

CSULB
Department of Dance
Undergraduate Student Handbook
2024 - 2025

California State University, Long Beach
College of the Arts
1250 Bellflower Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90840
www.csulb.edu/dance
562.985.4747
dance@csulb.edu

Dear Students:

Welcome to the CSULB Department of Dance and to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. The faculty and staff are thrilled to welcome you to campus. We are all invested in your success and well-being.

This handbook provides a quick and comprehensive guide to our program and important campus resources. You'll find descriptions of the undergraduate dance degrees and course requirements, important departmental information about performance and choreographic opportunities, scholarship awards, and the department faculty and staff directory. I encourage all of you – whether you are a returning student, or new to campus, to read the handbook carefully and refer to it throughout the year. I also urge you to reach out to me – your department chair, and to the faculty and staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Special thanks to Gregory Crosby and Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz for formatting this year's addition. Colleen Dunagan, PhD, Department Chair Colleen.Dunaga@csulb.edu

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY AND COMMITMENT TO ACTION

CSULB faculty and staff stand in solidarity with our BIPOC students and commit ourselves to creating a space where BIPOC artists are empowered to fulfill their artistic and educational goals. To do so we must first acknowledge that the history of dance in US higher education is rooted in curricula, policies, and practices that have systematically restricted and excluded BIPOC bodies from participation. We commit ourselves to creating policies and procedures that are anti-racist, just and humane, as we continue the work of creating aesthetic equality in our curriculum, audition practices, and pedagogies.

CSULB DANCE MISSION STATEMENT

Our faculty and staff are committed to creating an inclusive, student-centered community where you will discover educational pathways that reflect and expand upon your creative potential, intellectual curiosity, and career aspirations. We offer a holistic approach to the study of dance that integrates courses in dance history, theory and ethnography, dance science, design and production, and pedagogy with dance-making, physical training, and an array of immersive creative and research opportunities. Through these experiences, we seek to equip each of our graduates with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to engage in the dynamic field of dance and to contribute to its vitality as artists, scholars, educators, and advocates.

ABOUT CSULB DANCE

California State University, Long Beach was the first university within the California State University system to offer a B.A. in Dance degree. Today it is the only CSU campus to grant a Master of Fine Arts (professional degree), as well as a Master of Arts degree specifically designed for K-12 dance educators. The Department of Dance has enjoyed steady growth since its inception in 1970, and has approximately 160 dance majors, minors, M.A., and M.F.A. candidates. The Department has been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance since 1982, and most recently reaccredited in 2024.

CSULB Dance offers three newly revised undergraduate degree programs and a Minor in Dance. The B.A. in Dance provides a balanced course of study preparing students for an array of careers

including performance, dance education, arts administration, health and wellness fields, and graduate study in Dance, all while allowing a student the ability to pursue a minor or possibly a double-major in a department outside of dance. The B.F.A. in Dance emphasizes preparation for professional careers as performers and/or choreographers. The B.S. in Dance Science adds scientific depth to help prepare students for careers in dance medicine, somatics, dance education, and graduate study in related areas such as physical therapy, athletic training, and kinesiology. The Dance Minor offers students the opportunity to study dance at the university while pursuing another major and without having to pass the Dance Major audition.

The department is housed in the 90,000 square foot CSULB Dance Center. Designed specifically for dance instruction and production, the complex includes six large studios, one hybrid studio/classroom, an instructional classroom, a state-of-the-art dance clinic, a Pilates training facility, a computer and video lab, a large costume shop, a sound production studio, and the intimate Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater. We are extremely fortunate to work, study and create in an all-embracing facility dedicated to the study of dance.

The department produces four main stage concerts and several informal studio performances each academic year that serve as primary mechanisms for the development of student artistry and choreographic experimentation.

The Department has participated in the regional conference of the American College Dance Association annually and hosted the 50th Anniversary National Conference in June 2023. Representatives from the Department are attending the ACDA conference in Spring 2025.

THE CSULB DANCE COMMUNITY

The Department of Dance is much more than a large facility; it is the workplace and second home for a group of dedicated dance professionals and artists. To learn more about your faculty and staff, visit the [CSULB Dance Directory page](#).

Tenure-Track Faculty

Zakiya Atkinson – Dance Education Advisor
Tsiambwom Akuchu, Assessment Coordinator
Rebecca Bryant, MFA Graduate Advisor, BA Coordinator
Dr. Colleen Dunagan – Department Chair, MA Program Director/Advisor
Keith Johnson – Modern Dance Coordinator
Lorin Johnson, Ballet Coordinator
Rebecca Lemme – BFA Co-Coordinator
Danzel Thompson-Stout – BFA Co-Coordinator
Andrew Vaca – Production Coordinator
Dr. Brooke Winder – Dance Science Coordinator

Staff

Gregory R.R. Crosby – Technology & Media Advisor, Webmaster
Erika Hansen – Costume Technician
Stephanie Losleben – Technical Director
Dr. Don Nichols – Music Director
Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz – Administrative Support Coordinator & Assistant to the Chair
Lillian McKenzie – Front Office Assistant

Anali Saldivar – Undergraduate Academic Advisor
John Siegel – Head Athletic Trainer
Kirsten Sumpter – Undergraduate Academic Advisor
Kelsey Vidic – Costume Designer & Costume Shop Manager

Lecturers

Amy “catfox” Campion
Liz Curtis
Stacy Fireheart
Tashara Gavin-Moorehead
Erika Hansen
Francesca Jandasek
Teresa Jankovic
Lisa Johnson
Sarah Leddy
Manuel Macias
Brenna Monroe-Cook
Shyamala Moorty
Stephanie Losleben
Dr. Don Nichols
Kelsey Vidic
Lora Wilson
Aimée Wobode
Steve Zee

MFA Candidates

Tamsin Carlson
MJ Wolff
Bhargavi Sardesai
Kennedy Berthiaume
Ricky Medina
Maggie Ogle

Musicians

Paul Blackwell
Aaron Chavez
Ron Ciago
Monti Ellison
Tyler Hunt
Satomi Kanazawa
Aboubacar Kouyate
Marc Lombardino
Elhadj Malik Sow
Edward Nazarro
Deanna Watkins
Max Judelson
Zaq Kenefick

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **CSULB Dance Collaborative** is the student organization of **CSULB Dance** funded by CSULB Associated Students and is obligated to Comply with A.S.I. regulations.

All Dance majors and minors are automatically members of the organization. Dance Collab sponsors guest artist classes, wellness events, community chats, fundraising and social events. All students are encouraged to attend meetings and get involved in Dance Collab activities.

csulbdancecollaborative@gmail.com

2024-2025 Dance Collaborative Officers:

President, Evie Barakat

Vice-President, Eva Anderson

Secretary, Trinity Massey

Treasurer, Brandon Garcia Michel

Wellness Chair, Timneat Daniel

Dance Affinity A.I.D.E (Advocates for Inclusion and Dancer Equality)

Affinity's mission is to hold space and advocate for students from marginalized groups within the CSULB Department of Dance; to give previously silenced voices a place to be heard; to supply marginalized students with the support and resources they need to thrive as students and artists; to celebrate different communities and cultures within a dance context; and to create more opportunities for marginalized students where few to none exist in the department.

csulbdanceaffinity@gmail.com

STUDENT LIFE

The "Current Students" tab on the CSULB Department of Dance website is the home for the ongoing [informational needs of dance majors](#).

Healthy Living

The transition to college and university-level training in dance is a very exciting time, yet it can also be stressful and challenging to manage. Our department and university are dedicated to helping students through tough transitions and unexpected circumstances. The department chair, faculty, and staff are ready and available to guide students to the proper resources that can help lead to happier and more successful college experiences. Students seeking guidance or information regarding healthy life choices, nutrition, or eating disorders, and other health issues are encouraged to speak with Head Athletic Trainer John Siegel in the Dance Clinic: John.Siegel@csulb.edu

There are numerous student resources on campus:

- [Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Drugs](#): 562.985.2520
 - [Basic Needs Program](#)
 - [CARES \(Campus Assessment, Response and Evaluation for Students Team\)](#)
 - [Counseling & Psychological Services](#): 562.985.4001 (24-hour access to a counselor is available by phone)
 - [Dream Success Center](#)
 - [LGBTQ Resource Center](#): 562.985.4585
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- [Student Emergency Intervention and Wellness Program](#)
 - [Student Health Center](#): 562.985.4771
 - [Student Recreation & Wellness Center](#): 562.985.0775

- [Emergency Preparedness Protocol for Dance](#)
- [Run, Hide, Fight \(Active Shooter Safety Info\)](#)
- [University Police](#): 562.985.4101
- [Women's & Gender Equity Center](#): 562.985.8576
- [Learning Center](#)
- [Bob Murphy Access Center](#)
- [Student Cultural Resource Centers](#)

MOVEMENT MENTORING SESSIONS WITH DR. BROOKE WINDER

Movement Mentoring Sessions are available to any interested Dance Major within the CSULB Department of Dance. During Movement Mentoring Sessions, dancers consult with Dr. Brooke Winder, Physical Therapist and Coordinator of the BS in Dance Science, regarding challenges in their dance technique/specific dance skills, minor aches/pains, area of stiffness or weakness, or related concerns about exercise. During the session, students enrolled in the Movement Mentoring course (DANC 446 Functional Movement Assessment in Dance) will also observe, ask questions, and practice their analysis and exercise prescription skills.

Movement mentoring sessions are scheduled in advance and are approximately 45 minutes in length. During the session, Dr. Winder will analyze and discuss the participant's movement via a series of explorations, including some or all of the following: posture, gait (walking), balance, specific upper/lower body strength, flexibility and joint mobility, core and breathe control, and specific dance movement relevant to the individual dancer's concern or goal. Through the analysis, the dancer will learn about their own specific strengths and areas for improvement. They will then be guided through individualized exercise and self-care techniques to help them work toward their specific wellness goal.

The goal of these sessions is for Department of Dance participants to learn about conducting movement assessments and to access an individualized wellness assessment plan that empowers them with specific knowledge about their own body and how to better care for it from a musculoskeletal standpoint. Students may participate in more than one Movement Mentoring session.

THE DANCE CLINIC

The Dance Clinic, located on the second floor of the Dance Center, provides dance majors with access to conditioning and weight training equipment, Pilates equipment, injury prevention, therapeutic treatment for minor injuries, and consultation in health and fitness with Head Athletic Trainer John Siegel, a Certified Athletic Trainer. Because the nature of dance activity is physically demanding, each major is encouraged to consult with Mr. Siegel early in their education at CSULB to best prepare her/himself/themselves for the rigors of life as a dance major. We strongly encourage all dance majors to maintain good health and conditioning by eating properly, sleeping as much as possible, maintaining a healthy weight, and cross-training to provide a needed supplement to dance activities. If you are experiencing issues that impact your well-being, please reach out to Mr. Siegel and the Department Chair, so that we may provide assistance with the appropriate resources.

Note: it is the responsibility of each major to notify dance instructors if/when a particular physical condition or injury prohibits full participation in a studio course or rehearsal. Each major must also work with their instructors and Mr. Siegel to find/create a program for optimal health and fitness as soon as possible to return to full participation.

DEGREE DESCRIPTIONS & ADVISING

There are three distinct undergraduate degree paths offered in the CSULB Department of Dance. These will be explained in DANC 100-Orientation to Dance and DANC 300-Transfer Orientation to Dance. During a student's first year of study, all three undergraduate degree paths contain a core of lower-division foundation courses that are nearly identical.

We encourage each of you to investigate the differences between these degree paths, and to choose an undergraduate degree path by the end of the first year of study at CSULB Dance. The best way to learn more about degree options is by reaching out to faculty members and Undergraduate Academic Advisor Kirsten Sumpter. Please make an appointment with our Undergraduate Academic Advisor Kirsten Sumpter using [Beach Connect](#). Visit the [Undergraduate Advising page](#) for additional details.

[BA Degree](#)

All students enter CSULB Dance in the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree, which provides a balanced course of study that prepares students for careers as performers, educators, arts administrators, health, wellness and fitness specialists, and graduate study in dance or a related field.

[BS in Dance Science Degree](#)

The Bachelor of Science in Dance Science provides students with an interdisciplinary course of study that helps prepare them for graduate study and careers in dance, dance science, athletic training, careers in fitness and somatics, and/or graduate education in the areas of dance science, dance medicine, or related dance studies. Through an integrated course of study, our students gain specific skills and knowledge related to dance and kinesiology, learn by doing in applied experiences, and have opportunities for shaping the degree according to areas of individual interest within the specialization. Students interested in the B.S. in Dance Science should meet with the Program Coordinator no later than the start of their 2nd year (transfer students should meet during their first semester). Freshman may be admitted as pre-Dance Science and then will be eligible to declare the

major upon completion of the GE Foundation and Major Specific Requirements—BIOL 207, BIOL 208, and PSY 100—with a cumulative GPA of 2.5

BFA Degree

To apply to audition to the BFA, students must have reached sophomore standing, have completed the GE Foundation requirements, and have successfully completed the following course work with a minimum GPA of 3.0: DANC 100 or DANC 300; DANC 120; DANC 161; DANC 182; one unit from DANC 181 or DANC 381; and 10 units of dance technique from at least three idioms of dance. Students enrolled in required courses at the time of the audition may audition with a signed Grade in Progress form from the instructor(s) of the in-progress courses. Students may **not** apply after they have earned 90 Timely Graduation Units.

Each semester, BFA in Dance students must attend required periodic meetings with BFA coordinators and maintain a 2.5 GPA in the BFA Dance major. Students dropping below a 2.5 GPA in the BFA Dance major will be placed on administrative academic notice and required to meet with BFA coordinators to discuss progress in the degree. Students dropping below a 2.5 GPA in the BFA Dance major for two consecutive semesters will be removed from the BFA in Dance.

Dance Minor

The Minor in Dance helps students to pursue dance training while majoring in another field of study. Students may be admitted to the minor after completing 6 units in dance and do not need to audition to declare the minor. Minors wishing to take major level technique courses and/or perform in departmental productions are required to pass the [Minor Technique Screening](#).

Single-Subject Teaching Credential in Dance

The Preliminary Single Subject Credential in Dance prepares candidates to teach grades K-12 in public schools. The Department of Dance's BA, BFA, and BS degrees fulfill the subject matter competency required by the State of California for single subject credential candidates in dance. For more information, please see the College of Education's [Single Subject Credential Program website](#).

TRANSFER STUDENTS

STUDENTS MAY TRANSFER INTO THE DANCE MAJOR BY AUDITION

1. Prior to attending the mandatory SOAR workshop, Dance Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Kirsten Sumpter, will review transfer credit reports and transcripts for each new transfer student to determine which coursework has transferred to CSULB and which dance courses may be applied to the Dance degree. At SOAR, students will receive their transfer credit report and a list of dance courses to register for the upcoming semester. Students are guided through the registration process by the Undergraduate Academic Advisor.
2. The office of Enrollment Services evaluates General Education transferability. The Undergraduate Dance Academic Advisor, in consultation with the Chair, determines transferability of Dance courses. The student may need to provide transcripts and a catalog description to the Dance Undergraduate Academic Advisor to determine the transferability of a course taken at another institution.

Lower Division courses (100 and 200 level) are accepted for Dance Major equivalencies when:

- The course has been articulated with a CSULB Dance course.
- The course was offered for the same number of units.

- The content of the class was the same or equivalent.
- The course was offered for Dance majors and minors (not a survey class open to non-majors)
- The number of hours the class met is the same as, or close to, CSULB's equivalent course
- Upper Division courses (300 and 400 level) are accepted from other four-year institutions if the above are fulfilled. Courses at the 100 and 200 are not equivalent to 300 and 400 courses.
- All CSULB undergraduate Dance students must complete a minimum of 30 units in coursework at CSULB including at least 24 upper-division CSULB units to meet the residency requirement.

DEGREE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Dance Faculty, in support of the University's compliance with national assessment guidelines, created the Student Learning Outcomes below.

Bachelor of Arts in Dance

1. Majors will demonstrate competency in modern dance, ballet, jazz, and street and club dances, enabling them to pursue careers in dance and dance-related fields such as dance education, studio-based teaching, performance/choreography, and health and fitness.
2. Majors will describe historical, socio-cultural, and scientific dimensions of dance.
3. Majors will practice the fundamental skills and techniques necessary for the public performance of dance.
4. Majors will demonstrate skills in the production and technological aspects of dance.
5. Majors will analyze and describe the craft and aesthetic qualities of dance orally, practically, and in writing.

Bachelor of Science in Dance Science

1. Perform an anatomical analysis of static and dynamic alignment in dance-movement vocabularies and provide exercises & cues for their improvement.
2. Employ key anatomical & biomechanical principles for preventing dance-movement injuries & promoting optimal technique when training as performers or teaching dance-movement techniques.
3. Identify, apply, and analyze basic scientific principles of wellness & conditioning for the promotion of lifelong health in dance-movement techniques.
4. Demonstrate competency in one or more dance-movement lexicons and dancemaking strategies.
5. Describe and analyze the historical, socio-cultural, and aesthetic dimensions of various dance forms.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance

1. Majors will demonstrate proficient skills and technique in modern/contemporary dance and ballet, with competency in jazz dance and street and club dances, enabling them to pursue professional dance careers.
2. Majors will demonstrate competencies in choreographic processes that support the development of creative and collaborative professional opportunities.
3. Majors will describe the socio-cultural, historical, and scientific dimensions of dance, to give depth and perspective to the performance and pedagogical aspects of the dance discipline.

4. Majors will develop and demonstrate current methods and relevant strategies necessary to pursue professional careers in dance and dance-related fields.
5. Majors will demonstrate the skills necessary to analyze and review dance history, concepts, and aesthetic qualities, both orally and in writing.
6. Majors will demonstrate skills in the production and technological aspects of dance.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Students seeking information regarding scholarships should begin by visiting the [Center for Scholarship Information \(CSI\)](#). The CSI serves as the campus informational clearinghouse and resource regarding scholarships, from local to national awards.

The Department and other community and University organizations/individuals award a small number of dance scholarships to assist students financially. The Dance scholarship process begins in the fall semester when applications become available on the CSI website and the spring Dance scholarship audition is announced. All current dance majors with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher may apply for Dance scholarships. More information on specifics regarding Dance scholarships and the auditions can be found on the university website. Contact the current faculty scholarship Chair, Rebecca Lemme, at Rebecca.lemme@csulb.edu.

Note: all students applying for scholarships must complete a FAFSA, even if they are international students. When funds allow, a process for Summer Study Awards will be announced in the spring semester. Summer Study Awards, like all scholarships, result in funds being transferred directly to students' CSULB accounts without the opportunity for direct payment of workshops, clinics, or intensives.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

There are several work opportunities for students in the Department. Open positions will be announced to students via email and on the Student Job Boards in the Student Lounge. Students may also check with Lillian McKenzie and/or Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz in the Department Main Office.

EARNING DANC 499 CREDIT FOR A DIRECTED STUDY

A student may work with a CSULB instructor to design an independent project, execute research of an advanced nature in an area of dance, or serve as an Assistant in the Pilates Lab or in Movement Mentoring sessions. Directed studies may be designed for 1-3 units, depending upon the nature of the project and time commitment involved. All Directed Studies must be approved, and instructor/mentors must fill out the Agreement for DANC 499/599 form and submit it to the Chair for approval **prior to enrollment**. Permission to enroll will be granted by Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz after approval by the Chair.

USE OF PILATES EQUIPMENT IN PILATES LAB

Only students who have successfully completed DANC 361 and 362 may use the Pilates equipment in the CSULB Pilates Lab. The equipment can be accessed during posted hours Monday-Friday throughout the Fall and Spring semester. Each student must sign in at the start of each session with the designated person whose responsibility it is to monitor this space. A Dance Science professor will provide a list of students authorized to use the Department's Pilates equipment to the Dance

office and only those students can sign in and use the equipment during the designated open times. For personal safety, this facility may not be used without an approved partner or supervisor.

TRANSFER OF SUMMER DANCE CLASSES

Students who plan to transfer dance courses from any summer session must get the approval of Undergraduate Academic Advisor Kirsten Sumpter and the Department Chair before the summer class is taken. Classes taken elsewhere frequently do not equate to CSULB dance major classes in units, hours and/or content. It is the student's responsibility to request equivalency evaluation before taking the class. The Department is not responsible for transfer of coursework taken without consultation and approval.

LOCKERS

Lockers in the Dance Center locker/dressing rooms are available to all students enrolling in dance courses. Students may arrange for locker assignments in the Department Office. Rental fees are \$5/semester or \$10/academic year.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Bulletin boards throughout the Dance Center display important information for students. The Digital Signage between studios 1 and 2 does as well. Check the following bulletin boards for specific information concerning:

- Audition and job announcements (located in the student lounge)
- BFA information, Guest Artists bios and information, and student advising information (boards near the back door of studio 1)
- Upcoming regional and local dance concerts (located at the entrance to studio 3)
- CSULB production, auditions, casting, crewing, costuming information (located on the first-floor hallway across from the elevator)
- Official Department news board for internal posting (located in the first-floor hallway across from studio 3)
- Official Department news board for internal posting (located in the first-floor hallway across from studio 3)
- General University news (located in the first-floor hallway across from studio 3)

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES AND AUDITIONS

We will have four live fully produced concerts this year, in accordance with all state, county, and city public health guidelines.

General Information: The Department of Dance presents many occasions for dance majors of all levels to perform in formal and informal dance settings. Three to five annual main stage concerts offer opportunities to perform and/or choreograph in multiple genres of dance. In addition to dance concerts and showcases, students are encouraged to volunteer to work with undergraduate and graduate students on composition assignments and special projects. These interactions allow students to perform, network, and gain skills that aid in being cast in future events. The Department annually participates in the activities of the American College Dance Association, which leads to performances at regional conferences and national festivals. As part of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area, the city's numerous resident companies and choreographers often offer regional performance opportunities to CSULB students, as well.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE CONCERT AUDITIONS

The Contemporary Dance Concert Audition guidelines are currently under review by the faculty and staff. Revised guidelines and performance contracts will be published later this year.

GUEST ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Guest Artist Residencies enliven and amplify the experience of CSULB dance majors. Through one or two-week residencies, professional choreographers and dancers from around the world set new or restaged dances on our students, giving them a taste of the rehearsal process that is a part of a professional career.

Department Guest Artists (partial list):

Sidra Bell, Artistic Director Sidra Bell Dance New York
Janis Brenner, Choreographer, New York City
Frank Chaves, Artistic Director, River North Chicago Dance Co.
Leah Cox, Education Director, New York Live Arts Norbert De La Cruz, Choreographer
Mike Esperanza, Choreographer, BARE Dance Company
Melecio Estrella, Bandaloop, Joe Goode Dance
Marjani Forté-Saunders, Choreographer, Co-founder, LOVE | FORTÉ A COLLECTIVE
Maria Gillespie, Artistic Director, Oni Dance, Los Angeles
Kate Hutter, Co-Founder, L.A. Contemporary Dance Company
Laurel Jenkins, Trisha Brown Dance Company
Holly Johnston, Artistic Director, Ledges and Bones Dance Project
Bill T. Jones, Artistic Director, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance
Zippora Karz, Repetiteur, Balanchine Trust
Alex Ketley, Artistic Director, The Foundry
Sharon Kinney, Repetiteur, Paul Taylor
Stephen Koester, Choreographer, University of Utah, Faculty
Stephanie Lapis, Repetiteur, Doug Varone and Dancers
Fiona Lummis, Repetiteur, Nederlands Dans Theatre
Victoria Marks, Choreographer, U.C.L.A., Faculty
Robert Moses, Artistic Director, Kin Dance Company
Shyamala Moorty, Choreographer
C. Kemal Nance, Choreographer, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Tere O'Conner, Choreographer, New York City
John Pennington, Choreographer Pennington Dance Group
Kameron Saunders, Dancer and Choreographer
Dolly Sfeir, Choreographer
Kensaku Shinohara, Choreographer
Patrick Simoniello, Ballet Master River North Dance Chicago
Shawn Stevens Dancer, Repetiteur Twyla Tharp Dance Company
Eddie Taketa, Repetiteur, Doug Varone and Dancers
Micaela Taylor, Artistic Director, TL Collective
Colleen Thomas, Choreographer
Donna Uchizono, Choreographer, Artistic Director of Donna Uchizono Company
George Willis, Charles Weidman Repetiteur
Megan Williams. Repetiteur, Mark Morris Dance Group
Kevin Williamson, Choreographer

Dan Wagoner, Choreographer
Bill Young, Artistic Director Bill Young and Dancers

Guest Artist Classes and Workshops provide opportunities for students to interact with a wide array of dance professionals. Below is a partial list of guest artists who have enhanced the education of CSULB dancers:

Kyle Abraham, Artistic Director, A.I.M.
Janis Brenner, Artistic Director, Janis Brenner & Dancers
Jennifer Backhaus, Backhaus Dance
Genevieve Baker, Artistic Director, L.A. Contemporary Dance Company Lillian Barbeito, BodyTraffic Dance Company
Bill Bohl, Managing Director, DDO Artists Agency/The Movement Leslie Carothers-Aromaa, Colburn School, formerly with Joffrey Ballet
Evelyn Cisneros-Legate, Boston Ballet, formerly with S.F. Ballet Robert Cohan, Artistic Dir. London Contemporary Dance School Misty Copeland, Soloist, American Ballet Theatre
Lauren Kias, Cast of Hamilton
Brenda Dixon Gottschild, Dance Scholar
David Dorfman, Artistic Director, David Dorfman Dance
Glen Eddy, Cal Arts Faculty, formerly with Netherlands Dance Theater
Glenn Edgerton, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
Arturo Fernandez, Alonzo King Lines Ballet
Joe Goode, Artistic Director, Joe Goode Performance Group
Rennie Harris, Artistic Director, Rennie Harris Dance Company
Alaine Haubert, American Ballet Theatre
Millicent Hodson/Kenneth Archer, Rite of Spring Centennial
Kevin Iega Jeff, Artistic Director Deeply Rooted Dance Theater
Bill T. Jones, Artistic Director, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Co.
Zippora Karz, former Soloist, New York City Ballet
Alex Ketley, The Foundry
Jmy James Kidd, Director, Pieter Performance Space
Shouze Ma, Choreographer, Beijing, China
Cheryl Mann, Choreographer & Dance Photographer, Cheryl Mann Productions
John Malashock, Artistic Director, Malashock Dance
Patrick McCollum, Choreographer The Band's Visit, CSULB alum
Sergio Mejia, Commercial dance choreographer
Colleen Neary, Artistic Director Los Angeles Ballet
Colleen O'Callaghan, Ventura Ballet, formerly with ABT
Rocio Ponce, Professional Flamenco choreographer
Summer Lee Rhatigan, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance
Melanie Ríos, Glaser Artistic Director, The Wooden Floor
John Selya, ABT, Come Fly Away, Movin' Out
Robbie Shaw, Choreographer/Screendance creator
Eddie Taketa, Doug Varone and Dancers
Rosanna Tavarez, Counter Technique, LA DANSA DANSA
Doug Varone, Artistic Director, Doug Varone and Dancers
Wendy Whelan, Former Principal Dancer, Associate Artistic Director, New York City Ballet

DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES

Placement Screening and Studio Technique Classes:

Placement Screenings will take place throughout the first week of classes. During the first week of the Fall and Spring semesters, new and returning students are placed in designated levels of technique through placement screening classes. Faculty are involved in screenings as teachers and observers. This is not an audition; it is a process to assure that all students are enrolled in the technique level that will best support their learning. Students should plan to enroll in dance technique courses in sequence. In general, students should expect to remain in each technique level for two semesters.

After passing a technique level for two semesters, a student will automatically move up to the next level. Students with questions about the screening process and/or technique placement decisions should contact their technique instructor and the department chair. Students earning a grade of F in a technique class must re-take technique at the level at which the F was earned before moving up a level.

With the permission of the instructor and the Department Chair, students may enroll in, or audit, additional technique classes, provided the course is below the level at which they screened. Students interested in enrolling in classes taken below the screened dance level to fulfill graduation requirements need to request approval from the Chair and the Undergraduate Academic Advisor.

1. Incompletes are not assigned in technique courses, or as an alternative to a poor grade.
2. All major technique classes must be taken for a letter grade (A-F) and are repeatable for credit, though some may be repeated more than others (refer to the [CSULB catalog](#) for information on repeatability). Audits are rarely permitted and are only typically allowed for upper division students who have completed graduation technique requirements. (If permission is granted, it is expected that students will adhere to the participation requirements in the course syllabus.)
3. Students needing to drop Department of Dance courses after the 9th week of classes must first consult with the Department Chair.
4. Student safety is important to us; therefore, all students should have a personal first aid kit in their dance bag or locker at the beginning of each semester. First aid kits should include basic items such as adhesive bandages, antiseptic wipes, and athletic tape.
5. Students with severe allergies should be sure to have an epi-pen in their possession at all times.

CLASS PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTMENT OF DANCE COURSES

It is the CSULB Department of Dance perspective that attendance and engaged participation are essential to progressing towards your educational and career goals. However, we understand that illness, injury, and/or lasting disability can occur during the semester. We strongly encourage students to prioritize their mental and physical health and be proactive in consulting with head Athletic Trainer John Siegel and their faculty to alert them of any concerns.

According to University Policy, excused absences include:

- Illness, injury to the student, or medical conditions, including those related to pregnancy.
- Death, injury, or serious illness of an immediate family member. An immediate family member is defined as a close relative, or a person residing in the immediate household of the

student.

- Religious reasons (California Education Code section 89320).
- Jury duty, military service, or other government obligation.
- University-sanctioned or -approved activities (examples include but are not limited to artistic performances, participation in scholarly conferences and presentations, intercollegiate athletic activities, student government, required class field trips, etc.).

Faculty members are not obligated to consider other absences as excused.

Students should consult with the faculty member about whether verification is necessary for excused absences. Faculty members may only require students to provide verification for repeated or successive absences (three or more instructional hours), or absences on the days of tests, presentations, and other graded activities. If verification is required, students should provide it to the faculty member within one week of the date of the last prior absence.

*As a courtesy, please notify your faculty at least one week in advance of any planned excused absence(s). Faculty are not obligated to provide make-up work opportunities for unexcused absences.

Evaluation and Grading in Studio Dance Courses

Studio-based courses such as technique, improvisation, composition, BFA workshop, directed choreography, etc., are assessed both objectively and subjectively. Depending upon the course content, an instructor will assign a grade typically having evaluated: technical and performance-based skills and development, completing all course assignments including written work, reading, and viewing materials, participation and effort, and progress made during the term. As a standardized departmental agreement, behavior such as “attitude” will not be used as a means of grading dance courses; instructors will grade student “performance” that can be measured through established criteria. Participation may be used as a means of grading if the grading criteria for participation is clearly articulated by the instructor. Students are encouraged to work closely with their instructors to clearly understand each instructor’s course requirements and grading guidelines, pertinent departmental agreements, and their own responsibilities to the community of learners in the class.

Absences in Dance Courses

Regular training is essential to students’ development as dancers. Students are encouraged to attend every class session and successfully complete course requirements. In the case of an absence, students should keep in communication with their instructor(s) and discuss plans for learning missed material and/or for making up missed assignments. However, in the case of unexcused absences, faculty are not obligated to provide make-up work.

Excessive absences will negatively impact students’ ability to succeed in courses and perform in concerts. Unexcused absences and repeated tardiness will affect final grade calculations because they impact student participation, learning, and contributions to group projects, and the instructor’s ability to assess student learning and improvement. If a student has missed 25-30% of class sessions by the seventh week of the semester, the student should meet with the instructor to determine if it is possible to successfully complete the course or if they would be best served by withdrawing and receiving a W. In cases where students stop attending class but have not withdrawn, they will receive a WU, which calculates as an F in the GPA. An Incomplete will not be issued due to excessive unexcused absences.

Tardiness

Students are encouraged to arrive early/on-time for each class period. Students will be given a grace period and should proactively communicate with their faculty regarding what constitutes tardiness in the course. In the case of frequent tardiness, the student and instructor are encouraged to create open communication to prevent further disruption(s) of the student's learning and/or create reasonable accommodations together (if applicable).

Studio Attire

The Department of Dance recognizes that, in many instances, dance studio attire has historically reinforced Eurocentric and heteronormative practices that discriminate against or erase dancers' skin color and/or cultural backgrounds and enforce gender binaries. While some dance genres require uniformity of appearance in class, each student's identity, personal expression, and cultural background will be given full consideration within attire guidelines.

Instructors will communicate class attire in the course syllabus. Guidelines for class attire will take into consideration the following:

- Dress codes will not be based on gender binaries or contain unnecessary binary distinctions.
- If an instructor requires a special garment for class (e.g. unitards, leotards, practice skirt, etc.) they will communicate this in the syllabus and provide accessible alternatives to ensure equity.

Students are expected to follow these guidelines. If a student has questions or concerns about class attire, they should consult with the instructor. While still following the guidelines above, class attire may change as the semester progresses, depending on movement material and at the discretion of the instructor.

Illness & Injury

Students suffering from an illness (mental and physical) or injury that results in missing more than one week of class should seek medical care (if feasible), consult with Athletic Trainer John Seigel (in the case of physical injuries) or university Counseling and Psychological Services (in case of mental/emotional needs), and should contact their faculty to discuss a participation plan. This may involve arranging a substitute project, making up an exam, or in some cases, when the illness or injury is ongoing and severe, dropping the class. Students will not be asked to provide a doctor's note when they miss class due to illness or injury, except in when absences are repeated or successive (three or more instructional hours), or absences occur on the days of tests, presentations, and other graded activities. Instructors may ask for confirmation of other types of excused absences in accordance with the CSULB Attendance Policy (see above).

If you need to miss class and know in advance, please communicate promptly with the faculty. You can do this in two ways: 1) email your instructor(s) directly, or 2) complete the ["Reasons for Class Absence" form](#) (found under Student Resources/Frequently Used Forms) and email the form to your instructor(s). Injured students are encouraged to work with the Head Athletic Trainer, John Siegel, in supervised strengthening and rehabilitation exercises. Faculty and students should consult the Athletic Trainer on the feasibility of using class time for this rehabilitation program. If you are ill or injured but still able to attend the class session, please consult with your faculty about strategies to modify and adapt your practice so that you can participate in some manner. participate in some manner.

Strategies for modification and adaptation include but are not limited to the following, which may be done in combination, as appropriate:

1. Adapting movement to a prone or seated position (e.g., floor barre or chair work, or a combination?)
2. Translation of movement (e.g., creative alternatives in body movement)
3. Reduction of range of motion
4. Elimination of injured areas and augmentation no other aspects of movement
5. Movement visualization
6. Active peer-critique
7. Class observation writing responsive
8. Acting as an assistant in class

Instructors will maintain interaction with students who are adapting movement to ensure active participation in class to their fullest ability.

Use of Touch in Dance Pedagogy

Touch is a common method for helping students to learn a dance form and can be an effective tool for imparting kinesthetic information such as alignment, initiation, and spatial/bodily orientation. Please notify the instructor if you are uncomfortable with this method of instruction so that alternative cueing methods can be substituted. Instructors or students should receive affirmative consent before initiating physical contact. A clear explanation of which area(s) of the body will be touched should occur prior to each application of touch.

Recommendations for Class Conduct

- If possible, arrive early to class to prepare mentally and/or physically for class.
- Use the time before class to breathe, relax, and find internal focus.
- Use of cellphones, computers, and other electronic devices are permitted at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the nature of the course.
- Please work to create a space of open dialogue and community.
- Receive, share, and apply feedback in a productive manner.
- Treat each other with care and avoid making assumptions based on stereotypes and cultural biases.
- Be mindful of unnecessary conversation and how it impacts your attention, and the ability of others to focus and learn.
- Stay focused on material presented in class/rehearsal and avoid working on material from other courses/rehearsals during that time.
- Work safely and effectively in class and allow others to do so.
- If you are coping with an issue that may impact your participation, please talk to your instructor before class begins so, together, you can strategize on your participation for the day.
- In the event of an injury or sudden illness, alert the instructor immediately.

Keeping our Studios Clean and Safe

Shoes worn outside of the studio, even in hallways and the courtyard, are considered “street shoes” and should **never** be worn in the studios. **This is a safety issue:** shoes worn outside often carry

glass or small rocks and debris. When carried into the studio, injury or illness could result from this debris and it may damage the floor.

Please do not bring food or drink into the studios, except water in non-breakable containers. CSULB Dance recommends that students use reusable water bottles for technique class and take advantage of the hydration station on the first floor. Students should inform faculty of any nutritional needs that require accommodation (e.g., the need to step outside the class to have a quick snack for health reasons).

Students should never allow non-dance majors to work in studios unless supervised by their instructor and should **never** give studio entry codes to non-dance majors.

Students must bring a towel to every technique class to wipe up excessive sweat from the floor. To help keep studio floors clean and safe for everyone, students should **avoid** applying lotions to bare skin within 30 minutes of participating in technique classes. Lotions can create dangerous “slick spots” in the Marley dance floors.

Every studio contains a **Biohazard Kit** for use in cleaning up any sort of biohazard exposure during a technique class or a rehearsal. **All blood spills and bodily fluids such as vomit** are considered biohazards and must be dealt with properly. Biohazard Kits are mounted on the walls near the telephone in each studio. Clear instructions for disposing of a biohazard spill or exposure are inside each kit; however, studio instructors and Head Athletic Trainer John Siegel will also train any individual in the proper way to handle such a situation. All red biohazard disposal bags should be brought to the main office or the Dance Clinic for proper and final disposal. If any Biohazard Kit is missing supplies, please contact the Dance Clinic at x57076, or contact the main office.

Enrolling in DANC 119/319

Students who have a time schedule course conflict that prevents them from attending the third session of a three-day technique class may still attend the technique course two days a week by enrolling in DANC 119/319.

Registration includes:

- Permission from the Technique Instructor
- Permission from the Department Chair
- A signed statement from the student stating that he/she understands the requirements for attending the course and receiving a grade.
- After the Chair approves the petition for DANC 119/319 registration, Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz will permit the student into DANC 119/319.

Plagiarism/Academic Integrity

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other act of violation of university’s [Academic Integrity policy](#) is unacceptable. Work that you submit is assumed to be original unless your source material is documented appropriately, using proper citation. Using the ideas or words of another person (even a peer, web site, or artificial intelligence source) as if it were your own, is plagiarism. At a minimum, any student caught violating the university Academic Integrity Policy will receive no credit for the

work concerned. To learn more about the University policy on Cheating and Plagiarism, visit: [Academic Information and Regulations-Cheating and Plagiarism](#).

Grade Appeals

The Department of Dance follows the [grade appeal process](#) as described in the [University's Undergraduate Catalog and Grade appeal policy](#). Students are urged to familiarize themselves with this process prior to filing an appeal. The Department Chair is also available to answer any questions regarding the grade appeal process.

Performance and Production Guidelines

With a production calendar that typically contains four to five fully produced concerts each academic year, CSULB Dance is one of the most production-driven dance departments in California. Managing production is a cooperative effort involving faculty and staff—Production Coordinator Andy Vaca, Technical Director Stephanie Losleben, Video Specialist Gregory R.R. Crosby, Costume Shop Manager Kelsey Vidic, Costume Technician Erika Hansen, Music Director Dr. Don Nichols, Department Chair Colleen Dunagan and the Concert Director of each production, with input from other staff, faculty, and student production assistants.

CSULB Dance is proud of the fact that all **Dance majors in Good Academic Standing may audition for any dance concert**. Students on Academic Warning are **not eligible** to audition or be cast in department concerts. To ensure that you have access to auditioning for a department concert, please be certain to take the following steps:

Step 1—Enroll in a dance major technique course

You must be enrolled, for a letter grade, **in a dance major technique course** the semester in which you audition for, and perform in, a department concert. Sometimes a faculty, student or guest choreographer may recommend that a student be enrolled in a specific technique class that pertains to the genre in which their dance is choreographed.

Step 2—Sign up for a Crew Assignment

During the first week of the fall semester, **all new** students must sign up for a crew assignment through Technical Director Stephanie Losleben. The actual crew assignment may take place in the fall or spring semester. After signing up for an approved Crew Assignment, students can audition for and perform in department concerts. Students are not eligible to audition for or perform in a production for which they have a Crew Assignment.

Transfer students articulating an approved production course must still sign up for a Crew Assignment in the first semester (once complete, this will fulfill your Crew Assignment).

Step 3—Put all crew assignment dates and times in your calendar

A successful production requires teamwork and commitment from all members of the cast, crew, choreographers, and production staff. Students will receive all production related information—including a detailed production schedule—as soon as crew positions are assigned. It is the student's responsibility to input all important dates into your calendar, and it is important that students do not schedule other activities during assigned crew production hours.

Step 4—Enroll in a Production Unit in the semester the Crew Assignment takes place

Students should register for a production unit in the same semester they complete the Crew Assignment.

- **First-Years:** Please enroll in 181 for your first crew assignment.
- **Transfers:** Please enroll in 381 or 481 for your first crew assignment.

Step 5—Audition for Concerts and be eligible to perform in Contemporary Dance Concert pieces

Once students have completed their first crew assignment responsibility, they are free to either audition for concerts or accept a role in a Contemporary Dance Concert piece choreographed by another dance major. It is the student's responsibility to review all dates associated with the performance before auditioning or accepting a role.

Students are expected to register for a performance unit in the same semester they complete the performance.

- **First-Years:** Please enroll in 180 for your first performance unit.
- **Transfers:** Please enroll in 380 or 480 for your first performance Unit.

Student Performance and Crew Responsibilities

Please consult with the Production Coordinator Andy Vaca and Technical Director Stephanie Losleben.

COSTUME SHOP

What to expect from the costume shop, and what the Shop expects from you!

The Dance Costume Shop at CSULB is committed to creating a space that is inclusive to all students, including BIPOC, LGBTIAQ+, and students with disability or accessibility concerns.

Costume Process

The Costume Shop provides students with at least one costume for the concert. The shop manager will reach out to students, via their CSULB student email, for a time slot to take their measurements. This will take no more than 15 minutes. Following the measurements, the Shop Manager will reach out again for one or two costume fittings. Fittings typically last between 20 and 30 minutes. The performer is responsible for the costume and treating it with respect and care throughout dress rehearsals and the run of the show.

Expectations in a Fitting

1. Respond to your CSULB student email promptly (within 48 hours of receiving it). The shop manager will reach out at least 24 hours in advance of the requested (unless in a special situation).
2. Be on time for your costume fitting or measurements. The costume shop works on a tight schedule. Showing up 15 minutes late can mean you are there when the next fitting is scheduled, and the shop won't be able to accommodate you. If you are going to be late or need to reschedule, it is very important to contact the shop manager. We can work with you if something unexpected comes up or you are dealing with a difficult situation, but communication is absolutely needed in a timely manner.
3. Let us know if a costume is uncomfortable or isn't working for your movement. Make sure to try your most extreme movements from the choreography in the costume fitting.

Dress Rehearsals and Show

1. Each performer is responsible for their own make-up, makeup removers and hair supplies/products for the production. Students **should not leave** personal hair and makeup supplies in the dressing rooms overnight. The costume shop has limited products in stock for emergency situations.
2. Wear antiperspirant /deodorant and appropriate underwear as discussed in the fittings.
 - a) If you don't have the proper undergarments or have any questions on this, please talk to the Costume Designer or Shop Manager so we can assist you.
3. **Absolutely No Eating, Drinking, or Smoking while in Costume.** Water is always ok.
4. Under no circumstance should you greet your family and friends in your costume after a show.
5. **If your costume malfunctions, students must write down** what happened on the Costume Notes Paper posted on the back of the dressing room doors.
6. Laundry should be placed in the laundry baskets in the dressing rooms. We will only wash the items you place in the basket. In special cases, some costume items cannot be laundered, but we will notify you in the fittings if your costume falls into this category.
7. Hang your costumes neatly on the rack at the end of the evening just as you found it. **One piece per hanger**, please! Clean up your space after each dress rehearsal and performance.

Note: The Costume Shop is here to serve the stories and ideas being presented on stage. We care deeply about how you feel and what you need in a specific costume, so do not hesitate to ask. We are here to support you.

COSTUME SHOP COMMITMENT

Actions we are committed to taking as a Costume Shop.

Actions

*If we fail to meet any of these actions, or you notice we have missed something in our effort to accommodate your needs, please contact the Costume Shop Manager Kelsey Vidic at kelsey.vidic@csulb.edu

→ We believe that all bodies of every variety are beautiful. We take time and care to design and make or alter costumes that fit your individual body type.

→ We recognize that skin tones are many different shades and choose to use the term “skin tone” in lieu of “nude”.

We are committed to finding the best skin tone shade, with the performer's approval, for any costume trying to match the color of your skin.

→ We are committed to labeling and categorizing the costume stock and materials in a way that is inclusive and denies stereotypes, racism, gender assumption, or culturally inappropriate terms.

→ We acknowledge that every person with a disability requires different accommodations. We are committed to adapting our costume shop to any student that would like to work in the shop or is using the space for fittings or classes.

→ With every new dancer that is being fitted in the shop, we ask that you fill out a “Memo of Understanding” to familiarize us with your preferred name, pronouns, and body comfortability.

→ We acknowledge that there are different products and increased time and costs needed to achieve hairstyles for BIPOC students. The Shop Manager and Designer stands with these dancers and will assist in finding a style that works best with that specific dancer (time and money in consideration) to achieve the aesthetic of the dance piece.

→ The Shop Manager will be attentive during fittings and dress rehearsals to recognize and point out to the Designer (Lighting or Costume) if a certain color choice is working against or not in favor of the dancer's skin color.

Note: If you do not feel comfortable talking to the Costume Shop Manager about your needs or how the Costume Shop has not met them, here are alternative resources to contact:

- Affinity A.I.D.E Student Group, csulbdanceaffinity@gmail.com
- Colleen Dunagan, Chair of the Dance Department, colleen.dunagan@csulb.edu
- File a Complaint with CSULB Office of Equity and Compliance.

STUDIO USAGE

Studio Usage for Rehearsals

The most immediate Department production takes priority for use of rehearsal space, design/construction time, and technical needs. Students participating in multiple productions must prioritize their commitments, accordingly, as should choreographers and technical staff.

Choreographers must release student dancers from their scheduled rehearsals if the student has a responsibility to the Department's upcoming production.

Reservation of Studio Space

The Department encourages Dance Majors to use studio space in the CSULB Dance Center to fulfill choreography assignments for composition class, to create individual artistic projects for eventual production within the Department, and to foster personal and artistic development. This year, we will be using our on-line Studio Reservation System.

It is understood that each person requesting use of a studio space will use it appropriately by taking care of the space, the floor, and any equipment, as well as by following all COVID-19 Safety Guidelines. There are to be no street shoes, no food or drink (other than water) in the studios. Please pick up water bottles and trash, close windows, turn off lights and close doors after use. It is also expected that when students sign up for studio space, they will use it. If there is a change in schedule, students are expected to be considerate by removing their names from the Space Reservation Book so that the space is made available to others. Repeated failure to do so will result in a written warning and loss of privileges for one week.

Studio Reservation Guidelines

- Studios may only be reserved and used by dance majors and minors (who have passed the MTS) and are currently enrolled in CSULB Dance classes. **Non-majors and outside groups are not permitted** to use the dance studios.
- CSULB Dance alumni may rent studio space. Contact Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz at Sylvia.rodriguez@csulb.edu for information.

The studios are State of California facilities: **there are legal mandates enforced by the University and the State that must be followed.** If a student wishes to reserve space as an outside group, responsibility for rental and liability must be arranged through Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz in the

Department of Dance Main Office. CSULB student groups/organizations not affiliated with the Department may only utilize space in the building with a Dance faculty or staff advisor present.