



MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF DANCE



MERCYHURST

UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

A classical ballet program rooted in a traditional liberal arts setting, we strive to make a meaningful impact on pre-professional dancers and mentor future leaders in the arts for the longevity of the field.

We take pride in our accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Dance. The Department of Dance's mission is to generate leadership for the dance field through rigorous B.A. and BFA programs emphasizing the development of professional dancers, teachers, choreographers, and scholars through cognitive, affective, and psychomotor taxonomies. The Department of Dance's vision is to proliferate the art of dance, while promoting excellence in leadership for the field.



DEGREE PROGRAMS



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Bachelor of Fine Arts

This degree is comprised of a rigorous curriculum in dance theories and techniques with performance and choreographic opportunities that build a pre-professional resumé.

Bachelor of Arts

This degree is grounded in the liberal arts and allows a student to complete a dual major, minor, and/or concentration complementary to the field or to complete accelerated programming.

Bachelor of Arts with Pedagogy Concentration

This area of study provides skills through additional curriculum and experiential learning that prepares the student for success in studio teaching.

Sports Medicine: Integrated Track

Knowledge without application is useless. We prepare future health care professionals through experiential learning, hands-on patient interactions, and Sports Medicine-specific courses including injury evaluation and assessment, nutrition, health care administration, kinesiology, exercise physiology, and applicable research. This targeted approach will also prepare students for graduate health care programs.

Graduate degrees complementary to the Dance major include Athletic Training and Organizational Leadership.

CURRICULUM



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Intermediate – Pre-Professional

- Classical Ballet
- Pointe and Variations
- Classical Male Technique
- Pas de Deux
- Modern
- Jazz
- Tap
- Musical Theatre Dance
- Dance Conditioning
- Dance History
- Choreography
- Pilates: Body-Mind Mat Practice
- Global Perspectives Through Yoga
- Kinesiology
- Introduction to Labanotation
- Pedagogy
- Senior Seminar
- Contemporary Ballet
- Introduction to Arts Administration
- Contemporary Partnering
- Screen Dance
- Senior Pro-Seminar

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YOUR MERCYHURST EXPERIENCE



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Performances

Performance opportunities for the Mercyhurst Dancers include two yearly concerts on the stage of the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, student choreography concerts, Liturgical Dance Ensemble, American College Dance Association, Youth America Grand Prix International, and in-residence company SoMar Dance Works.

Guest Artists, Teachers, and Choreographers

Dancers are regularly exposed to guest artists, teachers, and choreographers of international stature. Guests have included: Laura Alonso, National Ballet of Cuba; Vivi Flindt, Royal Danish Ballet; Donlin Foreman, Martha Graham Company; Samantha Dunster, Pennsylvania Ballet; Judith Fugate and Amanda Edge, New York City Ballet; Daniel Lewis, Limon Foundation; Bruce Marks, Boston Ballet; Luis Montero, Jose Greco Company; Marianna Tcherkassky and Wes Chapman, American Ballet Theatre; Valerie Valentine, Dutch National Ballet; Rick McCullough, Netherlands Dance Theatre; Robert Barnett, Atlanta Ballet; Rosanna Seravalli, American Ballet Theatre, Paul Taylor Company, Alvin Ailey II; Steve Rooks, Martha Graham Company; Gina Patterson, Ballet Austin; Alice Blumenfeld, Abrepasso Flamenco.

Apprenticeship Program

In-residence company SoMar Dance Works offers dance majors increased performance opportunities working with a professional company.

Dance Club

Members of the student-sponsored Dance Club promote and provide opportunities for leadership, service, departmental support, social activities, and community outreach.

Liturgical Dance Ensemble

Dance students enhance the enrichment of spiritual life on campus and in the community through their participation in the Liturgical Dance Ensemble. This student-directed group provides performance opportunities throughout the academic year.

National Honor Society for Dance Arts

The Mercyhurst Department of Dance is proud to be recognized by the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. This premier honor society celebrates university and dance scholars/artists and professionals for their academic and artistic achievements.



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Study Abroad

Qualified students may be granted permission to spend all or part of a year studying abroad. Degree credit can be granted on successful completion of an approved program of international study. Students have traveled to Austria, Australia, Canada, China, England, France, Ireland, and Israel.

Alumni Affiliations

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Ballet Arizona, BalletMet, Ballet Theater of Maryland, Boston Ballet, Chicago Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, Dance Kaleidescope, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dance Now Miami, Dance USA, Disney, Giordano Dance Chicago, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Lake Erie Ballet Company, Louisville Ballet, Nashville Ballet, North Carolina Dance Theatre, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Point Park University, Rockettes, St. Louis Ballet, Tampa Community College, Temple University, Thodos Dance Chicago, University of Oklahoma, and numerous national Broadway tours, cruise lines, and European companies.



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FACILITIES

The danceSpace

The Department of Dance enjoys a state-of-the-art, self-contained complex, which neighbors the Art Department and is adjacent to the D'Angelo School of Music and the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center.

More Information

For more information about Mercyhurst University, contact Admissions at **814-824-2201**, visit mercyhurst.edu or mercyhurst.edu/academics/dance.

Internships and Co-op Education

Students are placed on site with local and national companies/agencies in performance, teaching, and arts administration.

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C. Noelle Partusch *Professor & Chair*

BFA Dance, State University of New York, Purchase College
MFA Ohio State University

Labanotation Teachers Certificate, Dance Notation Bureau
Artistic Director: Liturgical Dance Ensemble

Jennifer McNamara *Assistant Professor*

MFA Hollins University

Former Principal Dancer, Nashville Ballet; Soloist, Eugene Ballet
Certified Pilates Instructor | Balanced Body Educator

Mark Santillano *Assistant Professor*

BFA Dance, B.S. Business Communications,
Southwest Missouri State University | M.A. Wesleyan University
Dancer and Dance Captain with Pilobolus Dance Theatre,
The King and I (international tour), A Chorus Line and West Side Story
(national tours)

Co-artistic director of SoMar Dance Works

Solveig Santillano *Associate Professor*

BFA Dance, Juilliard | MFA Hollins University
M.A. Wesleyan University | CLMA, RYT 500, CET

Dancer with MOMIX

Co-artistic director of SoMar Dance Works

Advisor: National Honor Society for Dance Arts and Yoga Club

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE FACULTY



Photo by Mark Santillano

Annual on-campus auditions are required for acceptance, placement, and the awarding of dance merit scholarships. Additional financial aid is available through grants, loans, academic scholarships, work study, and stipends.

Visit mercyhurst.edu/academics/dance or contact the Office of Admissions at **814-824-2201** for information about on-campus audition dates.



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