Frequently Asked Questions About the DeSales University Dance Program

1. How many people do you accept into the dance program?
   We do not have a set number we need to accept and/or reject. Each student is viewed as individual and the faculty considers technical proficiency, potential, and genuine interest in the field of dance.

2. If I am not accepted into the dance program, can I still take dance classes?
   Yes, we offer a number of classes each semester that are open to the entire student body, including Jazz, Tap, West African, Ballroom, and Introduction to Ballet and Modern Dance. If you enroll in a dance class you will also be eligible to audition for our performances, and to take our Wednesday afternoon master classes.

3. How many people are in the program?
   Typically, there are between 50-60 dance majors in the program during any given year.

4. How many students are in the classes?
   Dance classes typically range from 10-20 students per class.

5. What sort of jobs have dancers had after graduation?
   Our dance majors have gone on to do additional work in:
   • Performance: Dance companies—modern, jazz, tap, and ballet. Musical theater, music videos, cruise ships, Disney, opera, and dance films
   • Teaching: Dance studio owners, K-12 education, universities, summer dance camps, fitness centers
   • Therapy: Dance therapy, physical therapy, massage therapy
   • Artistic Direction: Founding Artistic Directors of Dance Companies
   • Arts Administration: Arts administrators, grant writing, boards of directors
   • Graduate Schools

6. What technique styles are taught?
   We offer classes in pointe and partnering, jazz and tap every semester. We also offer classes in West African Dance techniques, contact improvisation, improvisation, ballroom, somatics and dance on camera.

7. What performance opportunities might I have in the dance program?
   Dance majors are auditioning within their very first week of school. Students have ample opportunity to perform in student, faculty and guest artist work every year. In addition, there are often opportunities to perform in outside projects as well. Every year students have the opportunity to perform in the following:
   • In the Fall semester:
     • Emerging Choreographers Concert (student choreography)
     • The Informal Dance Concert (student choreography)
     • Senior Project Dance Concerts
     • Independent Project Performances
   • In the Spring semester:
     • Dance Ensemble Concert (faculty and guest artist choreography)
• Composition Class Showings (student choreography)
• Theater Program Musical
• American College Dance Festival
• Student Film Festival
• Independent Project Performances

8. Do I have to be a Dance Major to perform?
   No, you do not have to be a dance major to perform in our dance concerts. As long as you are enrolled in a dance class during the semester you are performing, you are welcome to audition and to perform in up to three pieces.

9. How many technique levels do you have?
   We offer an introduction to Ballet and Modern dance class for beginners and non-majors. There are two levels of Jazz and two levels of Tap dance. Our majors technique classes meet four days per week (Level I meets five days per week), alternating between Ballet and Modern dance on different days.

10. How are students placed into different technique classes?
    Most students move through the levels as a class starting in level I, and finishing in level IV during their senior year. However, students are evaluated every semester by the dance faculty and are moved up accordingly. In addition we allow students to challenge themselves by dropping in to any class they would like to. So someone who is registered for a level II class is allowed to take an additional level IV class if it fits into their schedule. They do not have to register for this class, but they can drop in from time to time if they like.

11. How do you go about grading dance classes?
    A syllabus for each class outlines the expectations for grading and the student learning outcomes. Grades for the technique classes are based on the following:

    1. Physical preparedness
       • Effort, ability, mental preparedness
    2. Artistic development
       • Improvement in technique, personal expression,
    3. Professionalism
       • Attitude, promptness, work ethic, respect for others
    4. Written Assignments
       • Completed projects, written reviews on dance performances, vocabulary tests, self evaluation papers, and assignments given in conjunction with reading of texts.

12. Can I double major with dance?
    Yes, many students take advantage of the liberal arts education by combining their dance major with an additional discipline. It takes a very disciplined and dedicated student to complete a double major,(and it may take longer than four years to complete) but it is certainly possible. Dance majors in the past have double majored in business, psychology, biology, sport and exercise science, TV/Film, Theater, marriage and family studies, and special education.

13. When will I be notified if I have been accepted?
    Notification of acceptance to the major happens in February when the financial aid packages are awarded.
14. Can I visit the DeSales Dance Program to see if I like it, and how do I go about doing this?
   You are welcome to come in to observe classes, or take a class to see if you like it here at DeSales. Simply contact Tim Cowart at 610.282.1100 Ext. 1663 to make arrangements.

If you have already applied to DeSales, You can stay overnight in the dorms with a dance major and to shadow them to some of their classes. This can be arranged through the admissions program.

15. Can students minor in dance?
   We do not offer a dance minor. Although, if you would rather major in something else, there are many ways non-dance majors can take dance classes and stay involved in the dance program.

16. How many dancers receive scholarships?
   Scholarships awarded by the dance program are talent based, and are factored into the entire financial aid package. The total amount of money we can award varies from year to year, yet we try to award as many highly talented, accepted students as possible. We offer a limited number of scholarships, and they are very competitive.

17. What is a typical day for a dance major?
   Days are filled with academic and technique classes. Dance majors are scheduled to take one technique class a day, either ballet or modern. If a dance major is free during another technique class time, he or she may ask permission to drop in on the class, thus allowing for multiple studio classes a week beyond the registered classes. Rehearsals typically happen in the evenings and Saturday afternoons. Dance majors are only allowed to be rehearsing for three pieces at any given time, making sure there is time for studying, writing papers, doing research, etc.

18. Are there student clubs that are dance related?
   Yes, there is a Tap Ensemble, a Ballroom Dance Club, and a Dance Team that performs at sporting events. In addition there is an organization called Creative Exploration Organization that does service activities and dance related events, and there is a Dance Honors Club.

19. Are there opportunities to study abroad with dance?
   Yes, DeSales has a commitment to creating global connections. our dance majors have recently traveled overseas to dance in short-study and semester long programs where students gain an in depth experience of the language, food, dance and culture of another country. Recently DeSales Dance majors have traveled to India, South Africa, Brazil, Italy, and Argentina.