

So, you want to major in dance, but your parents aren't on board?

You've tried, "I love to dance, it makes me feel good and uses my passion!"
You've tried, "Art makes the world a better place!"

But your mom is doubtful.
But your dad isn't buying it.

Here are the facts...

-The top ten attributes employers are looking for are¹:

	<i>How dance relates</i>
• Ability to work in a team	Rehearsing, collaborative teaching assignments
• Problem-solving skills	Editing choreography, finding grant funding
• Communication skills (written)	Papers on Dance History and dance theory topics
• Strong work ethic	Persevering through multiple dance classes a day
• Communication skills (verbal)	Giving and taking feedback in classes and rehearsal, teaching classes effectively
• Leadership	Running rehearsals and classes
• Initiative	Turning an idea for choreography into an actual dance work, auditioning for companies
• Analytical/quantitative skills	Dance technology coursework, developing budgets
• Flexibility/adaptability	Adapting teaching lesson plans to various age groups, site-specific choreography
• Detail-oriented	Applying and retaining corrections

-Millenials will likely change jobs four times in their first decade out of college.² This means you'll need:

• Adaptability	Training not just to be a dancer, but to choreograph, teach, write grants, lead others, use technology, research topics
• Self-promotion	Learning to look for dance job opportunities, creating application packets appropriate for those jobs, articulating strengths that relate to the specific job applying for; promoting/marketing dance concerts; learning to talk about dance/self with non-artists
• Self-confidence	Built through auditioning, teaching, and performing

Whether you go on to a job in a dance field or a different one, you will have gained the skills you need through your dance major.

At USM Dance, we prepare our majors for post-graduation careers. We feature:

- *Nationally-renowned faculty members, who continue to teach, perform, and choreograph across the U.S., while interacting personally with each dance major
- *Guest artists in varying styles, such as West African dance, modern dance, dance theatre, house, vogue, jazz, Horton-technique, and social dance
- *Internship requirement for all majors. Developed in conjunction with the student's adviser, the internship furthers the education and exposure to an area of professional interest for the student. Recent students' internships include participating in: USM's British Studies Dance Program in London, the American Dance Festival, Mark Morris Dance Group's winter intensive, the International Association of Black Dance conference, lead intern for the Mississippi Dance Festival, and choreographing for summer stock musical performances. Additional opportunities in dance education, dance therapy, arts administration, marketing, and more are available.
- *An alumni network around the nation. Our graduates within the last 10 years:
 - Dance professionally in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Atlanta, Austin, Nashville, New Orleans, Orlando, Indianapolis, Birmingham, Jackson, and Hattiesburg.

¹ From *Attributes Employers Seek on a Candidate's Resumé*, by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, December, 2016.

² From *The New Normal: Four job changes by the time you're 32*, report by CNNMoney, April, 2016.

- Teach in studios, colleges, and licensed K-12 programs throughout Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Illinois, New York, Georgia, California, and Tennessee. We have a 100% job placement rate for USM dance majors who pursue our K-12 dance education licensure track.
- Run dance companies in New York, Austin, Chicago, New Orleans, and Hattiesburg.
- Have gone to graduate schools in New York, California, Utah, Illinois, Florida, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C. for advanced degrees in performance, choreography, arts administration, and dance/movement therapy.
- Have shown choreography in New York, California, Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Texas, Florida, Utah, Alabama, Mississippi, and Washington, D.C.

Not only will you be prepared as a dance artist/educator at USM's Dance Department, you will have connections and resources to draw on around the nation.

For more information about the Department of Dance at Southern Miss, visit www.usm.edu/dance .

Are you a Sophomore, Junior or Senior in high school and interested in majoring in dance in college? We offer High School Dance Day each semester so you can come to campus and 'be a dance major' for a day! Check out www.usm.edu/dance/high-school-dance-day .