

THE DANCE PROGRAM

at Minnesota State University, Mankato

The Dance program at Minnesota State Mankato provides a unique and challenging opportunity to study dance in an academic environment, which relates directly to a broader and more practical context. Located along the Minnesota River valley in historic Mankato, students can enjoy the best of both worlds in a focused college town atmosphere within a 90-minute drive of the bustling Twin Cities cultural scene.

Dance Major

The Dance Major is a 44-credit program that blends technical and theoretical preparation and training in dance. Coursework ranges from contemporary Modern Dance technique, to Tap, to Dance and Technology, to World Dance. Students study dance from multiple perspectives in order to increase their understanding of the art form. To augment their dance studies, each year students work with a variety of nationally renowned guest artists who are commissioned as choreographers and guest teachers. Through an audition, students have the opportunity to perform with University Repertory Dance Theatre in two annual dance concerts. Students can also audition for two yearly musical theatre productions. Off-campus activities include participation in the American College Dance Festival and travel to the Twin Cities metropolitan area to attend performances by national and international dance companies. Students also choreograph and produce their own work. They can choose to complete either a B.A. or B.S. in Dance.

Dance Minor

The Dance Minor is a 20-credit program that offers students a wide variety of courses. Students have the opportunity to perform, choreograph, and participate in other departmental events.

K-12 Dance License

The Dance License prepares students to teach dance in the K-12 public school setting. Students take a variety of coursework in both the Department of Theatre and Dance and the Department of K-12 and Secondary Programs. This program is one of the most prominent in the state for preparing dance education specialists. Early on in their coursework, students participate in clinicals with licensed dance specialists in the state so that they have a more immediate understanding of the field of dance education. The philosophy of the K-12 Dance License is to educate teaching artists who are grounded in the theory and practice of teaching dance as art form.



DANCE FACULTY

Julie Kerr-Berry's primary teaching responsibilities are contemporary dance technique, history, world dance and pedagogy. She earned both her masters and doctorate degrees in Dance from Temple University in Philadelphia. She is a founding member of the National Dance Education Organization and Editor-in-Chief of its official journal, the "Journal of Dance Education."

Paul Finocchiaro received his MFA degree in Theatre Performance from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and his BFA degree from the Boston Conservatory. His professional credits include national tours and a three year run of *Starlight Express* in Las Vegas playing ten roles. His teaching responsibilities include tap, jazz, acting, directing and voice.

Daniel Stark, Assistant Professor of Dance, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Master of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Iowa. He has taught at the Beijing Dance Academy, Zenon in Minneapolis and most recently at the University of Iowa for three years as a Visiting Assistant Professor. He teaches Introduction to Dance, contemporary dance technique, jazz, conditioning, dance improvisation, dance composition and dance in technology.

Sue W. Gunness is a Ballet Specialist at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter and Minnesota State Mankato. Her teaching experience includes Salt Creek Ballet Co., Chicago; Minnesota State University-Moorhead; Ballet Mistress at Continental Ballet Co., Minneapolis; and Minnesota Dance Theatre. Her teaching mentor is Elaine Werner Hutchinson of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. She has attended international Ballet conferences in Vail, CO.