



TRAINING.CHOREOGRAPHY.MENTORSHIP

# CAREER PATHWAYS FOR DANCERS

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## PERFORMANCE ROUTE

(Concert)Company Dancer

Commercial Dancer - Tv/Film Work

Dance Print Work (Photography/Modeling)

## EDUCATOR ROUTE

Dance Studio Instructor

Freelance Teacher

Dance Convention Instructor

Dance Competition Adjudicator

College Dance Program Professor

Dance Curriculum Developer

Performing Arts School Educator

Public School Dance Program Educator

Dance Fitness Instructor

## HEALTH ROUTE

Dance Medicine Specialist

Physical Therapist

Physical Trainer

Nutritionist for Dancers

## CREATIVE/ARTISTIC ROUTE

Dance Photographer

Dance Videographer

Dance Wear Designer

Choreographer

## BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROUTE

Costume Designer

Lighting/Set Designer

Stage Management/Production Crew

## ADMINISTRATIVE ROUTE

Dance Studio Owner

Dance Company or Studio Administrator/Manager

Social Media Manager/Marketing for a Dance Company or Studio

# PERFORMANCE ROUTE

## CHARACTERISTICS

Enthusiastic

Confident

Flexible

Resilient

Determined

Vulnerable

## (CONCERT) COMPANY DANCER

Concert dance (also known as performance dance or theater dance) is dance performed for an audience. Concert dancers frequently performed in a theater setting, though this is not a requirement, and typically dance in a dance company.

## COMMERCIAL DANCER - TV/FILM WORK

Commercial dance refers to performing in music videos, touring with musicians, TV commercials, films, and other gig-to-gig type of work. Commercial Dancers often join an agency, although it is not required.

## DANCE PRINT WORK (PHOTOGRAPHY/MODELING)

Dancers make excellent models because they know how to move, they are disciplined, they exude confidence and they can work the camera. Print work includes, modeling for costume companies, ambassador for dance wear brands, ect.

## NEXT STEPS

- Talk to a trusted dance teacher or studio owner about how you can improve your dance training
- Diversify your training; take new classes with different styles, instructors, and environments
- Go to auditions...practice being out of your comfort zone

# EDUCATOR ROUTE

## CHARACTERISTICS

Patient

Kind

Relational

Organized

Prepared

### DANCE STUDIO INSTRUCTOR

Dance instructors teach dance moves and techniques to individuals and groups. They may specialize in one or more dance genres. They may also be called Dance Educators or Dance Teachers.

### FREELANCE TEACHER

Freelance Teachers have the freedom to visit studios, dance companies, or dance programs periodically as Master Class instructors or Guest Teachers and often specialize in a specific dance genre. Freelance Teachers are often in charge of managing their own marketing, publicity, scheduling, negotiating contracts, and securing opportunities.

### DANCE CONVENTION INSTRUCTOR

Dance Convention Instructors are well qualified dance instructors who specialize in a specific genre or area of expertise of dance that travel with dance conventions.

### DANCE COMPETITION ADJUDICATOR

Dance Competition Adjudicators are instructors that are certified by a specific organization or competition to evaluate a performance based on a given criteria.

### COLLEGE DANCE PROGRAM PROFESSOR

As a College Dance Program Professor, their duty is to teach various aspects of dance such as choreography, art theory, and dance technique to students at a college or university. This can include instructing through a full semester or through a residency.

### DANCE CURRICULUM DEVELOPER

A Dance Curriculum Developer designs to impart dance performance skills or knowledge of dance to both students and teachers. Curriculum may cover any of a diverse range of topics including dance notation, human anatomy, physics, dance history, cultural aspects of dance, and musicality.

### PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL EDUCATOR

A Performing Arts Teacher works at a Performing Arts School preparing students for a performance, exam, or assessment. They also prepare and deliver lectures to students on topics such as dance, theater, art, and music. They evaluate students' classwork, performances, projects, assignments, and papers.

# EDUCATOR ROUTE CONT.

## PUBLIC SCHOOL DANCE PROGRAM EDUCATOR

A Public School Dance Program Educator instructs students in various styles of dance at the school they teach at. In addition to teaching, they also oversee possible competitive dance programs as well as non-competitive dance as part of a fitness or physical education program.

## DANCE FITNESS INSTRUCTOR

Dance Fitness Instructors create dance routines that flow and are easy for clients of all fitness levels and skill to follow. They must keep the class moving and motivated by providing easy instruction for clients to follow their lead.

## NEXT STEPS

- Talk to your studio owner about assisting classes at your studio/dance program
- Look for ways you can continue your education in dance: College's, certificate programs, ect.
- Continue your own dance training...the more you know, the more you can teach!
- Read books about anatomy, body development, child development, artistry ect.

# HEALTH ROUTE

## CHARACTERISTICS

Empathetic

Emotionally Mature

Dedicated

Attentive

Desire to Learn

## DANCE MEDICINE SPECIALIST

Dance Medicine is a specialized realm of healthcare that addresses unique challenges that dancers face. Dance Medicine Specialists have specialized knowledge required to properly diagnose injuries and safely return a dancer to activity.

## PHYSICAL THERAPIST

In relation to dance, Physical Therapists focus on healing the individual so they can safely participate in dance as well as teach dancers how to prevent re-injuring themselves. Physical Therapists can work as a part of their own practice or alongside a dance company or on-call for a dance program.

## PHYSICAL TRAINER

In relation to dance, Physical Trainers aid dancers in cross-training by using physical activity and movement to assist their dance training and help injury prevention.

## NUTRITIONIST FOR DANCERS

Nutritionists' main role is to educate dancers on how dietary strategies can enhance performance, recovery and health.

## NEXT STEPS

- Take classes at your school in Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Health, ect.
- Do research on your desired career choice to determine the required education level

# BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROUTE

## CHARACTERISTICS

Meticulous

Selfless

Problem Solver

Creative

Team Player

## COSTUME DESIGNER

Costume designers design and create costumes for productions, shows, or performances to help communicate a story/theme. Whether purchasing, creating, or tailoring costume pieces, the costume designer is in charge of the costume team, budget, and time frame for the project.

## LIGHTING DESIGNER

A Lighting Designer works with Lighting Technicians to create the visuals for lighting, lasers, strobes, spots and sometimes video screens for a performance.

## SET DESIGNER

The set designer, also known as the scenic designer, is responsible for designing the artificial environment in which a stage, television, or film performance takes place.

## STAGE MANAGEMENT

Stage Managers facilitate communication across all creative and technical departments; act as a right hand to the director; oversee sets, props, lights, and sound; and call all technical cues during performances.

## PRODUCTION CREW

Production Crew Members look after the setting up, dismantling, removal and maintenance of music and theater production equipment for stage performances. They also transport and maintain equipment between shows.

## NEXT STEPS

- Talk to your studio or dance program and see if you can help with any of their behind-the-scenes for upcoming shows
- Get involved with your school theater program or a local theater group

# CREATIVE/ARTIST ROUTE

## CHARACTERISTICS

Charismatic

Imaginative

Ambitious

Investigative

Persistent

## DANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

Dance Photographers can specialize in performance or events which means photographing the dancers on-stage and backstage, or specialize in dance photoshoots in a photography studio or location.

## DANCE VIDEOGRAPHER

Dance Videographers can be hired for a wide variety of jobs including: filming a concept video, filming a performance or event, filming classes or other behind-the-scenes work. Along with on-site filming, videographers also edit their raw footage to create the final product their employer hired them for.

## DANCEWEAR DESIGNER

A Dancewear Designer can either start their own dancewear line or join an existing company. They help to sketch, plan, and create prototypes of the new dancewear they design.

## CHOREOGRAPHER

A Choreographer creates and plans routines for a performance. Choreographers can work for dance studios, dance companies, freelance, for commercial work such as TV or live events.

## NEXT STEPS

- Start practicing! Creativity is cultivated over time so go ahead and start small or start big but just like anything else, practice makes perfect!
- Find someone you admire who is successfully doing what you want to do and ask to shadow them



# ADMINISTRATIVE ROUTE

## CHARACTERISTICS

Communication

Decisive

Committed

Time Management

Assertive

## DANCE STUDIO OWNER

Dance Studio Owners operate academies that teach dance moves and techniques to individuals and groups. They often are in-charge of all final decisions made for the business along with helping troubleshoot any changes in the industry that may affect their studio.

## DANCE COMPANY OR STUDIO ADMINISTRATOR/MANAGER

As a dance administrator, your job is to help run a dance studio or academy. In this role, you may help enrollment efforts, advertise your company to potential parents and students, and perform various administrative tasks to help keep your school running.

## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

As a social media manager, you'll manage an organization's online presence by developing a strategy, producing good content, analyzing usage data, facilitating customer service and managing projects and campaigns.

## MARKETING

A Marketer is in charge of cultivating a company or business 'Brand'. They help to manage all information put out to the public to maintain the business' Image and intrigue future customers to invest.

## NEXT STEPS

- Listen to podcasts, read books, and take classes to learn about business and industry
- Talk with your studio or dance program workers about important skills they value in your desired position
- Start small by hosting a fundraiser