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Guidelines for Dance and Choreography

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1. Purpose.

Collections in Dance and Choreography support teaching, research, and practice consistent with the curriculum at a Doctoral University: Highest Research Activity, under Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education with a bachelor's degree program in the field.

The Department of Dance and Choreography offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Students receive a B.F.A. by following either the main dance and choreography track or a curriculum developed in partnership with the Richmond Ballet Trainee division. This latter track has a larger emphasis on ballet. The department supports a vibrant and stimulating atmosphere preparing students for the demands and challenges of careers in dance.



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The curriculum of the B.F.A. in Dance and Choreography emphasizes both technique /performance as well creativity through improvisation and choreography courses. Performance and creative elements of the program are supported with theoretical courses on dance pedagogy and perspectives. A wide variety of dance genres and movement courses are offered in addition to the required modern and ballet technique classes.

2. General Collection Guidelines.

A. Language.

English is the preferred language for materials. Significant materials in western languages are selectively collected when there is no English translation, or where the primary value exists in the images and illustrations.

B. Chronology.

No restrictions on chronology, though an emphasis is placed on 20th and 21st-century works.

C. Geography.

No restrictions.

D. Publication Date.

Current material is actively collected. Out-of-print and retrospective titles significant to the field are also acquired.

E. Treatment of Subject.

Critical, technical, and historical works are collected. Upper-level textbooks, as well as titles regarding kinesiology, injury prevention, and dance conditioning, are acquired on a selective basis. With the exception of resources valuable to dance education, juvenile materials are not collected.

F. Types of Materials and Formats.

Monographs, reference works, and serials are acquired. Physical copies are preferred where images and illustrations are a primary concern.

Streaming media programs are actively sought and evaluated for content relevant to the arts. The development of streaming platforms and the negotiations of copyright is closely monitored. To assure uninterrupted access, DVD is the currently preferred format for core titles and remains the only available option for many titles. Videocassettes and 16mm films are maintained, as these provide essential support for this performance-oriented discipline. More accessible versions of works held in legacy formats are actively pursued. Legacy formats are retained for unique and important content and where a particular medium is preferred.

Electronic and online resources to support the Department of Dance and Choreography are actively sought and evaluated for acquisition.



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3. Area Resources.

VCU is a member of the Richmond Area Film/Video Cooperative, which provides access to area members' film holdings.

4. Subjects and Collecting Levels.

Resources for Dance and Choreography are collected at an instructional support level (3)