Explore the Arts

DANCE
Bachelor of Arts Major and Minor

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
AT SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE
The dance major and minor programs at Springfield College are challenging, dynamic, and consistently on the edge of contemporary trends in dance. They provide relevant coursework, internship opportunities at places such as the internationally recognized Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and at local dance studios, and performances through the Repertory Touring Company. Scholarly opportunities with members of the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), interdisciplinary work, and community engagement also provide students with rich experiences that expand their range of dance knowledge towards career preparation.

With small class sizes, students enjoy strong, supportive, mentoring relationships with nationally recognized faculty as well as close relationships with other students. Students also receive the exclusive benefits of networking and educational opportunities (master classes, performances, workshops) through the Springfield College partnership with Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Dance students become members of NDEO and can take advantage of opportunities to network with nationally recognized dance artists and educators, attend workshops, and present scholarly work at national conferences. In addition, students may audition for the Repertory Touring Company, work with internationally known guest artists, and perform and showcase choreography each year at the American College Dance Association regional conference.

The curriculum has successfully prepared students for employment as educators, choreographers, and performers as well as readied them for acceptance into graduate programs in dance or related fields. Teacher preparation towards dance certification is based on the national standards for dance education.

Career preparation is focused on pedagogy, performance, choreography, dance/movement therapy, and somatics. Students often combine their dance studies with other disciplines, such as psychology, business, art, physical therapy, and health sciences. Fieldwork and internships at nationally recognized institutions provide students with professional opportunities to grow and network with professionals in the field.

**Dance Career Opportunities**
- Dance Educator
- Choreographer
- Dance and Movement Therapist
- Dance Studio Owner
- Athletic Trainer
- Dance Critic
- Physical Therapist
- Arts Administrator
- Dance Management

**Degree Offered**
Bachelor of Arts
Major or Minor

**Springfield College Partnership with Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival**
Through the College partnership with Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, dance students have year-round, complete access to live performances, the festival dance archives, lectures, workshops, and networking with international artists in residence. Dance students also have the opportunity to attend summer workshops and/or obtain internships at Jacob's Pillow for college credit.

“In addition to expanding our dance repertoire, we are learning about different cultures and the historical and cultural importance of dance in the world.”
Alexandra MacPherson, Class of 2021
The urge to create and to express is universal. The opportunity to develop and refine this urge and to put it to real use is chosen by people in the arts.
1. Experienced, Professional Faculty
   Students are taught by experienced, professional, and friendly faculty who are recognized in the field of dance.

2. Choreograph and Perform
   Throughout their time at Springfield College, students have many opportunities to choreograph and perform on and off of the campus.

3. Small Class Size, Personal Attention
   Small class size allows for individual attention and mentoring from faculty and advisors.

4. Summer Study Abroad in Italy
   Dance majors have an opportunity to study abroad in Florence, Italy, during a three-week intensive workshop in which they will take classes in contemporary, hip-hop, ballet, and choreography with international artists. At the end of the workshop, they will perform what they learned in a showcase. On weekends, students will go on excursions to learn more about Italy’s rich history and culture.

5. Flexible Course Selection
   Students have flexibility in course selection that allows them to design their own curriculum, double major, or take a minor in another subject area.

6. Graduate Studies in Dance
   Dance majors are well-prepared for entrance into competitive graduate programs of their choice.

7. Diverse Opportunities
   At Springfield College, dance majors have many diverse opportunities including master classes, workshops, and choreographic projects with guest artists. Dance students also have the chance to participate in the New England American College Dance Festivals. The location of Springfield College provides opportunities for scholarship, research, performance, choreography, pedagogy, and attendance at concerts, workshops and events in the Pioneer Valley, Hartford, Conn., Boston, and New York City.

8. Educational Internships
   During their first year, dance majors become members in The Springfield College Dance Repertory Company where they learn professional guest artist pieces, designed for them, which they will perform throughout the year, both on and off campus, in concerts, and lecture demonstrations. This company model develops students as proficient and experienced performers. Students also have the opportunity to intern at the internationally recognized Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival as well as at local dance studios and in public schools.

9. Historic Connection to Jacob’s Pillow
   Ted Shawn, founder of Jacob’s Pillow and leader of Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers, taught dance at Springfield College in 1933 where he took male athletes from his class to form the first all-male American modern dance company.

10. A Comfortable Setting
    Springfield College offers a relaxed, welcoming, and friendly environment where students feel at home and make lifelong friends.

To learn more about the dance program at Springfield College, visit springfield.edu/dance, or contact Sarah Zehnder, director of Dance, at (413) 748-3805 or szehnder@springfield.edu.

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Springfield College Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)
Dance at Springfield College

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