

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN

CONTEMPORARY DANCE

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR

Concordia University's Faculty of Fine Arts offers a BFA Major in Contemporary Dance. At the graduate level, a Graduate Certificate in Creative Practices in Technical Production for Live Performance is offered jointly by the departments of Music, Theatre and Contemporary Dance. Also other graduate level interdisciplinary academic programs may be possible through the Special Individualized Programs - MA/PhD, Interdisciplinary Humanities PhD. For the latest information on programs, go to the Contemporary Dance Department's website at: <http://dance.concordia.ca>. Concordia University's Contemporary Dance Department aims to prepare students for careers as both dancers and choreographers. Those with a degree in the field work in a variety of other performing arts occupations as well, especially later in their careers.

**EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY
CONCORDIA GRADUATES**

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>

- Art Teacher (5136)
- Ballet Teacher (5134)
- Cheerleading Choreographer (5131)
- Dance Animator
- Dance Coach (5135, 5252)
- Dance Instructor (5134)
- Dance Teacher (5134)
- Fitness Coach (5252)
- Gymnastics Instructor (5254)
- Hip Hop Dance Instructor (5134)
- Psychomotricity Specialist
- Moniteur/monitrice de danse aérobique (5254)
- Music Specialist
- Science And Dance Specialist
- Teacher, Musical Comedy Genre (5134)

CELEBRATED DANCERS & CHOREOGRAPHERS

Lynn Seymour. Canadian Ballerina and Choreographer

Louise Lecavalier. Canadian. Internationally Known Contemporary Dancer

Mikhail Baryshnikov. Among the 20th Century's Most Celebrated Ballet Dancers

Sabrina Matthews. Canadian Choreographer. Peter

Dwyer & Clifford E. Lee Awards

Karen Kain. Canadian. Artistic Director, National Ballet of Canada. Awarded Cartier Lifetime Achievement Award, the Performing Arts Award & National Arts Centre Award

MORE JOB TITLES

Typical professions undertaken by dance majors include choreographer, dancer and teacher. Those in the field also pursue performing arts positions in theatre, production, administration, writing and support services. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which dance majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Advertising Specialist (1122)
- Artistic Director (5131)
- Arts Administrator (0511)
- Ballet Company Director (0512)
- Ballet Dancer (5134)
- Ballroom Dancing Teacher (5134)
- Choreologist
- Community Relations Director (5124, 0611)
- Costume Designer (5243)
- Dance Company Director (0512)
- Dance Critic (5123)
- Dance Examiner
- Dance School Manager (0651)
- Dance Studio Owner (0621)
- Dance Therapist (3144)
- Dance Therapy Researcher (3144)
- Dance Videographer (5222)
- Dance Writer (5121)
- Director of Arts Advocacy Agency
- Director of Arts Council
- Director of Audience Development, Ballet Company
- Editor (5122)
- Entrepreneur
- Film Director (5131)
- Interpretative Dancer (5134)
- Lighting Designer (5243)
- Lobbyist (4163)
- Musician (5133)
- Percussionist (5133)
- Performing Arts Producer (5131)
- Performance Movement Teacher (5134)
- Physical Trainer (4167)
- Private Dance Teacher
- Production Assistant (5227)
- Professional Athlete (5251)
- Professional Dancer (5134)
- Promoter (1122, 0611)
- Public Relations Specialist (5124)
- Publicist (5124)
- Publicity Manager (0611)

- Sales/Marketing Representative (6411)
- Special Events Coordinator (1226)
- Stage Manager (5226)
- Talent Agent (5124)
- Theatre Manager (0512)
- Tour Manager (0621)
- University Professor (4121)

POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

The study of contemporary dance leads to careers in the performing arts and entertainment industry. Many graduates work in art schools, art centres, private studios, colleges and universities. Others work for ballet companies, national dance companies, opera companies and the sports industry. To research specific employers who hire those in the field, there are many resources available in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, the Webster Library, Vanier Library and the Internet.

- Arts Advocacy Agencies
- Arts Management Firms
- Bands
- Broadway
- Comedy Productions
- Community Recreation Centres
- Community Theatre Groups
- Cultural Affairs Agencies
- Dance Studios
- Eating and Drinking
- Establishments
- Elementary and Secondary
- Schools
- Gyms
- Media Firms
- Motion Picture Industry
- Music Studios
- Music Videos
- Musical Reviews
- Newspapers/Magazines
- Performing Arts Centres
- Private Dance Studios
- Production Companies
- Public Relations Firms
- Publishing Firms
- Stage Shows
- Television
- Theater Companies
- Theme Parks

SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Among the skills necessary for those who wish to succeed in the field are passion, stamina, dedication, discipline, physical flexibility and excellent coordination and reflexes. In addition, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for success.

- Ability to Accept Criticism
- Ability to Maintain Consistent Weight
- Ability to Memorize Routines Quickly
- Above Average Physical Health
- Attention to Details
- Communication Skills
- Creativity
- Enthusiasm
- Experience in Theatre
- Expressive
- Good Posture
- Good Sense of Rhythm
- Motivation to Work Late and Long Hours
- Organizational Skills
- Patience
- Physical Strength
- Self-discipline
- Self-motivation
- Singing Ability
- Stress Management
- Supportive Nature
- Time Management
- Timing of Steps with Music
- Willingness to Practice Routines Repeatedly
- Willingness to Travel

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites and other resources will help you do this to the best of your ability. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. A few recommended sites are included below.

CANADIAN

Ballet Creole

<http://www.balletcreole.org/>

Represents choreographers, dancers, musicians and other performing arts professionals involved with contemporary Creole dance. Students should explore the Professional Training and Apprenticeship Program section (at the bottom left of screen) which includes information on courses, auditions and scholarships.

Canada Council for the Arts

<http://canadacouncil.ca/>

Fosters the study and production of works in the arts by supporting professional and student artists and arts organizations. Offers grants for the creation, production and dissemination of works of dance. Explore topics via the Site Map and/or look at the offerings under the Dance image on the home page.

Canadian Arts Presenting Association (CAPACOA)

<http://www.capacoa.ca>

Features job opportunities for performing arts touring professionals including artists, agents, facility managers, stagehands, ticket sellers, marketers and impresarios. Holds an annual conference and produces a Newsletter to keep up-to date with the field.

Canadian Dance Teachers' Association

<http://cdtaont.com/>

Includes a job board listing job opportunities in teaching contemporary dance. Offers students and professionals dance exams to assess their skills. Provides information on workshops, competitions and other events of interest to those in the field.

Cirque du Soleil

<http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/>

Click on Jobs (at the bottom of the page) for job listings for dancers and other performing artists. Also includes Meet an Artist as well as a Meet a Mentor sections.

Contemporary Dance Department, Concordia University

<http://dance.concordia.ca>

Click on Useful Links under Current Students to explore what a multitude of dance and related organizations offer.

WorkinCulture (legal name Cultural Careers Council Ontario - CCCO)

<http://www.workinculture.ca> Lists jobs, internships, funding and volunteer opportunities for the performing arts.

The Dance Centre

<http://www.thedancecentre.ca/>

Supports the professional development of dance creators and performers offering a wide range programs including an Artist-in-Residence and DanceLab. Provides useful links for your career planning.

Dancer Transition Resource Centre (DTRC)

<http://www.dtrc.ca/>

Supports professional dancers who are facing transitions in their careers. Provides educational materials, seminars, networking and counseling services.

Montréal Danse

<http://www.montrealdanse.com/>

Promotes choreography by means of choreographic workshops, demonstrations and other activities. Offers opportunities for collaboration with choreographers around the world.

Theatre Canada

<http://www.theatrecanada.org/english/default.htm>

Under Projects includes a Theatre Database with information on theatres across Canada. Useful too are its links to other organizations.

INTERNATIONAL

American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA)

<http://www.adta.org>

Promotes the professional interests of dance/movement therapists through its publications, conference and many resources which include a good Resources section and numerous links for career planning.

Ballet Companies.com

<http://balletcompanies.com/>

Features links to ballet & dance companies worldwide which can be used for tracking down job opportunities and auditions.

Dance USA

<http://www.danceusa.org>

Click on Quick Links at the bottom of the page to find jobs, auditions, internships and funding opportunities.

Dansenet

<http://www.dansenet.net>

Lists job and internship opportunities for dancers in France.

Playbill

<http://www.playbill.com/>

Offers industry information on US and Canadian productions. Try Casting & Jobs for job listings.

CREATE YOUR AMAZING CAREER – CAREER RESROUCE CENTRE TITLES

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.

- Actor's Guide to Auditions & Interviews
- The Actor's Survival Kit
- An Artist's Guide to Making It in New York City
- Career Opportunities in Theater And The Performing Arts
- Careers for Music Lovers & Other Tuneful Types
- Careers for the Stage-Struck & Other Dramatic Types
- Careers in Education
- Careers in Entertainment Panel Discussion (DVD)
- Creative Careers: Paths for Aspiring Actors, Artists,
- Dancers, Musicians and Writers
- How to Get the Teaching Job You Want
- Marketing Your Creative Portfolio
- 100 Careers in Film and Television
- Opportunities in Entertainment Careers
- Opportunities in Performing Arts Careers
- Peterson's Professional Degree Programs in Visual &
- Performing Arts
- Resumes for Performing Arts Careers
- Self-Promotion for the Creative Person
- So You Want to Dance on Broadway?
- Visual & Performing Arts