



# Dance Audition REQUIREMENTS

An audition is required for admission to the Dance Major in the School of Theatre and Dance. In the 2023-2024 Admissions Cycle, we will offer both in-person and virtual options. Students should apply to both JMU and the School of Theatre and Dance separately and register for an audition.

## What to Do?

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1. Apply to  
JMU

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2. Register for  
an Audition

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3. Apply to  
School of  
Theatre and  
Dance in  
Slideroom

# SLIDEROOM

Dance Major applications to the School of Theatre and Dance will be submitted through [Slideroom](#) along with the following materials:

- **Photo of yourself**
- **Resumé** – including any relevant artistic experience. For instance, we are interested in where you have studied dance, what types of dance you have trained in, musicals and dance competitions you have been involved in, teaching experiences, and any other artistic experiences you have had (acting, visual art, lighting design, stage managing, costumedesign).
- **Unofficial Transcript** – from high school or, in the case of transfer students, college.
- **Personal Statement** – Please discuss why you want to join the School of Theatre and Dance at JMU. This essay should focus on how you think the BA degree with a major in Dance will help you meet your academic and professional goals. Your essay will be used in conjunction with your audition for admittance to the program and scholarship consideration. Please limit your response to 1000 words or less.
- **Dance Videos** –

In-person Applicants: On campus, you will learn both a ballet and a modern/contemporary phrase in the audition. Additionally, you are welcome to submit an OPTIONAL video (not to exceed 90-seconds) of you performing a dance genre of your choice that is NOT ballet or modern/contemporary. You will need to record and submit videos electronically through SlideRoom. Submit dance videos no later than **9 days** before the audition day.

Virtual Applicants: There are two possibilities for submitting videos if you are auditioning virtually, depending on which virtual option you are choosing...

- **Virtual Audition Day** – For this option, you will plan to attend our virtual audition day on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 via zoom. You will need to submit at least one video of you performing a style of your choice and will learn a ballet and modern

phrase during the virtual audition.

- Virtual audition submission – This option is for dancers to submit resources for consideration, but not attend any of the auditions in-person or virtually. If you choose this option, we need you to upload you performing the ballet and modern phrase, as well as a style of your choice.
  - NOTE: We strongly encourage all prospective students to attend either an in-person or virtual audition day so that you have an opportunity to interact with faculty and students. If that is not possible and you would still like to apply, you can choose this option.
- For both options, you can find the ballet and modern combinations by clicking on the hyperlinks below. Once you have recorded the ballet and modern combinations and/or chosen a different style/genre to showcase from a previous piece, please upload the video(s) to your slideroom portal at least 9 days before the virtual audition day (1/20/24). Please keep the video for your additional style under 90 seconds and we prefer to see genres that our *not* ballet and modern since we will see those in your audition videos already.
  - [Modern Combination](#) – Professor Ryan Corrison with Professor Toby Twining (piano)
  - [Ballet Combination](#) – Professor Matt Pardo with Professor Toby Twining (piano)

Off-Campus Applicants: If you have already auditioned for the program at an off-campus location AND have been accepted via email, you will also need to complete a slideroom portfolio. You will need to upload one video of yourself dancing in any style of your choosing, so that we have a record of you in our system. Additionally, you should complete all of the other elements to the portfolio including a photo, resumé, unofficial transcript, and personal statement. Please be sure to indicate, when prompted, that you have already auditioned and specify where that took place.

**Please submit your [SLIDEROOM APPLICATION](#) at least 9 days prior to your audition for all in-person and virtual applicants.**

# IN-PERSON AUDITION DAY

We aim to host inclusive and accessible auditions, portfolio reviews and interviews that allow all participants to engage and share fully. To request accommodations please contact [pardomj@jmu.edu](mailto:pardomj@jmu.edu)

- **9:00am:** Arrival and sign-in at the Forbes Center Interlude Lobby; continental breakfast for prospective students and families in studio 1298, warm-up space available in studio 1299.
- **9:30-11:15am:** Audition Class in 1299
  - Ballet barre
  - Contemporary center
  - Improvisation/composition
- **11:25am-12:25PM:** Informational meeting, question and answer session with the dance faculty in studio 1270.
  - Showing by dance majors in Virginia Repertory Dance Company.
- **12:30-1:45PM:** Individual interviews for prospective students with dance faculty in their offices located on the second floor. Your interview slot will be assigned on the day of your audition. Please wait in the upstairs lobby to be called for your interview. Optional Tours of Wayland Learning Community will follow the interviews. You are free to go after your interview if you do not want to tour Wayland.

## VIRTUAL AUDITION OPTIONS

### 1. Virtual Audition Day

- a. For this option, you will plan to attend our virtual audition day on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 via zoom. You will need to submit at least one video of you performing a style of your choice and will learn a ballet and modern phrase during the virtual audition.
- b. Timeline for the virtual audition day:
  - i. We will hold a two and a half hour long virtual audition day, followed by a 15-minute, one-on-one interview with a dance professor. All listed times are in Eastern Time.
    - **9:00-9:30am:** We invite you to view videos of JMU Dance performances at your leisure.
    - **9:30-10:15am:** Dance workshop led by multiple dance faculty. Dance faculty will teach different phrases for you to learn in order to get a taste of what we offer.
    - **10:15-10:25am:** Ten-minute break for you to hydrate and prepare for the informational sessions that follow.
    - **10:25am-12:00PM:** Information session with dance faculty followed by JMU Student Dance Q&A.
    - **One-on-one interview:** Be prepared to discuss your past experience in dance with one of the dance faculty members. Schedule a 15-minute interview in advance. Interviews will be held between 12:15-2:30pm.

### 2. Virtual Submission Only

- a. This option is for dancers to submit resources for consideration, but not attend any of the auditions in-person or virtually. If you choose this option, we need you to upload you

performing the ballet and modern phrase, as well as a style of your choice.

- i. NOTE: We strongly encourage all prospective students to attend either an in-person or virtual audition day so that you have an opportunity to interact with faculty and students. If that is not possible and you would still like to apply, you can choose this option.
- b. Directions for this option:
  - i. Please follow all directions above to create a slideroom portfolio and then record yourself performing the modern and ballet combinations provided above.
  - ii. Please reach out via email to the Dance Recruitment Coordinator, Matt Pardo ([pardomj@jmu.edu](mailto:pardomj@jmu.edu)), to indicate that you will be applying virtually.

## OFF-CAMPUS AUDITION

We will audition and accept students into the dance program from off-site auditions. If you have auditioned for the program at an alternate location (festival, masterclass, etc.), please follow the instructions below.

- **If you have already auditioned AND received an acceptance email from JMU Dance, please complete the following steps...**
  - Complete a slideroom portfolio by following the directions above and indicating where you auditioned for the program.
  - Apply to the university – if you have received an artistic acceptance to the dance program, you will still need to apply to the university for academic acceptance.
  - If you have already auditioned for the program, you DO NOT need to complete a Slate Registration. You will only need to apply to the university and complete a slideroom portfolio



**Questions?** Contact Matt Pardo, Dance Recruitment Coordinator at [pardomj@jmu.edu](mailto:pardomj@jmu.edu)

Photos by Richard Finkelstein