The University of Oklahoma School of Dance is ranked one of the top three programs in the nation by Dance Magazine for training in ballet and modern dance techniques, pointe, composition, dance history, Pilates body conditioning, repertoire, pas de deux, teaching methods, performance practices and choreography.

Students enjoy a wide spectrum of performance opportunities, beginning with spring and fall productions at OU. In addition, dance productions tour the state and region presenting full-length performances, one-act ballets, modern dance performances, lecture-demonstrations and a variety of youth concerts and workshops. Opera and musicals provide still other performance outlets, as do productions of student choreography and international tours to such countries as Japan, Ecuador, Mexico, Taiwan, France, Paraguay, China and Austria.

Degrees
While experiencing life on a large college campus, students receive the personal attention needed as they work toward a degree and career in dance. Three curricula on the undergraduate level lead to a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance, while the graduate program leads to a master of fine arts degree. Undergraduates may select a curriculum in ballet performance or pedagogy or in modern dance performance. Graduate students may elect to emphasize ballet or modern dance.

All undergraduate programs include university-wide required courses in theatre and related arts. These courses, combined with the Dance curriculum, assure dance majors a complete educational experience in a demanding performing art.

Auditions
Admission to all degree programs in the School of Dance is by audition. Please contact the School of Dance to register for an audition on one of the designated annual dates. For more specific audition information, please visit the School of Dance website at www.ou.edu/finearts/dance/admissions

Scholarships
The School of Dance offers a variety of undergraduate scholarships and tuition waivers ranging in amount from $1,100 to $10,000. Scholarships are based on merit, and a scholarship audition combined with the entrance audition is required for entering students. Assuming appropriate student progress and available funding, scholarships may be continued throughout the academic career. School of Dance Scholarship applications must be submitted by all student applicants by March 15 of each year. Assistantships and fellowships are available on the graduate level.

Faculty
The School of Dance boasts an internationally recognized faculty that blends academic skill and professional dance experience in ballet and modern dance. Faculty members have danced with the Boston Ballet, Houston Ballet, Harkness Ballet, Aliley II, the José Limón Dance Company and Pilobolus. They draw on a rich background of styles, with international balletic roots and contemporary roots in the Limón and Horton techniques. Future professionals thus receive outstanding technical, artistic and theatrical training, combined with a professional sense of discipline. Additional staff members include teaching assistants, accompanists, a music coordinator, four body conditioning specialists, a youth programs coordinator and two adjunct faculty.

Facilities
The School of Dance moved into its new home in the Donald W. Reynolds Performing Arts Center in March 2005. This state-of-the-art facility includes dance studios, a Pilates studio, media center, warm-up areas, faculty offices, and a European-style performance hall. Additional studios are housed in the adjacent Fine Arts Center which includes the Rupel J. Jones Theatre. These complete theatrical and educational facilities provide students with extensive technical and performance opportunities.
Background of the School
The School of Dance had its official beginning in 1961 when Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo principal dancers, Miguel Terekhov and Yvonne Chouteau were invited to teach “a few classes.” Response to these classes was so positive that Terekhov was invited to develop the present program. With a reputation for strong performance capabilities and the high quality and professionalism of its graduates, the program quickly rose to national prominence.

The School emphasizes performance and now boasts two performing companies. Oklahoma Festival Ballet has a repertoire of over 40 one-act and full-length ballets, while Contemporary Dance Oklahoma features one-act modern dance works.

Former students have established professional careers in dance with the Boston, Cincinnati, Dallas, Frankfurt, Houston, Joffrey, Louisville, Miami City, Pacific Northwest and Pittsburgh ballet companies, as well as in Broadway musicals, national touring companies and modern dance companies such as Jennifer Muller, Aliley II, the Graham Ensemble, ODC and Dallas Black Dance Company. Many teach in professional schools and colleges. Others serve as choreographers, managers and technicians.

Guest Artists
Helen Simoneau, Kathleen Ridlon, Darrell Moutrie and Nathan Trice, as well as Francoise Martinet, Earl Mosely, Paul Sutherland, Charthel Arthur, Violette Verdy and Sonia Dawkins have all staged or choreographed works for our companies. Kathleen Tracey, New York City Ballet ballet mistress, staged three ballets from the Balanchine repertoire for our dancers. Additional guest artists include Zippora Karz, Virginia Johnson, Dudley Williams, Mark Dendy, Howard Sayette and Helen Starr. The School of Dance has hosted Taylor 2 for a week of master classes and open rehearsals culminating in a sold out performance.

The School of Dance is committed to continuing its guest artist program to provide our students with a national perspective as they work toward professional careers. The Susan E. Brackett Visiting Artist Chair ensures the international stature of our visiting artists. Recent Susan E. Brackett Visiting Artist Chairs were the legendary Frederic Franklin, the noted Ballerina Violette Verdy, Jack Anderson and a remarkable visit by acclaimed modern dancers Betty Jones and Fritz Ludin.

Our Students
Students in the School of Dance are highly recruited, talented young dancers from 29 states. Many have received scholarships to prestigious summer programs such as PNB Summer Intensive, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center Intensive, Boston Ballet Summer Intensive, ABT Summer Intensive, Alonso King’s Lines in San Francisco, the American Dance Festival, the Magnus Midwest Intensive, the Joffrey Summer Intensive, Ballet Austin Summer Intensive and Ririe Woodbury Intensive. At OU they thrive in an exciting, challenging and supportive atmosphere as they dance works by Agnes de Mille, Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine, Ben Stevenson, Darrell Moutrie, Antony Tudor, Helen Simoneau, Alun Jones and Fritz Ludin. Interdisciplinary projects with students and faculty from across the college are also inspiring creative opportunities.

Once at OU, over 40% of dance majors qualify for the Honors Program proving their dedication to realizing their educational and artistic goals.

Our students are supported by scholarships and the success of our annual fund-raiser, Once Upon a Dream and Dance Partners, an enthusiastic group of patrons committed to raising competitive scholarship funds. They are also supported by University of Oklahoma President, David L. Boren and an administration that values the arts in our society.

The University of Oklahoma
Created by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890, The University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic and health-care needs of the state, region and nation. The Norman campus serves as home to all of the university’s academic programs except health-related fields. Both the Norman and Health Sciences Center colleges offer programs at the Schusterman Center, the site of OU-Tulsa. The OU Health Sciences Center, which is located in Oklahoma City, is one of only four comprehensive academic health centers in the nation with seven professional colleges. OU enrolls more than 30,000 students, has more than 2,400 full-time faculty members, and has 21 colleges offering 163 majors at the baccalaureate level, 166 majors at the master’s level, 81 majors at the doctoral level, 27 majors at the doctoral professional level, and 26 graduate certificates. The university’s annual operating budget is $1.5 billion. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

www.ou.edu/finearts  IN THE OU ARTS DISTRICT!