Our curriculum interweaves practical and theoretical knowledge to foster students' creative, intellectual, and communicative powers in the field of dance. We seek to develop skilled and uniquely expressive individuals who move and act with intelligence and sensitivity, think independently, and value original thought and diversity.

The Emory Dance Program faculty is a community of artists who create an environment where students feel empowered by their movement choices and challenged by the discipline of researching movement. The dance faculty have teaching records of excellence, conduct dance research, and win awards and professional citations in choreography, performance, design, and empirical research.

Emory DANCE...Body of Knowledge

We invest in the traditions of modern dance and the cutting edge of movement research. Students explore, collaborate, and think critically as they develop an understanding of movement’s power to teach, heal, express identity, and build relationships. Dancers study choreography, dance theory and criticism, movement analysis, dance pedagogy, stage and lighting design, history, technique, and somatics—integrating the mind’s connection to the moving body.

What is Embodied Knowledge?

Learning through the body gives students a unique approach to discovery that allows them to delve deeply into all that they do. Knowledge acquired through an “embodied” approach has an enduring impact because students gain more self-knowledge and make connections to society and culture, psychology and politics, language and history. Embodied knowledge can be seen in performances and in the act of moving and creating authentically.

The Emory Dance Program welcomes all—from those who have never set foot on the studio floor to those who plan to pursue professional careers in the art. Each semester offers the opportunity to perform in a dance company, take technique classes, and learn more about dance through history, pedagogy, and literacy classes. Being in the program has strengthened my interest in all things related to dance.

Megan Sypher ‘12
Our curriculum develops essential skills.
Communication • Critical Thinking • Creativity • Collaboration

Dance Courses Include:
Contemporary Modern, informed by various somatic practices
Ballet and Jazz classes, beginning through advanced levels
World Dance Forms, including West African, Flamenco, and Kuchipudi
Dance Composition, in both solo and group work
Dance History, integrating world events, aesthetics, and culture
Fitness for Dancers, including cross training, nutrition, and experiential anatomy
Laban Movement Analysis, developing tools for observing, performing, and analyzing
Principles of Lighting and Set Design, co-taught with Theater faculty
Pedagogy, framing the role of movement in learning with field experiences in Atlanta
Improvisation, inviting students to create authentically and innovatively
Dance Honors projects in choreography, performance, and history
Internships with contemporary dance companies and a nationally recognized youth development organization
The Emory Dance Company (EDC) performs two fully produced concerts a year. Majors, minors, and general students audition each semester. Dancers collaborate with faculty, student, and guest artists to create new work and perform historical reconstructions. The program regularly commissions of choreography by national and local guest artists.

Curriculum Highlights
• All classes have live musical accompaniment.
• Technique classes can be taken independent of a degree program.
• Students experience master classes and guest artist residencies with local, national, and international artists.
• Selected students attend the American College Dance Festival Southeastern Conference. This is an opportunity for students and faculty to have work adjudicated.

Who majors or minors in dance?
• Dance majors and minors may have a strong background in dance, martial arts, or athletics. Students may also develop an interest in dance in courses that fulfill a general education requirement (GER).
• Students can major or minor in dance and movement studies, combining movement with other areas of study. Many students complete double majors.

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