

DEPARTMENT OF

# DANCE

## Mission Statement

It is our mission to provide opportunities for students to develop spiritually, artistically, intellectually, and physically. Courses emphasize gospel principles, personal integrity, and individual enrichment along with dance instruction.

## What is this Department?

Those in Dance majors do much more than dance all day long. Yes, Dance majors are taking lots of dance classes to gain skill and improve ability, but much of their time is spent studying the history, science, and philosophy behind it. Studying dance at BYU-Idaho offers students a rare opportunity to engage critically with movement and the body within a safe and nurturing environment. Our standards and belief structures inform our work and increase our understanding of who we are.

We offer multiple styles/genres of dance: Modern Dance, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Ballroom (both Standard and Latin styles), Clogging, World, Yoga and Pilates. Our faculty are experts in each of these areas and can provide students with professional-level training.

We are a “hands on” program, where students can take advantage of teaching, choreographic, and directorial experiences as they study dance. This gives them lots of “real world” experience with dance before graduation.



## Justin Bates

DEPARTMENT CHAIR  
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Welcome to Dance! My name is Justin Bates and I currently serve as the Dance Department Chair. The Dance area has a great deal to offer students in terms of training and performing experiences.

Our faculty and facilities are among the best in the country and our modest size allows students increased faculty contact and leadership/artistic opportunities.

## Two Options

This major has two slightly different emphases that you can choose from, depending on what you want to get out of your time studying dance.

The Choreography and Performance Emphasis (655-168) is intended on preparing students for graduate work in Modern Dance, a career in Contemporary dance performance and choreography, or teaching in Contemporary dance styles.

The Pedagogy Emphasis (655-169) is built for those interested in going on to teach dance, at any level, with any style of dance (minimum of two). Typically, those who want to teach at a private studio will choose the Pedagogy emphasis. Both emphases learn the same historical, scientific, and pedagogical material, the big difference is the styles of dance that you study. We strongly believe being a well-rounded dancer opens more opportunities up to you and makes you more marketable.

Neither emphasis requires an audition to become a major. However, if you are not able to advance through the courses and complete the requirements, you can move to a major, minor, concentration, or cluster that is appropriate for your skill and still enable you to continue with dance in your studies.

## What to do First?

Often students will think that they should finish up their general education (Foundations) courses before they start in on their major classes. This is not a smart idea. To be a successful dance major, you will need to be in dance classes every semester in order to gain the necessary skill and ability to find work and be your very best.

If you are a Choreography and Performance emphasis you will need to be enrolled in DA 103 (Intro to Dance), DA 240R (Modern Dance Technique 1), and DA 290R (Ballet Technique I) in your first semester.

If you're a Pedagogy emphasis, you will need to be enrolled in DA 103 (Intro to Dance), and at least two movement classes, in styles of your choice, in your first semester.

## What Courses Should I Take my First Semester?

| 1ST SEMESTER       | CREDITS |
|--------------------|---------|
| DANCE 103          | 1       |
| DANCE 290R         | 2       |
| Elective technique | 2       |
| DANCE 240R         | 2       |
| FDSCI 101          | 2       |
| FDMAT 108          | 3       |
| FDENG 101          | 3       |
| FDREL 121 OR 122   | 2       |
|                    |         |
| 2ND SEMESTER       | CREDITS |
| DANCE 240R         | 2       |
| DANCE 242          | 2       |
| DANCE 290R         | 2       |
| Elective technique | 2       |
| FDSCI ISSUES       | 3       |
| FDENG 201          | 3       |
| FDHUM/FDWLD        | 2-3     |
| FDREL 121 OR 122   | 2       |

If you have questions regarding classes, contact your Academic Advisor in the College of Performing and Visual Arts:

(208) 496-9870

[CPVAadc@byui.edu](mailto:CPVAadc@byui.edu)

\*See BYU-I [Course Catalog](#) for expanded course descriptions.

# Understanding the Class Levels

All of our dance courses are based on a particular skill level. A 100-level class implies that it is a beginner (from scratch) level. Many dancers come to us with some skill in dance and we don't expect for those dancers to take a beginner-level class. You'll notice that many of our 200-level (and above) dance classes will contain the word "technique" in the title, like - "DA 240R - Modern Dance Technique 1". This is not a beginner class, and it focuses on technique in a detailed way. If you've had some experience with Contemporary dance, then you should take the Technique 1 course (200-level). If you are skipping the introductory or beginning level, you will need permission from the teacher who is teaching the class you are hoping to take. The best way to overcome this is to contact the instructor by email and let them know of your experience. They can then open that class for you to add.

# Performing Dance Companies

Regardless of major, anyone can audition to be on the dance companies. If you are a dance major, you will be receiving credit toward graduation by being on the companies and performing in our concerts. We have two dance companies:

- [The Collegiate Dancers](#) is a faculty-mentored dance company where students in Ballroom, Contemporary, and World Dance can create, direct, and perform in Extravagance and other local performance/workshop settings.
- [Dance Alliance](#) is a faculty-directed dance company where students have the opportunity to perform in Extravagance and represent the University and Church on extended tours during the seven-week break in late summer. Dance Alliance is a two-semester team operating on the Winter and Spring semesters.

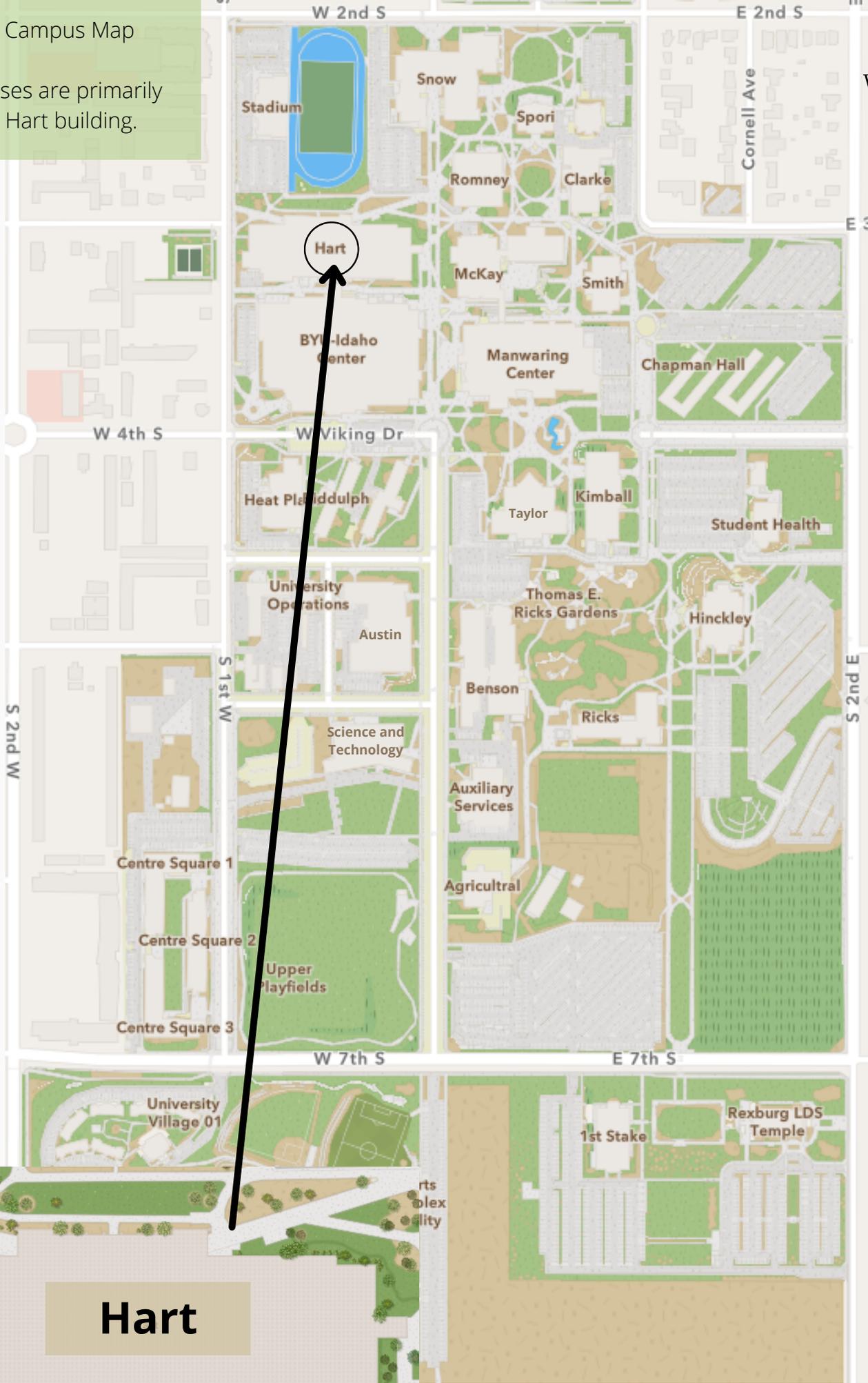
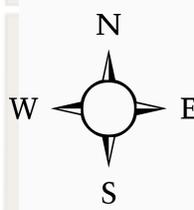
Auditions for [Dance Alliance](#) are in January. Auditions for [Collegiate Dancers](#), which operates in Fall and Winter semesters, occur during the first two weeks of each of these semesters. There will also be an information meeting held before the auditions in order to explain the audition process and what the directors/choreographers are looking for that semester. Check the department webpage and office for more information on times and locations for the meeting and the auditions. There is nothing that you need to prepare beforehand for those auditions. You will be taught a number of sequences and then the judging panel will watch you perform them.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or visit our website at [www.byui.edu/dance](http://www.byui.edu/dance)

Justin Bates

# BYU-Idaho Campus Map

Dance classes are primarily held in the Hart building.



**Hart**