

YOUR DANCE DEGREE AFTER COLLIN: THE TRANSFER PROCESS

Select the best answer:

- A. I am majoring in Dance.
- B. I am minoring in Dance.
- C. I *might* major or minor in Dance.

Did you select A, B, or C? If so, then you should start planning the transfer process **NOW! Read on for details...**

Self Survey for Dance Students: Determining Transfer Priorities

What are your priorities for your transfer school? Understanding your needs will increase your ability for success in a university dance program.

1. What are my individual strengths? (personal, academic, dance)
Honestly assess your needs and technical abilities. Seek out faculty for discussion and assessment.
2. What dance careers am I interested in?
3. Why do I want to enter a college dance program?
4. What do I want from a program, degree or school?
5. Do I want to explore dance-related fields such as kinesiology, dance therapy, dance history, dance notation and/or arts administration?
6. What kinds of techniques (ballet, modern, jazz, etc) or styles (Limón, Graham, Taylor, etc) do I want to study?
7. Do I want to minor in a secondary subject?
8. What are my needs outside of school?
9. What type of college experience am I interested in? (football games, sororities/fraternities, etc.)
10. Am I more comfortable in a large or small city?
11. Do I want/need to be close to my family and home?
12. Will I be in or near a city that brings in professional companies?
13. Is the size of the student body a factor?
14. What are my financial considerations?

Getting Started...

- Research potential schools that fit the above criteria from your Self Survey
- Talk to an academic advisor
- Discuss with dance faculty
- Research financial assistance/aid
- **Select 6 dance programs to further investigate**
 - o 2 dream schools
 - o 2 comfortable schools
 - o 2 back up schools
- **Research the specific application process for each school:**
 - o Audition required?
 - o Application fee/deadline?
 - o Letter(s) of recommendation? *(Allow at least one month for your recommender to complete the letter after (s)he has agreed to your request.)*
 - o Resume? Photo? Essay?
 - o Placement exams?
 - o Scholarship auditions? Financial aid deadlines?
- **Talk about your interests and career goals with your family/support system**
- **Absorb as much dance as you can: attend performances and lectures, read online articles (visit ArtsJournal.com), talk with friends and faculty, etc.**
- **Strongly consider completing your Associate of Arts at Collin College PRIOR to transferring.**

Transferring with your AA/core complete will allow you to focus on major/minor courses.

How to Choose a School: Questions to Ask Colleges & Universities (Compiled from Dance Magazine)

General Questions to Ask:

- Does the school have a liberal arts emphasis or conservatory training?
 - Liberal Arts: Focused on training performers, educators, and choreographers; well-rounded curriculum including technique, pedagogy, choreography, and performance; designed for the professional artist who wants to teach, choreograph, or perform; can be competitive
 - Conservatory: Focused on training performers; based heavily on technique; some courses on pedagogy and choreographic design; designed for the professional artist who wants to perform; can be more competitive
- What degrees does the school offer? Are there degrees/programs in arts management, dance theory, dance education, dance therapy, dance and technology, or film and video?
- What is the size of the student body?
- How many dance majors/minors are in the department?
- Does the school have a graduate program? Do graduate assistants teach?
- What kinds of technique are offered? How many technique classes are required/offered per week? How many levels of technique are offered?
- What is the ratio of the academic requirements to studio hours?
- What is the student/teacher ratio?
- Are there any honors programs in dance?
- Do students study pedagogy? Do they get first-hand experience by assisting classes?
- Are there grants available for travel, choreographic projects or research?
- Are there any internship programs available?
- Are there any summer dance programs in the vicinity?
- Does the school participate in the American College Dance Association?
- How many guest artists does the program bring to the school?
- Does the school offer the opportunity to meet and connect with dance professionals other than the faculty?
- What are the opportunities to view dance in the area?
- Who are the alumni of the program? Where have they gone, and what are they doing? (*Is this what you want to do?*)

- How selective is the dance program? How many apply and how many are accepted? What are the GPA requirements for acceptance? What standardized tests are required?

Questions to Ask About Facilities and Student Services:

- Are the studios spacious, clean, and well ventilated?
- Do class numbers correspond with the studio size?
- What is the surface you will be dancing on (Marley, wood, concrete)?
- Are the floors sprung so dancers will not sustain injuries?
- Are dance classes accompanied by live music?
- Is the atmosphere conducive to optimum learning?
- Is there access to good medical personnel, physical therapists, nutritionists, etc?
- What kinds of on-campus organizations and student services are available?
- How much individual attention do students receive?

Questions to Ask About Financial Issues:

- What are the tuition and room and board costs? What is the cost of living in the area?
- Is there a residency requirement for freshmen and/or transfer students?
- What scholarships are available? Are they merit or need-based?
- What type of financial aid assistance is available?
- Are there tuition deferment plans, grants, and/or work-study opportunities?
- Does the college offer future job placement?

Questions to Ask About Performance and Choreography:

- What are the performing opportunities? How many performances are there per year? What venues are there?
- Who choreographs/directs these performances?
- What types of dance are presented – modern, ballet, jazz, etc.?
- Are new works and premieres commissioned?
- Is there a company affiliation?

- Are students allowed to perform outside of school?
- Are students encouraged and supported to create new works?
- Is there an annual student choreography concert and/or workshop?
- Are interdisciplinary projects encouraged?
- Are there opportunities to work backstage?
- Are there opportunities for learning set, costume, and/or lighting design?

General Transfer Tips: Seek Help, Ask Questions, and GO VISIT!

<http://transferu.collin.edu/tips.html>

1. Get Academic Advising!

Academic advisors are trained to help you define your short- and long-term goals. They can help you make decisions about which courses to take when you are preparing to transfer and can help you interpret college and universities requirements. Getting help from an academic advisor in addition to making contacts at your transfer school is the best to make your transition as painless as possible.

2. Save Money

Attending a community college is a cost effective way to lower your overall tuition rates for your bachelor's degree. By taking advantage of the opportunity to pile up freshman and sophomore degree requirements, you will be saving plenty of money in the process.

3. Understand How Your Courses Will Transfer

The state of Texas has the Texas Common Course Numbering System (TCCNS). That means that similar courses taught at public colleges and universities in Texas during the freshman and sophomore years are identified with common numbers. The common numbers are not used at each public college or university campus, but most colleges identify the common numbers in their catalogs. If you don't know what your major will be, these are often the best courses for transfer students. See an academic advisor who can help you make the correct selections for your desired program and/or major.

4. Prepare a Transfer Plan

Begin by identifying a major that corresponds with your chosen career field. There are many courses that transfer from one college or university to another, but your ability to apply those courses to your major will depend on whether or not they fit into your college or university's degree plan. Plan carefully; changing majors can result in lost credit hours. Transfer works best for students who get information about the major they want to follow and then match the required freshman and sophomore course work as closely as possible prior to transferring. An academic advisor can help you put your transfer plan together.

5. Learn More About You & Your Needs/Wants

Career assessments can help you determine which career and/or major is the best match for you. See if your institution offers such assessments.

6. Shop Around

Sometimes students make decisions about where to attend college without looking at all the options. Of course, the first priority is to find a college that offers the degree program you want and has the other qualities you prefer in a school. These qualities may include some of the following: academic reputation, student population, public or private, admission requirements for transfer students, etc. As a transfer student, you may also want to look for a university or college that has a strong transfer relationship with your current community college. Similar programs at different universities may be structured very differently. Shopping around can help you find a program and a school that are most compatible with your needs.

7. Complete the Core Curriculum

If your goal is to receive a bachelor's degree from a public university, Texas law requires you to complete a core curriculum ranging from 42 to 48 semester credit hours. Each college or university identifies which of its courses fit into the core curriculum. If you complete the core curriculum with grades of C or better and transfer, the entire core curriculum transfers and substitutes for the core curriculum you would have taken at your new school. However, you may have to take additional course work to satisfy the requirements of a larger core curriculum. If you complete only part of the core curriculum before you transfer, each course completed should apply to the transfer school's core curriculum elements. If you have selected your major, it's best to follow a degree plan/2+2 guide/catalog when selecting your core courses so you will not have to take additional course work to satisfy freshman and sophomore degree requirements for your major.

8. Check into Field of Study Curricula

In addition to the core curriculum, Texas law authorizes the state to create field of study curricula for public colleges or universities. A field of study curriculum consists of freshman and sophomore courses that apply to a specific major. A student who successfully completes all or part of a field of study curriculum prior to transferring will receive degree credit for the field of study curriculum course work (as long as the student stays in a degree program in that discipline).

9. Choose Courses Carefully

If you are transferring to a university, check with an academic advisor to see if there is an articulation agreement/transfer guide/2+2 guide for your specific major. An articulation agreement/transfer guide/2+2 guide is a contract that spells out exactly which courses will transfer into a degree program and how the credit will be applied when you transfer. Many universities and colleges have articulation agreements/transfer guides/2+2 guides that allow you to apply a completed associate degree program to a bachelor's degree. Remember that you are selecting both core and/or major requirements for your

freshman and sophomore bachelor's degree.

10. Know Which Courses and Programs are Designed to Transfer

As a community college student, it is important to understand that there are various types of college credit. Academic transfer courses are the common courses that transfer to most public universities. If you are a degree-seeking student, the Associate of Arts, Associate of Arts in Teaching, and Associate of Science (AA, AAT, and AS) degrees are designed to transfer into a bachelor's degree. The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree programs contain some academic transfer courses in addition to technical courses that may transfer to certain kinds of applied bachelor's degrees (BAAS or BAT), and in some cases transfer into academic bachelor's degrees. An academic advisor can help you identify courses and programs that will work best to meet your transfer goals.

11. Transfer Dispute Resolution

Many community colleges work closely with universities to make the transfer process as smooth as possible. As a student, you have the right to ask for transfer dispute resolution if you believe you are entitled to more transfer credit for lower-division (freshman and sophomore) courses than you received. Lower-division courses are listed in the *Academic Course Guide Manual*. Procedures for transfer dispute resolution are published in public college and university catalogs. Most transfer credit disputes can be worked out by talking to your new or previously attended college. Start with the institution that you are transferring to; then, if your question is not settled, discuss it with the college where you earned the credit. If the dispute is not resolved after the two colleges or universities have worked together, the issue can then be referred to the Commissioner of Higher Education for a final decision.

12. The Campus Visit

As a general rule, you should not make a decision about the four-year college you plan to attend without a campus visit. College web sites and brochures are produced to sell the institution to the widest possible audience—you have to decide if it is the right fit for you. Through a visit, you can get a sense of what to expect and begin preparing for a new academic experience. Campus visits are generally arranged through the college recruitment or admissions office. There are many things you can do to make your college visit a productive and informative one: prepare questions ahead of time and make an appointment to speak with an academic advisor/counselor.

Questions You Should Ask During a Campus Visit

What activities/services are available to help transfer students get settled during their first year (both academically and socially)? Are transfer students assigned an academic advisor? Who teaches the courses I will be taking? What are some of the services available: bus service, shopping? How do I find an on-campus job? What kind of housing is available? What is the cost for room and board? Where is on-campus parking and how much does it cost? What computer facilities are available on campus? How do I meet other transfer students?

Where to Visit on Campus

Ask to observe a class (this may require advance notice and wouldn't be available during spring break, etc.). Talk to a professor in your area of interest (you will need an appointment). If you are a biology major, check out the labs. If you are a dance major, check out the dance studios. Visit the student union, library, and places where students hang out. If you plan to live on campus, visit a resident hall. During your visit ask other students what they like and dislike about the college.

Write About Your Visit

After each visit, jot down your thoughts. What impressed you most? The least? When you look at the whole picture—academics, size, location, mood, social life, sports, and so on—all of the formal and informal data you've collected should pay off. Choosing a college may make you nervous. But, if the school offers the major you need, the social activities and lifestyle you want, and you feel comfortable in the setting, chances are it will be a good fit for you.

13. Advice from College/University Advisors and Counselors

Advising: Get in touch with an advisor at the college or university as early as you possibly can—the sooner the better. Ask a billion questions and leave no stone unturned.

Preparation: Excellent preparation for your major is very important. As you take courses that will apply to your major, you are laying a foundation for success when you transfer. The ability to develop a strong academic profile and excellent study skills will serve you well as you seek entrance into your bachelor's degree program.

Transcripts: Try to keep official copies (in sealed envelopes) on hand in your personal files so that you will have them when asked by a university. Keep copies for your personal use when meeting with advisors, etc.

Embrace Change: Transferring to a new college can mean a lot of change in routines and perceptions. Don't worry if you make mistakes. Rather, expect them and use them to help you learn.

Email: If you provide prospective colleges with your email address, let them know if you have changed it. Colleges are leaning more toward email communication with prospective students.

Application: Stay on top of your application process. Don't take for granted that the college has received all of your admission materials.

Plan B: What if you don't get into the college or university you have your heart set upon? What if you aren't accepted into your chosen major at that college? Apply to more than one college or university that will fit your needs and you'll be prepared if you have to shift to "Plan B."

What Are You Going to Do with **THAT?**

Dance-Related Careers

Education & Academics

Professor
Dance Teacher
School Director
Archivist
Historian
Notator
Reconstructionist
Movement Analyst

Dance Companies

Dancer
Choreographer
Technical Director
Rehearsal Director
Artistic Director

Somatic Practices

Alexander Technique Instructor
Pilates Instructor
Feldenkrais Instructor
Yoga Teacher
Massage Therapist

Publishing

Dance Critic
Journalist

Physical Well-Being

Physical Therapist
Nutritionist
Kinesiologist
Sports Medicine Therapist
Movement or Art Therapist

Arts Administration

Fund Raiser/Development Director
Arts Council Program Manager
Company Manager
Marketing Director
Public Relations Director
Artist Representative

Music

Dance Musician
Composer
Accompanist
Musical Theatre Performer

Production

Set Designer
Lighting Designer
Costume Designer
Sound Designer
Stage Manager
Tour Manager
Makeup Artist
Master Electrician
Stagehand
Graphic Designer
Editor
Photographer
Videographer

Presenters

Ticket Services Manager
Box Office Manager
Booking Agent

**Other Areas for
Career Potential**
Dance Studio Owner
Dance Wear Companies
Equipment for Stage and Studio
Software Development for Dance
Film/Video Production
Animation

Dance Resources

Online:

<http://transferu.collin.edu/>

<http://www.danceu101.com/>

<http://www.artsjournal.com/dance.shtml>

At Collin:

John Ciccica, Academic Advisor

CPC D 117G

jciccica@collin.edu

972.578.5563

Torrey West, Academic Advisor

PRC F132

twest@collin.edu

972.377.1513

Tiffanee Arnold, Dance Department Chair

SCC AA145

tarnold@collin.edu

972.881.5830

Meghan Cardwell-Wilson, Professor

PRC LC102

mcwilson@collin.edu

972.377.1014

Courtney Mulcahy, Professor

PRC U157

cmulcahy@collin.edu

972.377.1045

Lesley Snelson, Professor

SCC AA144

lsnelson@collin.edu

972.881.5630