
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ...

DANCE

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) website: "Dancers spend years learning dances and perfecting their skills. They usually perform as part of a group and in a variety of styles, including ballet, musical theater, and modern dance. Many perform on TV, in videos on the Internet, and in music videos, where they also may sing or act. Many dancers perform in shows at casinos, theme parks, and on cruise ships. UNM offers a Bachelor of Arts in Dance in classical ballet, modern dance, and culturally specific dance styles such as Flamenco. According to the [UNM Dance Department website](#), "The Dance Program endeavors to create knowledgeable and skillful dancers...The vision of the program is to provide the most current, experimental, and sophisticated choreography curriculum and productions in the southwest..."

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

A bachelor's degree is typically the minimum formal education required. Some areas may require a graduate degree, or may assist employment in highly competitive areas.

INDUSTRY OPTIONS:

Education – Arts Administration – Arts Management – Performance – Production – Dance Therapy

SAMPLE JOB TITLES FOR DANCE MAJORS:

Dancer – Choreographer – Counselor – Dance therapist – Performer – Teacher – Mimist – Stage Director – Photographer – Booking Agent – Dance Arranger – Dance Critic – Dance Historian – Rehearsal Coordinator – Dance Consultant

COMMON GRADUATE SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR DANCE MAJORS:

MFA in choreography, performance or MA in dance scholarship, therapy, teaching, history, criticism, arts management
An undergraduate dance degree can also lead to such professional programs as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Counseling, Law or an MBA, amongst others.

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Develop an online presence documenting your performances for better marketability.
- Gain related professional experience through involvement in internships, apprenticeships.
- Audition, audition, audition! Get fantastic head shots!
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Shadow professionals in the field to gain a better understanding of the options available and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events.
- Speak with and develop relationships with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Performance leads can be found on your department's website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.

POSSIBLE EMPLOYERS OF DANCE GRADUATES:

University theatre/dance troupes
Touring companies
Industrial shows
Colleges/universities
Television networks
Advertising agencies
TV/film studios
Magazines/newspapers
Performing arts centers
Cruise lines

Schools (K-12 public and private)
Theatre companies (local, regional, national)
Nonprofit arts/dance organizations
Private arts/dance organizations
Arts councils/cultural organizations
Government (local, federal, state)
Rehabilitation facilities
Nursing homes
Treatment/counseling centers
Medical facilities

Wellness/alternative health care centers
Dance studios/schools

Recreation facility
Community-based agencies

NATIONAL WAGES:

Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

CHOREOGRAPHERS:

Location	2012				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$9.41	\$12.72	\$18.33	\$27.88
	Yearly	\$19,600	\$26,500	\$38,100	\$58,000

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

- American Dance Guild <http://americandanceguild.org/home/>
- Dance.net <http://www.dance.net/>
- American Dance Therapy Association <http://www.adta.org/>
- Dance/USA <http://www.danceusa.org/>
- Cecchetti Council of America <http://www.cecchetti.org/>
- Dance Educators of America <http://www.deadance.com/#>
- Arts Opportunities www.artsopportunities.org
- Dance Notation <http://www.dancenotation.org/DNB/index.html>
- International Assoc. for Dance Medicine & Science <http://www.iadms.org/>
- National Dance Association www.aahperd.org/nda
- National Dance Education Organization <http://www.ndeo.org/>
- Sacred Dance Guild <http://www.sacreddanceguild.org/>
- Society of Stage Directors & Choreographers www.ssdcc.org
- VSA Albuquerque <http://vsartsnm.org/>

 <http://online.onetcenter.org>

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

REFERENCES

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, (2014). *Occupational Outlook Handbook, Dancers and Choreographers*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/ooH/Entertainment-and-Sports/Dancers-and-choreographers.htm>

State of Minnesota, U. S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (2014). *CareerOneStop, Occupation Profile: Choreographers*. Retrieved from http://www.careerinfonet.org/occ_rep.asp?optstatus=011000000&soccode=272032&id=1&nodeid=2&stfips=35&search=G

University of New Mexico, Department of Dance (2014). Retrieved from <http://theatre.unm.edu/academics/dance/>