

DANCE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Salaries based on national average per year. Regions may vary.

WHAT IT IS		WHAT IT TAKES		EARNINGS POTENTIAL/ SALARY
Job Title	Tasks/Responsibilities	Skills/Knowledge	Training	
Arts Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages an arts organization, or individual artist May specialize in financial management, public relations, fundraising, programming, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good communication, interpersonal and organizational skills Knowledge of and interest in the arts The ability to work independently, meet deadlines and manage a number of projects at the same time with accuracy 	College or advanced degree Work related experience	Average \$22,000 to \$45,000+ per year, depending on the size and budget of the organization
Ballet Master/Mistress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes care of the ballet company artistically, but is also responsible for keeping the physical space clean, teaching ballet classes, and acting as rehearsal director when called upon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of history of dance, theory and practice of dance notation, choreography and direction Ability to work collaboratively and with people of various backgrounds 	Years of dance and choreography experience	Varies
Chiropractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnoses and treats patients whose health problems are associated with the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems, especially the spine Chiropractors believe interference with these systems impairs normal functions and lowers resistance to disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keen observation to detect physical abnormalities Considerable manual dexterity, but not unusual strength or endurance Ability to work independently and handle responsibility Understanding, empathy, and the desire to help others 	State License; 2-4 years of undergraduate education (BA/BS); The completion of a 4-year program at an accredited chiropractic college leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree	Varies
Choreographer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates original dances as well as interpretations of traditional dances Also instructs performers at rehearsals and auditions performers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dance experience Theatre experience Understanding of human physiology 	Years of dance and choreography experience	Average \$22,500 to \$33,800 per year
Composer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes the music for dance performances Often works with the choreographer and director to create the musical concept for a particular performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine arts knowledge Complex problem solving Hearing sensitivity & auditory attention Fluency of ideas Written expression and comprehension 	Advanced degree	Varies
Costume Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops and creates costume designs for clothing worn in shows and dances At times, the job entails locating 'off the rack' clothing that fits into the production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewing Clothing construction Art/Design Time management Dance knowledge Strong researcher Understanding of history and the styles of different times 	Sewing and clothing design experience	Varies

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Dance Archivist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents dances in an archive and keeps the material accessible to the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine arts knowledge Clerical, administration & management skills 	Undergraduate and a graduate degree, together with archival coursework and a practicum	Varies
Dance Captain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads dance rehearsals after the dances are choreographed Assists the choreographer in teaching combinations to the dancers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of field Communications skills 	Field Experience	Varies
Dance Critic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes and prepares reviews on dance productions for publications, newspapers, or television 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vast knowledge of area of expertise Clear and persuasive writing Strong opinion Open, unbiased mind 	College/ advanced degree Field Experience Professional credentials	\$15,000 to \$1,000,000+ per year
Dance Historian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies dance history, from past cultures to recent trends, and passes on his or her knowledge through writing and teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journalism, dance history, performance and choreography Research and teaching skills 	College degree Field Experience	Varies
Dance Notationist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records dances using graphic symbols (called labanotation) to produce a graphic score. The score includes graphic notation of movement music, costume sketches, background notes, and as many other details as are required to re-stage a performance. Dance companies hire dance notationists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proficiency in Benesh and Labanotation systems 	Degree from a program specializing in notation	Varies
Dance Teacher (Private)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructs students in the techniques of various forms of dance May teach a variety of dance styles, and instruct in the fundamentals as well as advanced dancing techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of field and curriculum design Communications skills Administration and management skills 	Requires a bachelor's degree and 2-4 years of experience in the field or in a related area	\$10 to \$250+ per class
Dance Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilizes dance as a tool to achieve therapeutic goals and treat physical/mental illnesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of human behavioral patterns and brain functions Innovative thinking Movement 	College Professional experience	Varies
Dance Writer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes about the art of dance and often creates/writes new dance steps and routines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Interview skills Knowledge of information resources Strong writing skills Dance background 	College Professional experience	Varies
Dancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses body movement to express ideas, tell stories, and entertain. Professional dancers may perform ballet, classical, folk, ethnic, jazz, or modern dance. Most individuals specialize in one or two forms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent health and physical fitness Ability to create & perform dances Appreciation of & sensitivity to diverse music and dance styles Self discipline, team oriented Communication and organizational skills 	Field experience Ongoing training	Varies

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Dancewear Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designs and creates the wardrobe for a show. This person designs everything from clothing to footwear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clothing construction Art/Design Time management Dance knowledge Strong business skills 	Sewing and clothing design experience	Varies
Development Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for the development of financial support for an arts organization, including grants, membership or subscribers, capital programs, fundraising events and maintaining relations with donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgeting Accounting Fundraising Sales Strong communicator Innovative thinker Event planning 	Professional experience	Average \$82,000 Varies depending on size and budget of the institution
Education Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for supervising, developing and coordinating educational programs at an arts institution May write educational materials, design educational exhibits, and work with schools and the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization skills Event planning Strong verbal and written communication skills Management skills Lesson planning Writing 	College/ advanced degree Professional experience	Average \$37,000 to \$60,000 per year
Executive Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides leadership for an art institution and is responsible for policy making, long-range planning, staffing, overseeing funding, and may be responsible for financial management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management skills Organization skills Time management Artistic vision Strong verbal and written communication Strong knowledge of institution's history and policy 	College/ advanced degree Vast professional experience	Can range from \$50,000 to \$450,000, depending on the size and budget of the institution
Exercise Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructs in the techniques of various forms of exercise and weight training May teach a variety of exercise styles (i.e. yoga), and instruct in the fundamentals as well as advanced techniques May also advise on nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outgoing, good at motivating people, and sensitive to the needs of others Excellent health and physical fitness Managerial skills needed for advancement 	Ranges from a high school diploma to a graduate degree May need certification	Varies
Festival Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversees all of the festivities at dance festivals. These festivals are held nationwide and are often run annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization skills Event planning Strong verbal and written communication Management skills Writing 	College degree Field experience	Varies
Gymnast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competes in gymnastics (i.e. balance beam and floor exercise) May be involved in stunt work or in the choreography of theatrical productions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent health and physical fitness Self discipline, team oriented Communication and organizational skills 	Field Experience Ongoing training	Varies
Hair Stylist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates the hair styles for dancers and other performers by washing, cutting, styling, and coloring hair and wigs for them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively cut and style hair Effective communication with customers Problem solving 	Completion of a two- to three-year hairstyling apprenticeship program	\$14,000 to \$100,000+ per year

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Ice Skater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skates on ice performing stunts, competing, and/or dancing to entertain, tell a story, and express ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent health and physical fitness Self discipline, team oriented Communication and organizational skills 	Field Experience Ongoing training	Varies
Kinesiologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans and conducts exercise programs to help their patients develop or maintain endurance, strength, mobility, and coordination Helps people to keep their muscle tone during long periods of inactivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of human physiology Leadership and critical thinking skills Oral and written communication skills Interest in new technology & scientific research 	College degree A minimum of 300 hours of instruction Passage of written and oral examinations	\$16,000 to \$28,000 to \$48,000+
Makeup Artist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates or changes the appearance of dancers in a performance through the use of makeup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Styles of performance Production techniques Budgeting and scheduling processes Health and safety implications 	Experience in makeup and hair design, construction and application	Varies
Managing Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for the financial well being of a dance company. The managing director is in charge of the budget, employee payroll, and other fiscal matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting Bookkeeping Budgeting Math and Statistics Computer Skills Confidentiality 	College or advanced degree Professional experience	Average \$40,000 per year
Marketing Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In charge of creating a public image that promotes shows and best reflects the dance company and its performers Helps to plan the advertising campaign for a show, then oversees the implementation of the campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PR/Marketing Computer skills Strong Communicator Time Management Organizational skills Management skills 	College or advanced degree Professional experience	Varies
Massage Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presses and rubs the skin and muscles in an effort to achieve a variety of therapeutic effects. Massage therapists often are key in dancer rehabilitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of body parts and functions Physical strength & mobility Good interpersonal, communication, listening and critical thinking skills Business & finance skills 	State license & training	\$10,700 to \$40,000 to \$72,800
Movement Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructs dancers and non-dancers how to move more effectively and efficiently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of field and curriculum design Knowledge of body parts and functions Communications skills Administration and management skills 	Field experience	\$10 to \$250+ per class
Physical Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restores mobility, alleviates pain and suffering, and works to prevent injury and permanent disability for patients. Physical Therapists are key in a dancer's rehabilitation from an injury. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical knowledge of body Strong interpersonal skills Compassionate & desire to help patients & their families 	Graduation from an accredited PT educational program Pass a state licensure exam Continued education	\$20,000 to \$38,000 to \$68,000+

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Public Relations Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops and maintains programs for dance companies that present a favorable public image 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications skills: written, visual and speaking Creativity, initiative, good judgment, and the ability to express thoughts clearly and simply Decision making, problem-solving, and research skills also are important 	College or advanced degree Professional experience	\$15,000 to \$50,000 to \$150,000
Recreational Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops and initiates therapeutic interventions consistent with patient needs and interests Typically reports to a supervisor or manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical knowledge of body Strong interpersonal skills Compassionate & desire to help patients & their families 	College Degree Field Experience	\$37,000-\$46,000 per year
Scenic Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates the set designs for productions and helps to conceptualize the ideas necessary for sets Works with the director, lighting designer, and one or more assistants to produce a variety of effects using backdrops, props, and lighting The scenic designer helps formulate the "look" of a production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art/design Technical theatre Carpentry Construction Management skills Organization skills Time management 	Technical school Apprenticeships Field experience	Average \$29,500 to \$43,700 per year
School Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages a dance school May coordinate teaching schedules, enroll students and take care of other administrative needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good communication, interpersonal and organizational skills Knowledge of and interest in the arts The ability to work independently, meet deadlines and manage a number of projects at the same time, and with accuracy 	College or advanced degree Work related experience	Varies