



# Supporting YOUNG ARTISTS

We're guessing that you already have a passion for dance in one (or several) of its many forms: ballet, modern dance, jazz. Maybe you've been a "dance kid" for years and gravitate toward other like-minded kids, or maybe it's something that has more recently taken hold of you.

Whether your love for dance is long-standing or somewhat more recent, we thought we'd start from first position to give you an idea of what it's like to be a Dance major at Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and show you where an education here at Walnut Hill can take you.

## DANCE MAJORS: *positioned for success*

Dance studies at Walnut Hill provide a solid foundation for the continuation of artistic pursuits while also developing skills like confidence, collaboration, and persistence that will serve you well in any number of future endeavors. We couple those skills with a rigorous academic program, and as a result, **YOU ARE POISED FOR SUCCESS.**

Walnut Hill Dance students have continued their studies at some of the world's best colleges, conservatories, and companies including:

|                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alberta Ballet                  | The Juilliard School              |
| Alvin Ailey Dance Theater       | Kansas City Ballet                |
| Barnard College                 | Nashville Ballet                  |
| Ballet Austin                   | National Ballet of Canada         |
| Boston Ballet                   | New York City Ballet              |
| The Boston Conservatory         | Orlando Ballet                    |
| Boston University               | Pacific Northwest Ballet          |
| Ballet Hispanico                | Pennsylvania Ballet               |
| Ballet San Antonio              | Princeton University              |
| Butler University               | Purchase College (SUNY)           |
| Colorado Ballet                 | Richmond Ballet                   |
| Complexions Contemporary Ballet | Royal Ballet of Flanders          |
| Duke University                 | Royal Danish Ballet               |
| Fordham University              | Smith College                     |
| The Forsythe Company            | San Francisco Ballet              |
| Houston Ballet                  | Stanford University               |
| Hubbard Street Dance Chicago    | University of Southern California |
| Indiana University              | Vanderbilt University             |
| Joffrey Ballet                  | Vassar College                    |

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO SCHEDULE A TOUR?

ADMISSION OFFICE:  
508.650.5020 • [admissions@walnuthillarts.org](mailto:admissions@walnuthillarts.org)

[walnuthillarts.org](http://walnuthillarts.org)

Walnut Hill School for the Arts  
12 Highland Street | Natick, MA 01760



# E C N A D

*Ready to take the leap?*

EST.  1893  
**WALNUT HILL**  
SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS





Day in the Life of a  
Dance Major  
@ Walnut Hill

MORNING



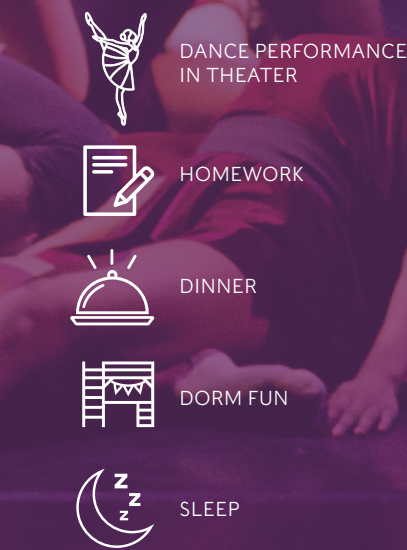
NOONISH



AFTERNOON



EVENING



frequently  
asked  
QUESTIONS

How much dance training should a  
prospective student have prior to  
attending Walnut Hill?

Most of our dancers have between 6 and 8 years of training before they get here. It doesn't matter whether you come from a big studio or a small studio, but it matters whether your training has been based in ballet. The Dance program here is ballet-based, so having a strong foundation sets dancers at Walnut Hill up for success.

How many years on pointe should I  
have prior to attending Walnut Hill?

Dancers are expected to have at least 2 years of pointe prior to arriving here. Students dance 6 days a week and are placed in the appropriate program of classes according to their level of strength and technical ability. All Dance students receive 2 to 3 daily dance classes, which always include a ballet technique class.

What is the average dance class size at  
Walnut Hill?

We generally have 16 –20 students per level; there are 3 levels within the Dance Department. Each year, students are placed in the appropriate level, according to technical ability and strength. At each level, a schedule of classes has been created to develop both the physical strength and the technical proficiency that propel a student toward artistic growth.

What kind of programs do Dance  
majors consider after Walnut Hill?

Our dancers go on to conservatory programs and more traditional colleges, and some go on to dance in a company. Our College Counseling Office is robust and supportive, designed to guide Dance students through the stressful time of applying to both colleges and conservatories. The process includes traditional college counseling support, as well as dance-specific support.

Walnut Hill has established partnerships with two of America's premier dance institutions, Ballet Austin and the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Seniors have the opportunity to be selected for Ballet Austin's Butler Fellowship Program and to participate in a degree program at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, in which students can earn a B.F.A. in Dance in 3 years (instead of the usual 4).

What are the performance opportunities?

The department presents 10–12 performances of *The Nutcracker* in December, which has 3 casts. We also have 4 performances of *Spring Repertory*, which consists of classical, modern, jazz, and contemporary work. The performance year ends in May with 3 performances of *New Works*, a production built on the creative work that seniors accomplish in Choreography class.

How is health and wellness  
incorporated in the Dance program?

We take the health and wellness of our dancers seriously. In fact, we are on the forefront of an industry movement actively working toward injury prevention by both studying stress points and incorporating TRX cross-training into our curriculum. We are currently entering the 4th year of a long-term injury prevention study affiliated with Boston Children's Hospital.

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT BEING HERE?

When you get here, you'll be dancing with other like-minded people — a whole group of students from across the globe who are passionate about their chosen art.



PARTNERSHIPS:



DANCE CLASSES

|                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ballet Pedagogy         | Open Division Dance               |
| Basic Modern Partnering | Pas de Deux                       |
| Choreography            | Pilates                           |
| Dance Workshops         | Pointe II & III/Variations        |
| Filmmaking for Dancers  | Special Topics                    |
| Injury Prevention       | Technique Class & Men's Technique |
| Jazz Class              | TRX Suspension Training           |
| Modern Technique        |                                   |