

*San Jose State University
School of Music and Dance*

Dance Program

Bachelor of Arts Student Handbook

Fall 2012

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Bachelor of Arts Degree Program

Fall 2012

Welcome from the Dance Faculty

The dance faculty and staff would like to welcome you to the Bachelor of Arts degree program in the School of Music and Dance. We are pleased you have chosen San Jose State University to further your dance training and education. Your education will be supported by our faculty, our dedicated part-time faculty and prominent guest artists. You will be challenged with technical practice in various dance techniques, theoretical study in several areas, and provided with performance opportunities. We believe your experiences in the dance program will substantially further your education in the art of dance, and will enable you to contribute to your community as an individual and artist.

Forward

This handbook has been prepared for you as a reference. Its' purpose is to help prepare you and provide you with a clear outline of the requirements for the program. It is to be used in conjunction with the University catalog, which can be found on the SJSU website. BA students should retain both the catalog and the student handbook. It is also suggested that the student keep a copy of the Schedule of Classes for the semester that matriculation begins.

Requirements

New students are expected to participate in a placement audition prior to entering the program.

Grade and Grade Point Average Requirements

A student must receive no lower than a "C" in any required course work. If a student receives a "C-" or lower, the course must be repeated and a grade of at least a "C" achieved. A student must maintain at least an overall grade point average of 2.0.

If for any "documented" reason a student is unable to complete all requirements for a given course in a semester, he or she is responsible for initiating the process with the instructor to request an "incomplete". If the instructor has not been approached by the student as of the final class meeting, a grade will be awarded based upon the work completed. A student must complete at least two thirds of the work required for the course in order for an "incomplete" to be considered. If a student sustains an injury, or a situation arises that precludes the ability to complete the course work, or at least the two thirds necessary to obtain an "incomplete", he or she must petition to drop the course. An "incomplete" is not granted when a student needs to repeat an **entire** course. The course must be made up by the end of the semester the next time it is being offered, with the appropriate grade achieved (see above).

Technique Level

Technique levels for each student will be determined by the faculty. Each semester current technique instructors will assess students and make decisions regarding placement for the following semester.

Attendance

Technique classes are essential to the dancer's training, and class attendance is vital to the student's success in the BA program. All students are expected to maintain consistent attendance in all their dance major courses.

Students who are injured are still expected to attend all classes. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the faculty of any injury which may inhibit or preclude participation in any movement class. Students are expected to consult with the instructor for any contingency requirement involved. Injured students must communicate with the instructor regarding the injury and the preferred manner of participation (taking notes, engaging in class discussion etc.). Injured students should make every effort to schedule doctors' appointments outside of class time.

Expectations

Students in the program are expected to behave responsibly. The following must be adhered to:

Responsibility:

Living up to your commitments as a student, dancer, choreographer
Attending all classes and rehearsals. Being prompt and prepared.
Giving your full concentration

Honoring all performance and choreography contracts

Respect:

Respecting all faculty, staff and peers

Taking your art seriously

Taking the process of technique, rehearsal, performance seriously

Choreographers showing respect for dancers, and vice versa

Not giving unsolicited advice to professors, choreographers, or peers

Respecting dress codes

Respecting and adhering to all schedules

Discipline:

Challenging yourself to broaden your horizons in performance and/or choreography. Do not let your strength become a limitation. You have chosen this program to grow. Open yourself up to new possibilities

Maintaining and improving your technique with regular classes.

Sustaining your concentration in technical rehearsals

Integrity:

Being honest with yourself and others

Being honest with your work

Fulfilling each commitment to the best of your ability

Area of Option

By the end of the sophomore year, each BA student will choose a primary area of option, either modern or jazz. He or she must complete 6 units of level III or IV in this area, with 10 units in additional technique, including ballet. BA students may later petition to change the area of option. This change must be granted by faculty approval.

Other Course Requirements

BA students must also complete and Music Appreciation or Art Appreciation in preparation for the major. Other requirements include: Dance Improvisation, Choreography I and II, Dance Production, Rhythmic Fundamentals, two semesters of Dance History, one semester of Dance Kiniesiology, Senior Seminar, 4 units in performance, and either a second semester of Dance Kinesiology or Children's Dance. Students must complete 1 unit of 52 B, Dance Crewing, ½ unit each. All crews must be completed in first two years in the program.

These courses are supported by 21 units of dance electives, 9 of which may be additional dance coursework. Twelve units of the electives must be non-dance related courses, encouraging the student to pursue a minor in another area. A total of 120 units are required to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Capstone Experience

The BA program will culminate with a final senior project. All students must choose between evaluation in performance or choreography. To be eligible for evaluation in choreography the student must have successfully completed Choreography III.

In the area of **performance** each candidate is required to perform a solo, or in a duet or trio. It may not be choreographed by the candidate as this experience is geared toward the continued broadening of the range of the student. If the student opts to perform a solo, it is recommended that the student seek a professional choreographer. The choice of choreographer must be approved by the faculty and if the choreographer is a student he/she must have completed Choreography III and submit a written description of the piece. If the work is to be reconstructed from the literature of dance it must be approved by the faculty. A solo should not exceed five minutes in length.

In the area of **choreography** the candidate is required to present an original work for a minimum of two dancers. Choreography will be judged upon clarity of conception, the resulting compositional structure as relevant to the concept, utilization of choreographic tools and originality in movement invention. Each student must present a clear written description of their concept, a plan for the compositional structure and sources of movement invention. Derivative movement or movement from classroom technique is not appropriate for this project. The student will receive a calendar for the semester and must adhere to the designated deadlines. The work should not exceed 8 minutes in length and the choreographer may not perform in the piece.

The student will participate in an exit interview with the faculty.

Crewing

All BA students must complete three crewing assignments during their first two years in the program. One crewing assignment will be included in the Dance Production course. Students must sign-up for a crew and take a permission code. These are posted in the Dancers' Lounge each semester.

Advising

All BA students are expected to meet with the dance advisor each term to plan the courses for the following semester. The dance advisor is Professor Janie Scott: 408-924-5043; janie.scott@sjsu.edu
The Dance Program holds a meeting at the beginning of each fall semester for all dance majors and minors. Students are expected to attend the meeting.

Adding/Dropping Courses

Students register for classes online using *mysjsu*. Students must attend the first class meeting to ensure they are not dropped by the instructor. Students must also adhere closely to the University's add and drop dates. These deadlines can be found online and on the instructors' green sheets. Instructors will give add codes for students adding a class once classes commence. In most cases, late adds will not be granted. It is the student's responsibility to approach the instructor, before the add date deadline, if an add code does not work. To drop a class, students should follow the directions on *mysjsu*. Students must petition to drop a course if the drop deadline has passed. The required forms must be obtained from Admissions and Records. These forms require signatures of the instructor and Department Director. Students must petition to enroll in over 18 units. Excess units petitions can be obtained from the Dance Advisor, Professor Janie Scott. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her *mysjsu* regularly regarding all class schedule information.

Scholarships

The Dance Program offers three scholarships in the amount of \$300 each annually to returning dance majors

Mina Garman Award*

For excellence in choreography

Carol Ann Hawes Award*

For excellence in Performance

Hildegard Spreen Award*

For excellence in Academic Achievement (must have completed 30 units of study)

* Scholarships are awarded in the spring to returning sophomore, junior, or senior dance majors. Applications may be acquired in the dance office.

SJSU Financial Aid is also available.

Performance Opportunities/Requirements

BA students will have performing opportunities in the Dance Program. Students may perform as early as the first semester, freshman year, in any of the student concerts. All students in Choreography classes will participate in choreography showings at least two times each semester. At the end of Choreography II, students will perform a solo choreographic study. At the end of Choreography III for those who opt to continue, students will choreograph and perform in the "Student Concert". In addition, students may perform in the "Images" and "Portfolio" concerts. BA students are required to complete 2 units in performance. Students who are performing will register for DANC 194 for each piece they perform.

Auditions

No audition is required to perform in student concerts. Casting is determined by the student choreographers. Dancers interested in performing should sign up in the Dancers' Lounge and include contact information. Students may perform in as many as two pieces. Sophomores, juniors and seniors may petition to perform in a third piece. Criteria for being allowed the extra performance opportunity includes maintaining a 3.0 overall grade point average and successful participation in past performances.

Performance contracts

All student choreographers and performers must sign a performance contract prior to rehearsals beginning. Student choreographers are responsible for their dancers complying with contractual obligations (including attendance of all showings, technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals and performances). Failure to meet the contractual obligations may result in begin dropped from the concert.

The Dance Program has two student performing companies; The University Dance Theater and Company One. Each is a two semester commitment and requires audition in the previous spring. These ensembles rehearse 8-10 hours weekly.

University Dance Theatre is the Dance Program's contemporary dance ensemble performing in the distinctive tradition of the American Modern Dance. It is the training ground for the advanced dance major who desires a career in the professional arena. UDT has had the honor to perform with the Internationally Acclaimed Limon Dance Company and as part of San Jose Dance Theater's 'Meritage' program. The ensemble has performed works by Jose Limon and American Modern Dance Pioneers Hanya Holm and Doris Humphrey. It also fosters today's emerging and developing Bay Area choreographers and members of UDT Company. Recent guests include Scott Wells, Ben Levy, Kara Davis and Mike Esperanza. In addition to annual performances at SJSU, the ensemble has toured California and given informal performances and lecture demonstrations on campus and in the community. UDT participates annually in Dancin' Downtown-South Bay celebrates national Dance Week and attends the American College Dance Festival/Conference. Auditions are held every spring. For more information, contact the Artistic Director, Professor Gary Masters, 408-924-5042 or online at Gary.Master@sjsu.edu.

Company One is currently in its 22th year under the direction of Professor Janie Scott is a unique musical theater performing ensemble in the Dance Program at SJSU. Dance, music and theater students as well as students from other disciplines come to this company to train to become "triple threats"; to prepare for multi disciplinary performing. Teaching or directing careers. Rehearsals are daily and the students receive units toward their dance major, minor, Musical Theater Minor, or for university electives. Productions are original and highly diverse in their style of dance, vocal and theatrical work. Company One tours throughout the Bay Area during the fall and spring semesters. Additionally, in the fall semester a fully produced one act is presented on campus and in the spring a full two act production is mounted. Over the years many members of Company One have gone on to successfully pursue their professional performing careers in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. Auditions for Company one are held every April. For further information please contact Professor Janie Scott at 408-925-5043 or online at Janie.Scott@sjsu.edu.

sjDANCEco is a professional company in residence at SJSU. As a resident dance company, the members of sjDANCEco serve as mentors, role models and dance instructors to the aspiring dance professional. SJSU dance majors have the rare opportunity to be trained by three of the founding artists of the company; Gary Masters, Maria Basile and Heather Cooper. Students take class alongside

company members and are in the midst of creativity on a professional level. With many graduates from the Dance Program in the company, sjDANCEco offers the possibility of employment in a professional company after graduation and is a stepping stone to further professional experience.

Choreography Opportunities

BA students who elect to complete Choreography III will choreograph for the "Student Concert" (final project of Choreography III class). After successfully completing Choreography III, students may also apply to choreograph for the "Images Concert", a supervised project. Criteria to participate include at least a "B" in Choreography, a satisfactory overall GPA, and consistently responsible past behavior in class and performance. Students choreographing for "Images" should register for Danc 198 for two units.

Facilities and Equipment

The Dance Program has three studios, dressing/locker rooms, a suite of offices and a dancers' lounge in Washington Square Hall. There is a dance theater in Spartan Complex that is also used as a studio. The stated policy is no food, drink, or street shoes in any of the dance studios. Dance shoes or bare feet are not allowed outside the dance studios. The studios are available to students for rehearsal and other class related activities. A studio request form must be submitted for ongoing choreography projects.

Career Day

All students are invited to attend the Career Day, offered every fall semester. Important and helpful information is provided regarding professional dance careers.

Guest Artists

The Dance Program invites prominent guest artists in the fields of modern, jazz, ballet, and techniques of world dance. These artists bring a new voice and a wealth of expertise to help provide students with a broad education in dance training.

Graduation Procedures

Students must meet with the Dance Advisor to begin the graduation process at the end of the junior year. The Major Form for graduation must be completed and then signed by the Dance Advisor and Dance Coordinator. The student will then file for graduation, pay the graduation fee and then take the receipt and the Major Form to the Music Office. The Director of the School of Music and Dance will sign the Major Form and forward it to the graduation office.

Student Learning Objectives

The following learning objectives were adopted by the program in April 2008 as prescribed by the National Association of Schools of Dance of which the university is a member.

Dance Studies

Students holding undergraduate liberal arts degrees must have:

1. The ability to identify and work conceptually with the elements of dance.
2. An understanding of the choreographic processes, aesthetic properties of style, and the ways these shape and are shaped by artistic and cultural ideas and contexts.
3. An acquaintance with a wide selection of dance repertory, the principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
4. The ability to develop and defend critical evaluations.
5. Fundamental knowledge of the body and of kinesiology as applicable to work in dance.

Performance

Students holding undergraduate liberal arts degrees must develop:

1. Ability in performing consistent with the goals and objectives of the specific liberal arts degree program being followed, and appropriate to the individual's needs and interests.
2. An understanding of procedures for realizing a variety of dance styles.
3. Knowledge and/or skills in one or more areas of dance beyond basic course work and performance appropriate to the individual's needs

and interests, and consistent with the goals and objectives of the specific liberal arts degree program being followed.

Addendum

Student Information Sheet (to be returned to the Dance Office)

Student Confirmation of Understanding (to be signed and returned to the Dance Office)

BA Dance Requirements

Student Confirmation of Understanding

The signing of this document confirms that I have read this Fall 2011 handbook for the Bachelor of Arts in Dance and understand the requirements set forth therein.

Student signature

Date