

BALLET PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Ballet Program at the University of Utah has a history of excellence dating from 1951. In this groundbreaking year, Willam F. Christensen — noted dancer, teacher, and founder of the San Francisco Ballet Company — returned to his native Utah and founded one of the first ballet programs in an American university. As the faculty and the curriculum grew, the excellence of this program served as the foundation and model for other university ballet programs.

Faculty and graduates of the University of Utah's Ballet Department were fundamental in the formation and growth of Ballet West, Utah's major professional ballet company. Through the excellence and professional success of our faculty, students, and alumni, the Ballet Program continues to attract a diverse enrollment of students from all 50 states and abroad. Numerous alumni are currently dancing professionally or working as ballet instructors and administrators in colleges, universities and other educational and professional organizations throughout the world.

In 2016, the Ballet Department joined forces with the Department of Modern Dance to form the new School of Dance at the University of Utah.

Mission and Philosophy

The Mission of the Ballet Program is to prepare students for a variety of professional opportunities in the field of Ballet and related dance forms. The Ballet Program provides a comprehensive curriculum with training in technique, performance, pedagogy, critical thinking, creative process, and creative and scholarly research culminating in a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Degree. The Ballet Program offers a wide array of performance opportunities for our students while honoring the academic rigor of a Research I university.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Program Description

The University of Utah's Ballet Program, which is consistently recognized as one of the top programs in the country, offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in Ballet. In 2008, the University of Utah received accreditation from the National Association of the Schools of Dance (NASD). Our comprehensive curriculum prepares graduates for the successful pursuit of a career within the field of dance. A Bachelor of Fine Arts is considered a 'professional degree,' in contrast to a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree, and the requirements for its completion reflect that professional status.

The curriculum includes numerous 'in studio' classes as well as critical thinking and creative process classes. An understanding of dance history, pedagogy, kinesiology, and choreographic process are woven with technique, pointe, men's class and partnering to prepare students for a career in various facets of the dance field. Honoring and encouraging both creative and scholarly research, this program offers a balanced course of study that may include an emphasis and/or certificate in Ballet Teaching. Training within this degree program is rigorous and exciting. In addition to coursework, students are provided with an abundance of performance and choreographic opportunities.

This program of study is for serious students interested in a career in ballet or other dance related fields and requires discipline, dedication and a willingness to contribute to a collegial and effective learning environment.