

University Ballet Programs

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When evaluating post-secondary education programs, we look at a number of factors, including the degree offered, classes, facilities, faculty, and placement. We focus on a program's success at getting a student closer to work as a professional dancer. As a result, faculty professional ballet experience, professional performance experience, affiliation with a professional company, and student placement are key. Candidates should take these comments as jump-off points for further research, including direct contact with the department, a campus visit (including taking class), and seeing a performance. Auditions begin in the Fall.

Resources

	Pointe Magazine College Ballet Guide	An online straight-forward guide to 140 colleges and conservatories that offer ballet training.	http://www.pointemagazine.com/guides/higher-education
	Dance Magazine College Guide	A print guide to over 600 college dance programs.	http://dancemedia.k-online.biz/cgi-bin/F5BA49CE/mac/additmdtl.mac/showItemDetail?loadItem=11COLLEGE

Top Ballet Programs

Review Date	Program	Comments	Website	Scholarships	Est. Cost Yr (Tuition and Room & Board, non-resident)	Audition Dates
Wed 11-2-11	Indiana Univ.	Widely considered to be one of the leading university ballet programs. Faculty have substantial professional ballet performance backgrounds, including Royal Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Boston Ballet, Joffrey, and NYCB. Violette Verdy is a distinguished professor. Produces large scale classical ballets. The ballet department is a part of the IU music school, one of the finest in the country. While the placement record isn't complete, the list of Alumni and their companies is excellent, including New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet, among others. Outstanding facilities. BS degree. No professional company affiliation.	http://music.indiana.edu/departments/academic/ballet/	Undergraduate scholarships available.	\$19,865	Dec 2 Jan 13 Feb 3 Ma 2 Mar 23

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Review Date	Program	Comments	Website	Scholarships	Est. Cost Yr (Tuition and Room & Board, non-resident)	Audition Dates
Wed 11-9-11	Univ. of Oklahoma	BFA offered. Home to Oklahoma Festival Ballet, a pre-professional company. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds, including Houston Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, and Boston Ballet, among others. While the placement record isn't complete, the list of Alumni and their companies are good, including Boston Ballet, Houston Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet Arizona, and Atlanta Ballet, among others. No professional company affiliation. Produces full-length classical ballets. No facility info.	http://www.ou.edu/finearts/dance/index.html	Undergraduate scholarships available.	\$18,284	Oct 10 Jan 28
Wed 11-9-11	Univ. of Utah	BFA offered. Home to Utah Ballet, a pre-professional company. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds, including Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet West, and Joffrey Ballet, among others. While the placement record isn't complete, the list of Alumni and their companies are good, including New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Austin, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, and Ballet West, among others. Good facilities. No full-length classical ballets. Closely affiliated with Ballet West.	http://www.ballet.utah.edu/	Undergraduate scholarships available.	See website.	Nov 5 Feb 11
Wed 11-2-11	Univ. of Arizona	BFA offered. The dance department is "deeply rooted" in the classical ballet traditions. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds including, American Ballet Theatre, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Houston Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet, among others. Good facilities. No Full-length classical ballets. No placement info. No professional company affiliation.	http://cfa.arizona.edu/dance/ballet	Undergraduate scholarships available.	\$38,574	Oct 1 Jan 21 New Dates: Dec 1 & 2 Feb 16 & 17 Mar 1 & 2

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Wed 11-2-11	Point Park Univ.	BFA offered. Concentration in ballet available. Good facilities. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds, including Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet Austin, New Jersey Ballet, Cincinatti Ballet, and Louisville Ballet, among others. While the placement record isn't complete, the list of Alumni and their companies are good, including Aspen Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Dayton Ballet, among others. No professional company affiliation. No full-length classical ballets.	http://www.pointpark.edu/Academics/Schools/COPA/COPADeptsMajors/Dance/DanceConcentrations/ballet	Undergraduate scholarships available.	See website.	On Campus: Oct 1 Nov 19 Dec 10 Jan 28 Feb 11 Mar 24 Apr 21 Off Campus: Dec 4 (Atlanta) Jan 15 (NY) Jan 22 (Chicago) Jan 29 (LA)
Wed 11-2-11	Butler Univ.	Offers BFA, among others. Focuses on ballet. Produces full-length classical ballets. Some faculty have professional ballet performance backgrounds. While the placement record isn't complete, the list of Alumni and their companies is substantial, including Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Joffrey, and Alvin Ailey, among others. No professional company affiliation.	http://www.butler.edu/dance/	Undergraduate scholarships available.	\$45,478	Oct 10 Nov 4 Nov 18 Feb 17 Feb 24 March 2 March 5
Wed 11-2-11	Marymount Manhattan	Offers BFA in ballet. Faculty have substantial professional ballet performance backgrounds including, New York City Opera, Feld Ballet, Dayton Ballet, and New Jersey Ballet, among others. Productions are modern focused -- no full length classical ballets. No placement info available. No professional company affiliation. The dance capital of the universe -- NYC.	http://www.mmm.edu/student/programs/dfpa/dance/index.html	Undergraduate scholarships available.	\$38,738	Jan 14 (Chicago) Jan 15 (CA) Feb 11 (FL) Jan 21 (NY) Feb 4 (NY) Feb 18 (NY) Mar 3 (NY)

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Wed 11-9-11	Univ. of South Florida	BFA offered. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds, including Pennsylvania Ballet, Ohio Ballet, and NCDT, among others. Gretchen Ward Warren, certainly a celebrated ballet author and teacher, has been at USF since 1983. While the placement record isn't complete, the list of Alumni and their companies are primarily modern. Good facilities. No full-length classical ballets. No professional company affiliation.	http://theatreanddance.arts.usf.edu/content/templates/?a=90&z=11	Undergraduate scholarships available.	\$29,780	Nov 4 Feb 24 Apr 20

Joint Professional Company / University Programs

Thu 8-11-11	VCU/Richmond Ballet	They have a trainee program with Richmond Ballet. Ballet training is from RB, academics from VCU. BFA in dance is offered, a plus. Placement company is a bit cloudy. No info on placement company of RB trainees. RB has been around forever: Stoner Winslett runs the company. It is a strong regional company.	http://www.vcu.edu/arts/dance/dept/	See website.	See website.	See website.
Wed 11-2-11	Dominican Univ.	Joint program with Lines in San Francisco. Lines is an outstanding contemporary ballet company. BFA offered. Focus is on ballet. Academics at Dominican, dance at Lines. One of the greatest cities anywhere.	http://linesballet.org/bfa/	See website.	See website.	See website.
Fri 9-16-11	UNCC/NCDT	BA in dance or two year certificate. Upper level dance classes are from NCDT and academics from UNCC. Opportunity to perform with NCDT and work with NCDT 2. Pamela Safras is the dept chair at UNCC, a dance academic. Permanent faculty are modern focused. Facilities look ok at UNCC. NCDT's are excellent. No placement info. NCDT is a strong regional company.	http://www.ncdance.org/UNC_College.asp	See website.	See website.	See website.

Other Programs

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Review Date	Program	Comments	Website	Scholarships	Est. Cost Yr (Tuition and Room & Board, non-resident)	Audition Dates
Thu 8-11-11	Belhaven	BFA in dance is offered, a plus. Offerings in pointe, partnering, variations, choreography. The placement page stops in 2004. Very few placements in professional dance companies. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds, including Houston Ballet, PNB, and Royal Ballet. Facilities are new and look ok. No professional company affiliation.	http://www.belhaven.edu/dance/default.htm	See website.	See website.	See website.
Fri 9-16-11	East Carolina	BFA in dance is offered. Placement record for a dancers is unclear. Facilities look ok. Faculty looks modern focused, but they do have a ballet teacher that graduated from Perm (Russia). No professional company affiliation.	http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cfac/theatredance/	See website.	See website.	See website.
Thu 8-11-11	Elon	BFA offered. Few, if any, placements in professional dance companies. Not many other teachers with substantial professional experience in ballet or modern. Don't see any pointe, partnering, or variations course offerings. No professional company affiliation.	http://www.elon.edu/web/academics/elon_college/performing_arts/badan.xhtml	See website.	See website.	See website.
Wed 11-2-11	George Mason Univ.	BFA and MFA, a plus. Faculty includes Christopher d'Amboise from NYCB, but most are modern focused. Placement record not available. Facilities look okay. No professional company affiliation.	http://dance.gmu.edu/	See website.	See website.	See website.
Fri 9-16-11	Georgia	BFA is offered. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds, including Dayton Ballet, Ballet Metropolitan, and others. No facility, placement info available. No professional company affiliation.	http://www.dance.uga.edu/	See website.	See website.	See website.
Wed 11-2-11	Goucher College	BA. Dance Chair is an academic. Some instructors have backgrounds in ballet. No placement record available. No professional company affiliation.	http://www.goucher.edu/x5706.xml	See website.	See website.	See website.

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Fri 9-16-11	Kennesaw State	BA in dance. New dance facilities. They say "we prepare our students physically and intellectually for the professional world of dance." KSU is affiliated with Atlanta Ballet, a strong regional company. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds, including San Diego Ballet, Nevada Dance Theatre, Pennsylvania Ballet, and Cleveland San Jose Ballet. No placement info.	http://www.kennesaw.edu/theatre/dance/	See website.	See website.	See website.
Fri 9-16-11	USC Columbia	BA in dance. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds, including Boston Ballet and NYCB. The USC Dance Company performs throughout the year. They say "nowhere else in the state can students major in a dance program with a focus in classical ballet." No facility, placement info available. No professional company affiliation.	http://www.cas.sc.edu/dance/academics/Bulletin%20Description.htm	See website.	See website.	See website.
Wed 11-2-11	Mercyhurst College	Catholic college. Says it is "one of the nation's top ballet programs." BA degree. Focuses on ballet. Faculty has professional ballet performance backgrounds, including Orlando Ballet, Atlant Ballet, Louisville Ballet, and Alaska Dance Theatre, among others. Productions appear religiously focused. No full-length classical ballets. While the placement record isn't complete, the list of Alumni and their companies is good, including Boston Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, NCDT, and Ballet Arizona, among others. No professional company affiliation.	http://dance.mercyhurst.edu/	Undergraduate scholarships available.	See website.	See website.
<p>Please let us know if you'd like a university dance program reviewed! We'd be happy to add it to this list. See Wayne for more details on these programs.</p>						