Dance is the only art of which we ourselves are the stuff of which it is made.

—Ted Shawn
Mission Statement:

The Dance Program of Western Kentucky University provides an environment conducive to comprehensive training in performance within the framework of a liberal arts education at the Bachelor of Arts level. By integrating dance and general studies, we strive to create “Thinking Artists”, individuals who work to achieve their highest potential as artist/technicians and scholars.

The WKU Dance Program

The Dance Program is based upon the central premise that education is paramount in preparing artists to engage in the global society in which we live. By developing creative artists and nurturing the art of dance in higher education, individuals may be empowered to enrich and further the arts in our society in relevant, diverse and meaningful ways. It is our goal to provide students with opportunities challenging each dance major to realize the full potential of his/her dance talents while being adequately prepared to meet the rigorous standards within the dance field and society. In addition, the Dance Program seeks to engage and educate the broader community about dance and its role in the human experience through public performance and outreach programs.

photo by Kyle Terry
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Program Features

- Daily technique classes in ballet, modern, jazz, and tap including individual assessments for each student
- Informal and formal opportunities for choreography and performance
- Resident student dance company
- Supervised teaching experiences
- Annual guest artists and choreographers—master classes, residencies and choreography for mainstage dance concerts
- Attendance at regional dance festivals and conferences
- Dance scholarships
- Access to professional concerts and events
- Dance curriculum is compatible with membership in the Honors College. Honors dance courses offered every semester

photo by Kyle Terry
Career Opportunities for the Dance Major:
The B.A. in Dance can lead to a variety of career opportunities:

- Performer
- Educator
- Choreographer
- Costumes
- Dance Therapist
- Artistic directorship of a dance company
- Dance science or medicine specialist
- Dance kinesiologist
- Dance historian and writer
- Dance notator
- Dance captain
- Rehearsal director
- Dance/Arts administrator
- Dance company manager
- Massage or body therapist
- Wellness and fitness specialist
- Dance notator
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Performance Opportunities
Each Fall our dancers produce and perform for:

- DanceOut!, outdoor annual dance concert
- Bowling Green International Festival
- WinterDance, main stage faculty concert with one or two chosen student pieces
- Autumn Dance Project, concert featuring student choreography
- Last Chance to Dance (works in progress)

Each Spring our dancers produce and perform for:

- An Evening of Dance, main stage Faculty and Guest Artist concert
- American College Dance Festival (ACDF) Conference
- Last Chance to Dance (works in progress)
- Italy tour concert series (toured 2005, 06, 08, 09, 10)

Student Testimonials
Italy was such an amazing opportunity, and last year was by far one of my favorite WKU experiences I will treasure always.

Becky Gotsch, St. Louis, MO Alumna

Studying abroad in Italy was a chance of a lifetime. Surrounding myself with the culture and having the opportunity to perform in another country was incredible. I’ve been twice because I enjoyed it so much.

Erin Finn, Louisville, KY Dance Major, Honors College

I would not trade my experience in Italy this summer for anything. It was so amazing being able to perform for and interact with another culture. I definitely would give anything to go back.

Jessica Williams, Collierville, TN Dance Major, Honors College

International Touring Opportunity
WKU Dance in Italy
Study Abroad Program
We annually provide students with international opportunities to perform in a professional venue and study with international dance masters.

The WKU Dance Company is a performance group that trains dancers in the skills of performance through a variety of repertory created by students, faculty, and guest artists. The Dance Company is by audition only.
Dance Faculty

Clifton Keefer Brown  ballet specialist
Carrie Brueck Morris  modern dance specialist
Amanda Clark  jazz and tap specialist

WKU Dance in Italy

For more information

visit our home at:
http://www.wku.edu/pcal/dance

or contact:
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Western Kentucky University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to offer an individual with a disability and equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities.

For additional information and assistance, please review the following link:
http://www.wku.edu/eoo <http://www.wku.edu/eoo>