The Ballet Department at the University of Utah has a history of excellence dating from 1951. In this groundbreaking year, William F. Christensen — noted dancer, teacher, and founder of the San Francisco Ballet Company — returned to his native Utah and founded one of the first ballet programs in an American university. As faculty was developed and the curriculum grew, the excellence of this program served as the foundation for other university ballet programs.

Faculty and graduates of the University of Utah’s Ballet Department were fundamental in the formation and growth of Ballet West, Utah’s major professional ballet company. Through the excellence and professional success of our faculty, students, and alumni, the Department of Ballet continues to attract a cosmopolitan enrollment of students from all 50 states and abroad. Numerous alumni are currently dancing professionally or working as ballet instructors and administrators in colleges, universities and other educational and professional organizations throughout the world.

In 1989 the beautiful, contemporary and ideally functional facility, The Alice Sheets Marriott Center for Dance was built specifically for dance. From 1996 on, surveys of dance administrators have consistently ranked the University of Utah undergraduate programs in Ballet and Modern Dance in the top 10% across the nation. In the summer of 2009, another first in American ballet was developed when Ballet West and the University of Utah Department of Ballet joined together for a summer intensive training program.

The Department of Ballet is an educational training center that prepares majors for professional performing and teaching careers, and encourages creative and scholarly research in undergraduate students. A balanced and comprehensive curriculum created for the 100-plus professionally-oriented students leads to the BFA Degree with an emphasis in Performance, Character Dance, or Teaching. Each emphasis is fully supported with opportunities for performance and/or choreography through participation in the Pre-Professional Trainee Program with Ballet West, Utah Ballet, Character Dance Ensemble, Ballet Ensemble, Ballet Showcase, Senior Concert.

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION, GO TO BALLET.UTAH.EDU

- Faculty
- Application for Acceptance
- Auditions
- Curriculum
- Scholarships
- Department Contacts
The University of Utah with approximately 30,000 students is situated in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains overlooking Salt Lake City. Salt Lake City has a vibrant professional dance community, offering students and professional dancers opportunities for involvement and development, as well as offering spectacular outdoor environments and exceptional recreation activities to enjoy.

All freshman and transfer students are required to audition for acceptance. The Ballet Major is a restricted major. Prospective students may audition with the Ballet Department in person, by DVD, or by participating in YAGP college audition class. They must also apply and be accepted to the University of Utah. International students must submit a TOEFL score to be considered for admission. For audition dates, visit ballet.utah.edu.
WHY THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH?

- The Ballet Department at the University of Utah has a history of excellence dating from 1951.
- The faculty, instructors, and staff of the University of Utah Department of Ballet have exceptional training, experience, and qualifications, including ABT National Training Curriculum Certification (see ballet.utah.edu for full faculty bios).
- Curriculum includes intensive daily technique classes, pointe, variations and men’s classes, choreography, pedagogy, modern dance, jazz dance, character dance, repertory, partnering, ballet history, kinesiology, pilates mat and reformer, music, mixed media and technical production.
- The Department is deeply integrated with internationally known Ballet West. Together, we host an annual 8-week summer intensive.
- The Department of Ballet maintains an active guest teacher/choreographer program. Recent visitors include: Rick Tija (Cirque du Soleil), Gailene Stock (Artistic Director, England’s Royal Ballet School), Summer Lee Rhatigan (San Francisco Conservatory of Dance), Desmond Richardson (Complexions Contemporary Ballet), Val Caniparoli (San Francisco Ballet), Uta-Graf Apostol (Palos Verdes Ballet), and Johanna Butow (American Ballet Theatre).
- Within the past 2 years, Department of Ballet graduates have been hired by the following companies: Ballet Fantastique, Ballet West, Bodyvox, Disney World, Georgia Ballet, Idaho Dance Theater, Ririe Woodbury Dance Company, Smaun Ballet and Tulsa Ballet Company, to name a few.
- Students receive an excellent general education from the exceptional faculty at the University of Utah, a Research-I University, ranked 79th in the world by Academic Ranking of World Universities, 2011.
- Salt Lake City has a rich professional dance community, including Ririe Woodbury Dance Company, Repertory Dance Theatre, and Odyssey Dance Theatre. It also fosters a growing independent/emerging artists’ presence.
- The University of Utah is NASD accredited.