhaOG1n4cdwEc/edit?usp=sharing

COURSE OFFERINGS BY SEMESTER:

(subject to change at the discretion of the department)

Fall	Spring
Choreography 2	Choreography 1
Improvisation 1	Improvisation 1 or 2
Dance Production	Senior Coda

JUNIOR INTERVIEWS

After you declare your dance major, you will be required to participate in a Junior Interview with the dance faculty. The Junior interview process is a unique aspect of the Skidmore Dance experience and is a time to come together with the faculty to reflect upon your work, discuss your academic/career goals, and plan a trajectory for the remainder of your undergraduate tenure.

Prior to your interview, you will be asked to complete a reflection sheet to allow you to think about your goals for this conversation with the faculty. **Your reflection sheet must be posted on the Spring a minimum of 1 week prior to your interview date. If you do not complete a reflection sheet, you will not be allowed to attend your interview.** Following your interview, you will complete a post-interview reflection within two weeks that summarizes the conversation and any action items that were discussed.

We hope that your Junior Interview is a rewarding experience that helps you to grow into your full potential and meet your goals during and after your time in the Dance Department.

STUDY ABROAD

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY ABROAD

The traditional time for students to go abroad for study is the spring of Junior year, although some choose to travel in the fall. Dance majors who want to continue rigorous dance training should consider these questions before deciding on leaving campus and studying abroad:

1. Have I completed enough of the required dance courses, especially those offered only in the spring/fall semester?
2. Will I be able to dance at a high level in the city/program I have chosen?
3. Is there a particular upcoming dance project or guest artist coming to campus that I do not want to miss?
4. Will going abroad still allow me to be ready and prepared for my Senior year and the Senior Dance Coda?
5. Is going abroad in the Junior year important to me, or would it be better to travel after graduation?

There are several Skidmore approved programs that include dance training. The majority of these programs focus on modern/contemporary dance, but some include other forms as well. This list is updated frequently so dancers should always investigate their options. Speak with the experts in the office of Off-Campus Study and your advisor to discuss if a study abroad experience may fit into your studies at Skidmore.

PATH TO SENIOR CODA

Senior Coda is a course allowing you to create a project or performance as a culmination of your education in the dance department. Your Coda experience must reflect your area of study and as a performer/choreographer/researcher. Senior Coda projects must be approved by the faculty through a written proposal process which will be assigned in the Senior Seminar Course.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

THE OLEG MOSTON AWARD

Established in honor of Oleg Moston, soloist with the Moscow Philharmonic Society for 22 years and beloved accompanist with the Skidmore College Dance Department from 2005-2011, to recognize outstanding accomplishment and excellence in dance. The Moston award signifies potential in the professional field and is geared toward supporting a graduating senior with professional ambition in transitioning into the post-college dance world.

THE MARGARET PAULDING AWARD

Established in memory of Margaret Paulding, professor of physical education and dance, 1937-73, and chair of the department, 1958-68, to recognize outstanding student leadership, performance, choreography, and/or research in dance. The Paulding award exemplifies exceptional student leadership in the field.

THE KATHY & CHARLIE DISANTO MEMORIAL STUDENT OPPORTUNITY FUND

These awards are offered on a competitive basis to support Skidmore students for dance projects outside of course curriculum requirements but may include independent studies. Projects that have a community-based research or service component will be given preference. Projects that help a student discover new connections across disciplines will be strongly considered. These opportunities might include but are not limited to creative projects, internships, dance education and research studies.

STUDIO ETIQUETTE FOR ALL DANCERS

Dress code for technique classes may vary with instructors. Please check your syllabi for details and communicate with your professors directly if you have questions.

Dance Majors and upper-class dancers are role models for younger or less experienced students. Majors should model healthy behavior and an exemplary work ethic both in and outside the studio.

not limited to): respectful verbal and non-verbal communication with faculty/peers/guests, appropriate and direct conflict resolution when needed (no gossip), a professional outlook and attitude towards the department overall, and abstaining from drug and alcohol use.

DANCE WORKSHOP ETIQUETTE

In the creation of a professional and productive atmosphere, the following is expected:

- You will arrive on time to all rehearsals; warm and ready to work
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safely return to full participation in dance courses. If upon returning to dance, concussion symptoms return, students should immediately report these symptoms to health services and return for follow up evaluation.

For additional concussion management and return to dance protocol, please refer to the Dance USA Task force on Dance Health Concussion Statement through the link below.

https://dance-usa.s3.amazonaws.com/page_uploads/Concussion.10.26.15.pdf

1. **Participation:** You must participate fully in class for at least 80% of the time to receive a grade in the course. If you are unable to participate because of long-term illness or injury for more than 20% of the class, you will have to withdraw from the class or take an incomplete. Depending on the semester 20% is the equivalent of 5-6 class periods.
2. **Observations:** Observations may or may not be consecutive. An observation day is defined as any day that you are not participating (dancing) in class. An observation day may be taken due to illness or injury. For example: if you are sick the second week of class and take one observation day and later in the semester and need to observe again, you will have taken two observation days.
3. **Observation Expectations:** You are expected to attend each class period even if you are unable to participate fully, unless you are too ill (or contagious) to attend class. It is expected that you email your professor as a courtesy to inform them of your absence prior to the class meeting time.

TRAVEL TO PRESENT

Skidmore College will support the travel expenses (meals, travel, lodging) of students presenting their academic research at a professional conference. Students may additionally seek support from the Dance Department to cover the cost of the conference fees. To be eligible for this support, a student must be presenting data/findings/creative work that was completed through a credit bearing research project in the Dance Department. Support for conference fees may not exceed \$300 and partial support may be given. Applications will be assessed on the rigor of the project, the quality of the conference attended, and the academic status of the applicant. Awards are given at the discretion of the faculty and may be limited by annual budgetary constraints.

To apply for travel to present funding through the school please see the following link:

<https://www.skidmore.edu/osaa/funds/travel/index.php>

Following acceptance of travel expenses through the school, students may then submit that same application to the department (to the department chair or associate chair) for support of conference fees. Please remember to include:

- Your letter of acceptance for the Travel to Present award through Skidmore
- Your letter of acceptance from the conference
- IRB approval letter (if applicable)
- The application and narrative that you submitted for the Travel to Present through the school

Dance Center EMS Instructions revised 1.7.22

For students enrolled in dance classes

Please be certain to review and follow the Studio Terms of Agreement below and the [EMS Instructions](#) on the Dance Website under Student Information – Scheduling Studios.

Go to: [Skidmore Scheduling Office](#) web page to make a reservation and for detailed instructions. The [General Overview](#) is short and helpful.

The Technical Director approves space requests for DSI, DSII, conference room and the Dance Theater. The Multipurpose room and the IM Gym are managed by the Athletic Department.

PLAN AHEAD: *All requests must be entered at least 24 hours in advance and by Thursday at noon for a studio needed on Saturday or Sunday.*

EMS Pointers for students enrolled in dance classes:

- Contact the Scheduling Office with questions/problems with the EMS system.
- club needs, etc. Your request for a room will need to be approved for you.
- The "Dance Center Student" template is only for students in Choreo II, Senior Coda II, and approved Independent Studies. Studio and Dance Theater reservations are automatically booked without needing approval.
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Dance Studio - Terms of Agreement - *Revised 4-23-22*

1.

COSTUME POLICIES

Remember: COSTUME COMES LAST

No nail polish or personal jewelry; Remove all visible piercings and cover all visible tattoos.

Make-up, hair style, bathroom, shoes all before you dress

Change immediately after your piece is over

You must return every part of your costume to the table/hanger when done; hang pieces properly.

Do not leave any costumes in the small dressing rooms.

No sitting, eating, drinking, smoking in costume!

Report any costume problems immediately to your choreographer or to wardrobe personnel.

Quick change: organize before performance and be responsible for returning ALL PARTS afterward.

Keep personal belongings separate from costumes.

