

## SKIDMORE COLLEGE DANCE DEPARTMENT

# Incoming Dance Student Information

<https://www.skidmore.edu/dance/index.php> | Instagram: @skidmoredance

### Department Chair Sarah DiPasquale

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#### Interested in...

building on the dance training you had back home?  
performing on the Dance Theater stage?  
trying a style of dance for the first time?  
pursuing a major or minor in dance?

The Dance Department aims to make dance available to all students on campus. Any student, regardless of major, is welcome to study and perform with us. All courses have major and non-major participation. You can get involved in the Dance Department through any combinations of these opportunities:

## 1. Technique Courses

Technique courses are standard classes focused on training in a specific dance technique or style. You must register for these courses beforehand, like you would an academic class. Drop-ins or “ghosting” a class (not being registered for credit or audit) is not allowed.

### *Leveling*

Courses labeled “I” are at the beginning level and are appropriate for students who are new to a style or to dance more broadly. Courses labeled “II” are intermediate, and courses labeled “III” and “IV” represent progressively more advanced study. In Ballet and Modern, multiple levels are typically offered each semester. In these sequences, “II” indicates low intermediate, “III” indicates high intermediate, and “IV” indicates advanced.

Enrollment in advanced-level (“IV”) courses requires instructor permission.

First-year students who would like guidance selecting appropriate technique levels are encouraged to email the Chair, Sarah DiPasquale ([sdipasqu@skidmore.edu](mailto:sdipasqu@skidmore.edu)). In addition, the first class meeting serves as an informal placement: faculty will assess whether students are enrolled at the appropriate level and advise on any necessary adjustments.

## **Performance Workshops**

Performance workshops are credit-bearing courses led by dance faculty or guest artists. Dancers are cast through an audition process and rehearse during scheduled class time. The pieces prepared in the various workshops are performed in the Dance Theater during the faculty concert at the end of the semester. You cannot register for workshops during the normal registration period, since casting has not happened yet. If you are interested in a particular workshop, you should hold that space in your schedule so that in the event you are cast, you will be able to enroll and attend rehearsals. Auditions for department faculty workshops happen in the first week of classes, at the normal meeting time and location for the course. Guest artist workshops typically hold auditions a few weeks into the semester. All audition information will be posted on the department's Instagram and through the newsletter linked in the bio. There will be short descriptions from the professors choreographing, so that you can get a sense of the dance style of each piece.

## **2. Theory and Application Courses**

The Dance Department offers theory and application courses, some of which are movement-based in the studio, and some which are more traditional academic courses in a classroom setting. For prospective Dance Majors, it is highly recommended that you take the course Improvisation I in your first semester. Theory courses required for the major run once a year, meaning that they are *only* offered in either the fall or spring. Improvisation I is a prerequisite for several other dance theory courses, so if put off it may make it difficult to complete the major in four years (particularly if you are interested in double majoring). The following course sequence is suggested for Dance Majors, along with appropriate technique courses and workshops.

First Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
<u>DA 227</u> Improvisation I	<u>DA276</u> Dance Production	<u>DA 328</u> Choreography II	<u>DA 375</u> Senior Seminar
<u>DA 228</u> Choreography I	<u>DA 279</u> Music for Dancers	<u>Bridge Experience</u>	<u>DA 376</u> Senior Coda (Recommended, but not required)
<u>DA230</u> Dance and Society I	<u>DA274</u> Anatomy for Dancers (Recommended, but not required)		

### 3. Extracurricular Performance Opportunities

#### *Choreography II*

For the Choreography II course, which runs in the fall, the students enrolled create original choreographic pieces. The various pieces are performed at the end of the semester in the Choreography II Showcase. Students outside of the course are cast in the pieces, and those who audition can be in up to two choreographers' works. Auditions are held after the first week of classes and will be announced on the Instagram. Dancers of all levels and styles are welcome to attend the audition.

#### *Club Dance*

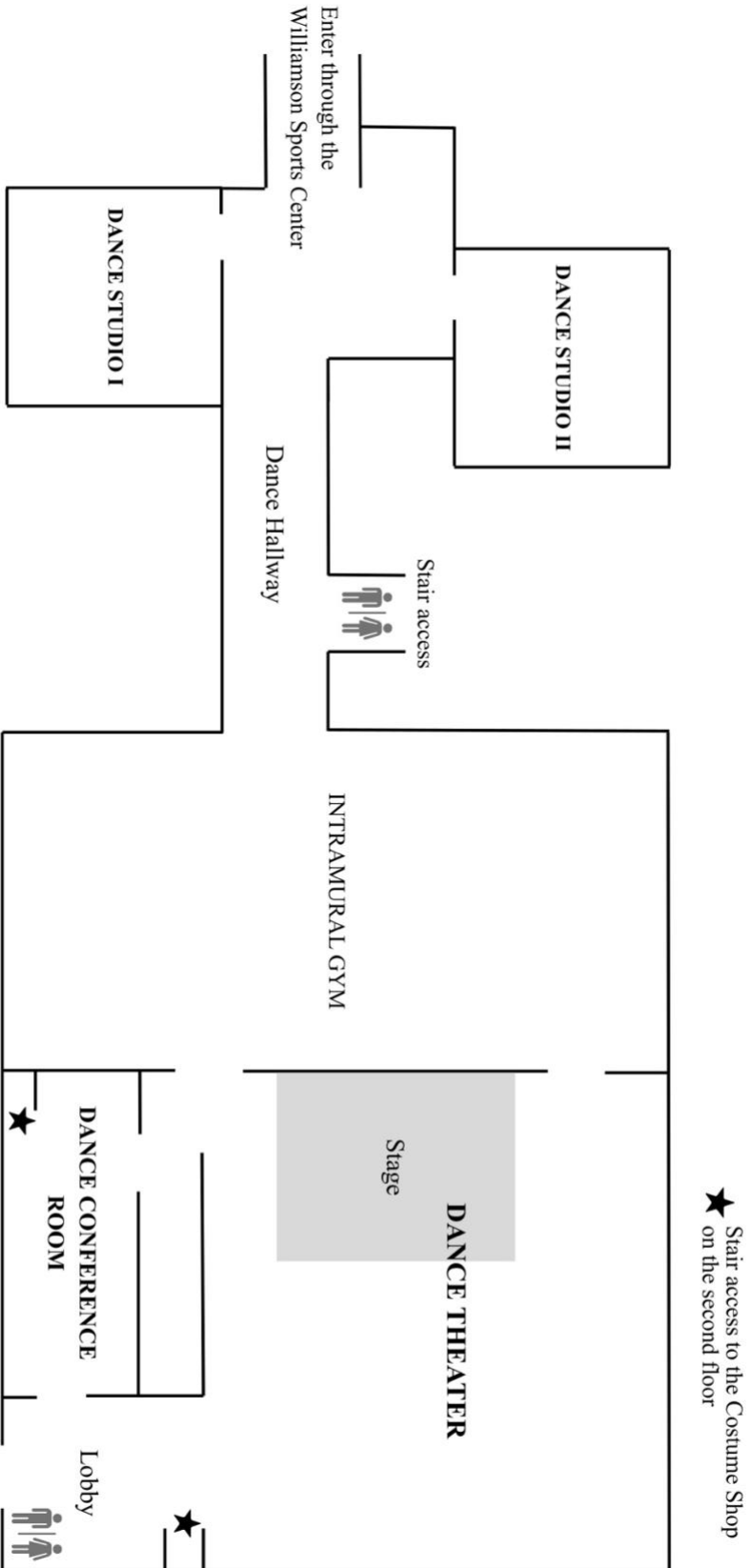
Skidmore has many student-led dance clubs in different styles, which perform at various school events. These clubs are not affiliated with the department, but are a fun way to get involved in a dance community outside of academic classes. Most clubs host auditions at the beginning of the year. The best way to keep up with those dates, as well as workshops and events open to all students, is to follow the groups on Instagram. The clubs available are listed under Dance through this link:

<https://www.skidmore.edu/sga/clubs/index.php>.

### **Be In The Know!**

Stay informed about the goings-on in the department through our Instagram and the newsletter, which comes out each semester. If you are not enrolled in a dance course in your first semester but would like to be added to the dance student mailing list, email Ellen Grandy (egrandy@skidmore.edu). And do not hesitate to reach out to Chair Sarah DiPasquale or Associate Chair Erika Pujič with any questions before registration or during the year. We hope to see you in the dance studios!

## Dance Facilities



The Dance Conference Room is a place for students to meet, work, and relax between rehearsals. There are desktop computers, a microwave, and a refrigerator that students may use.