The University of Rochester’s Program of Dance and Movement teaches diverse dance techniques and contemplative practices. Classes span modern, ballet, tap, West African, Brazilian, and Middle Eastern dancing as well as yoga, Qi Gong, and T’ai Chi. Dance appreciation, movement for health, and connectedness of body and mind are central to the program.

Students can minor in dance and movement, participate in classes as electives, or join any of the many cocurricular student dance groups. There are also four clusters available to students.

Regardless of a student’s career path, the program provides a foundation for ongoing learning and creative expression. Students explore dance and movement as art, spiritual practice, community building, and as a way toward personal and interpersonal development. Along the way, they learn to recognize dance and movement studies as scholarly endeavors that can enrich all aspects of their lives.

“Ours is a small, congenial, well-respected program. We attract students from across a variety of majors, all of whom benefit from what dance and movement can teach us about ourselves and others and about creativity and expression. These things inform everything we do, regardless of whether we are on a stage, in a classroom, or in a conference room.”
—Director of the Program of Dance and Movement
Missy Pfohl Smith

Points of Pride

The Performing Artist Series
Twice per semester, the program hosts guest performances, lecture-demonstrations, and workshops by internationally and nationally acclaimed artists and educators. Open to all, the series encourages discussion, stimulates the imagination, and enriches the community.

The inspireDANCE Festival
This annual multiday festival of concerts and dance classes and workshops is taught by dance and movement faculty and renowned guest artists. The festival provides bridges between the arts and other disciplines, creates opportunities for expression, and fosters a learning environment composed of students, faculty, staff, and community.

Workshops
Free and open to the public, the program’s workshops are offered throughout the year and focus on the creative, spiritual, and health benefits of dance and movement. Past workshops have been held on West African drumming, flamenco, stress management, and a variety of specific dance traditions.

“I love the program of dance and movement here because I feel like I have found that community I have always needed. The people in this program help make it possible to follow one’s dreams.”

Ezekiel Starling ’16
member of Indulgence, a student hip hop dance group, and Eugene Gee Schwartz ’42 Memorial Scholarship Fund recipient (2012–13)
How You Can Help
Gifts to the program help inspire the impulse to learn and create through dance and movement.

Programming
Support current programming or establish new activities, such as an artist-in-residence initiative. Or contribute funding or in-kind donations to improve and expand the studio space, which is in need of a sprung floor and a new theatrical lighting system. Naming opportunities for current studio and classroom space also exist. Funding is also needed to support participation in national dance conferences.

Scholarships
Supporting students is one of the highest priorities at Rochester. With more than 500 students currently participating in the program, scholarships and prizes are needed to support their passion for dance and movement.

Professorships
Endowed professorships help to attract and retain faculty and staff of exceptional talent and are visible honors recognized across the University and by other top educational institutions. Endow the position of program chair and gain the satisfaction of supporting academic and creative excellence.

Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—And Make the World Ever Better
www.rochester.edu/arts/dance

For more information on giving opportunities, please contact
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