Center for Individualized Learning
Individualized Degree Program (IDP)

Incubator Program in Dance
Extended Major

Program Description

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is recognized worldwide for their dynamic and engaging cross-cultural curriculum, innovative choreography and promotion of American dance heritage. MSU Denver designs every program, every course, for our changing world. Students attend for an important reason—lifelong success. Combining the mission, talent, and resources of these two organizations allows for a true marriage of theory and practice, where the two are not separate, distinct entities, but inform one another. The focus on individualized, high-level experiential learning, both in management and artistic realms, is unique amongst other dance programs.

The Dance Major is offered through the Individualized Degree Program (IDP) at MSU Denver. This program allows students to combine courses from departments across the University that reflect their specific educational goals and interests. All students in this program must work with an IDP advisor as well as a faculty advisor and will develop an IDP proposal for approval of their course of study.

The dance curriculum includes coursework in modern, jazz, ballet, hip hop, world dance forms, world dance history and culture, community-based dance practices, somatics, pedagogy, improvisation, choreography, contemporary dance and interdisciplinary performance, movement analysis, dance production and arts administration. All students will participate in individualized field experience projects throughout the Denver Metro Area.

Students will also have the opportunity to pick a focus area from the following categories:

- Social Transformation/World Dance and Culture
- Dance Pedagogy
- Dance Administration
- Performance and/or Choreography

Faculty Liaisons from Human Performance and Sport:

- Leslie Merrill
- Nicole Predki
Recommended IDP Dance Major Courses

Core Dance Courses
- HPL 1210 Improvisation and Choreography ........................................ 2
- HPS 190A World Dance Forms/Variable Topics ..................................... 2
- HPS 290R World Dance History and Culture .......................................... 3
- HPS 2905 Dance Repertory ...................................................................... 2
- HPS 2410 Skills & Methods of Tchng Modern and Jazz Dance .................. 2
- HPS 2420 Skills & Methods of Tchng Improv. and Choreo ......................... 2
- HPS 2440 Dance Production ................................................................... 3
- HPS 390 Dance Administration ................................................................ 3
- HPS 390J Dance Composition 2 .............................................................. 2
- HPS 390K Exp Mov. Somatics & Injury Prevention for Dance .................... 3
- HPS 490L Dance and Inter Perform in 20 th Cent & Beyond ....................... 3
- HPS 490M Community Based Dance and Social Change ......................... 3
- Dance Technique* (Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Hip Hop or Tap) ......................... 14
  HPL 1130, 290D, 390H, 490C Ballet (Levels 1-4)
  HPL 1160, 290B, 390B, 490A Jazz (Levels 1-4)
  HPL 1180, 290A, 390C, 490B Modern (Levels 1-4)
  HPL 1001 Hip Hop Level 1
  HPL 1240 Tap Dance 1

*Students choose from these to attain 14 credits, according to level.

Senior Experience
- HPS 3990 Senior Field Experience .......................................................... 3

Major Electives
Electives Towards Major ........................................................................ 13
The 13 IDP dance major elective credits can be fulfilled through Field
Experiences (up to 12 credits of HPS 3990), additional dance courses, and/or through courses within other departments relevant to the
student’s area of emphasis.

Total Dance Major Credits: 60 cr

Recommended General Studies

Written Communication (6cr)
- ENG 1010 Freshman Composition: The Essay ......................................... 3
- ENG 1020 Freshman Composition: Research .......................................... 3

Oral Communication (3cr)
- SPE 1010 Public Speaking OR
- SPE 1020 Communication in Action OR
- SPE 1710 Interpersonal Communication .............................................. 3

Quantitative Literacy (3cr)
- Approved Quantitative Literacy course ................................................ 3

Arts and Humanities (6cr)
- Approved Arts and Humanities course .................................................. 3
- Approved Arts and Humanities course .................................................. 3

Historical (3cr)
- Approved Historical course ................................................................ 3

Natural and Physical Sciences (6cr)
- Approved Natural and Physical Sciences course ................................... 3
- Approved Natural and Physical Sciences course ................................... 3

Social and Behavioral Sciences I (3cr)
- Approved Social and Behavioral Sciences I .......................................... 3

Social and Behavioral Sciences II (3cr)
- Approved Social and Behavioral Sciences II ........................................ 3

Global Diversity (3cr)
- Approved Global Diversity course
- May be satisfied with general studies courses ....................................... 0-3

Total General Studies: 30-33cr

IDP Dance Major Faculty Liasons
Leslie Merrill, lmerril4@msudenver.edu
Nicole Predki, npredki@msudenver.edu

Office Phone: (303) 556-3145

All IDP extended majors require at least 60 credits, with 27 of those being upper division. A minor is not required. Students are required to meet the overall 40 credit hour upper division minimum.

Students will consult with a faculty advisor to create a degree plan that includes dance courses and electives centered around his or her emphasis. Courses may have prerequisites that can be built into the student’s degree plan.

Recommended Areas of Emphasis:

Below are recommended areas of emphasis; however, we encourage all students to create a customized program that suits their specific career goals.

Performance &/or Choreography: Ideal for students looking to have a career in performance and/or choreography, artistic direction, and/or production/stage management
- Recommend courses from Human Performance and Sport, Music and Theater, among others

Dance Pedagogy: Ideal for students looking to own, manage, or teach at a studio. Also ideal for students aiming to get a dance endorsement along with their teaching license. A dance endorsement enables graduates to teach dance in the public school system.
- Recommend courses through Education, Human Performance and Sport, and Psychology, among others

Dance Organization/Nonprofit: Ideal for students looking to get into any type of dance administration, nonprofit management, studio ownership, artist management, or grant writing/fundraising
- Recommend courses from Human Services, Management, Finance, Accounting, and Marketing, among others

Social Transformation through Dance/World Dance and Culture: Ideal for students looking to integrate dance into the community and/or arts programs as well as those interested in being a dance historian, writer and/or critic.
- Recommend courses through African and African American Studies, Music, Psychology, Women’s Studies, Chicana/o Studies, among others