Dance

Overview
Step into dance at Connecticut College, and you discover a program shaped by some of the most notable names in the field. The American Dance Festival was held here for 30 years, establishing the College’s reputation as a premier place to learn dance. You get the best of all worlds – a strong liberal arts education with an equally strong, comprehensive, supportive and demanding dance program that encourages interdisciplinary exploration. We are close to New York City, Boston and Providence and bring many guest artists and performances to campus. Our company-in-residence, David Dorfman Dance, teaches classes and choreographs works with students for a two-week period each semester. Recent guests include Kyle Abraham, Monica Bill Barnes and Faye Driscoll.

Personalized Learning
You are exposed to three levels of choreography and a variety of techniques, including modern, Afro-Caribbean, West African, improvisation and ballet. Most importantly, you are encouraged to find a singular voice for your artistry. Dance is a universal language and we hope you study abroad. Options range from Europe to Australia and India. You also have an opportunity to intern with a dance company or arts group.

Dance Productions
You are able to participate in at least six dance productions each year through the Dance Department and student-run clubs. Each spring, senior majors produce their own concert, creating a budget and choreographing and publicizing the show. Dance companies are associated with five of our professors, providing additional opportunities for performance.

Aaron Samuel Davis

Q: Did you study abroad?
A: I studied in Peru my junior year. I returned for a funded internship in Summer 2013 at the Afro-Peruvian Museum of El Carmen and the National Ballet of Peru in Lima. Peru’s rich history in dance led me there. My honors thesis research stems from my experiences abroad.

Q: What types of research have you done?
A: I did my own independent research through honors study with the help of professors David Dorfman, Rosemarie Roberts and Leo Garofalo. My work explores the complexities between dance and tourism as it relates to Afro-Peruvian dance's rich aesthetic. I explore the relationship among race, tourism, and the destruction of Afro-Peruvian dance and the abolishment of its cultural principles.

Q: What are your future plans?
A: I plan to pursue an MFA in choreography while dancing professionally. Afterward, I intend to pursue a doctoral degree in performance studies.
Faculty

Shani Collins Achille, Associate Professor of Dance; Chair of the Dance Department
B.A., Hollins University; M.F.A., Hollins University in partnership with the American Dance Festival
Dance theory and composition; West African dance and folklore; somatic practices; dance history

Shawn Hove, Assistant Professor of Dance
B.F.A., Cornish College of the Arts; M.F.A., Choreography, The Ohio State University
Dance production; dance lighting; mediated performance; dance film; dance documentation; choreography; dance technique

David Dorfman, Professor of Dance
B.S., Washington University; M.F.A., Connecticut College
Choreography

Heidi Henderson, Assistant Professor of Dance
B.A., Colby College; M.F.A., Smith College
Modern technique; improvisation; anatomy; choreography; dance writing

Lisa Race, Assistant Professor of Dance
B.A., Rutgers University; M.F.A., Hollins University in association with the American Dance Festival
Advanced modern technique; improvisation; dance for the camera

Marya Ursin, Adjunct Instructor in Dance
M.A., Swarthmore College
Yoga; mask, myth, movement

Rosemarie Roberts, Assistant Professor of Dance
B.A., Hunter College; M.A., Queens College, City University of New York; Ph.D., Graduate Center, City University of New York
Body, knowledge, power and difference; dance studies; intersection of arts and social justice; social psychology of performance and dance

Megan Williams, Visiting Artist, Ballet Instructor
Ballet

Richard Schenk, Musician/Composer for Dance
B.M., Oberlin College Conservatory of Music; M.M., Ohio State University
Dance composition; music for dance

Selected Courses

Three Levels of Choreography, Dance Production; Music for Dance; Dance and Technology; Dance Writing; Acting for Dancers; Anatomy of Movement; Pedagogy; Compositional Improvisation, and Embodied Resistance; Movement Techniques include: Modern/Post Modern, Afro-Caribbean, West African, Contact Improvisation and Ballet

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.