

Santa Monica College

Dance Teaching (Pre-K - Grade 5) Certificate of Achievement

Effective Fall 2026

The Dance Teaching Certificate of Achievement is specifically designed for the student seeking employment in dance and/or integrating dance experiences in the field of child development. The curriculum is designed to be completed in two semesters of study through coursework in the Santa Monica College Dance Department. Upon completion of this certificate, the student is prepared for the demands of developing and teaching diverse dance classes and/or programs for pre-K and elementary school students.

Upon completion of the Santa Monica College Dance Teaching Certificate of Achievement, students will demonstrate technical and creative proficiency in teaching various dance genres and develop teaching skills for dance-related careers. Students will possess the ability to create dance/movement lessons for children, learn to integrate movement into the classroom, and develop creative skill sets and networking strategies to pursue various dance-related employment opportunities. Students will develop greater confidence and resilience as teachers equipped for the dynamic nature of a career in the arts.

Coursework includes dance pedagogy, anatomy, modern dance, ballet, jazz and world dance techniques as well as dance history, curriculum, psychology, and career preparation.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate technical and creative proficiency in teaching a variety of dance genres.

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate an ability to generate materials needed for teaching dance classes and building dance-related careers.

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate the ability to design dance lesson plans, and develop dance classes and programs for schools, private studios, fitness centers, and community centers.

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate the ability to teach creative movement experiences as well as correct body alignment within various dance techniques.

Required Core Courses

Units: 13.0

DANCE 10 Fundamentals of Dance Technique	2.0
DANCE 75 Dance for Children: Creative Dance in the Pre-K and Elementary Classroom (<i>same as: ECE 75</i>)	3.0
DANCE 90B Dance Internship	2.0
ECE 2 Principles and Practices of Teaching Young Children	3.0
PSYCH 11 Child Growth and Development	3.0

Dance History Electives: Select 3 Units from the following

Units: 3.0

DANCE 2 Dance in American Culture	3.0
DANCE 5 Dance History	3.0

Ballet Electives: Select 2 Units from the following

Units: 2.0

DANCE 32A Ballet 2A	2.0
DANCE 32B Ballet 2B	2.0
DANCE 33A Intermediate Ballet 3A	2.0
DANCE 33B Intermediate Ballet 3B	2.0
DANCE 34A Advanced Ballet 4A	2.0
DANCE 34B Advanced Ballet 4B	2.0

Modern Electives: Select 2 Units from the following

Units: 2.0

DANCE 42A Contemporary Modern Dance 2A	2.0
DANCE 42B Contemporary Modern Dance 2B	2.0
DANCE 43A Intermediate Contemporary Modern Dance 3A	2.0
DANCE 43B Intermediate Contemporary Modern Dance 3B	2.0
DANCE 44A Advanced Contemporary Modern Dance 4A	2.0
DANCE 44B Advanced Contemporary Modern Dance 4B	2.0

World and Commercial Dance Electives: Select 2 Units from the following

Units: 2.0

DANCE 11 Beginning Hip Hop Dance	2.0
DANCE 12 Intermediate Hip Hop Dance	2.0
DANCE 13 Advanced Hip Hop Dance	2.0
DANCE 14 Beginning Jazz	2.0
DANCE 15 Intermediate Jazz	2.0

DANCE 16 Advanced Jazz	2.0
DANCE 17 Beginning Tap	2.0
DANCE 18 Intermediate Tap	2.0
DANCE 19A Beginning Ballroom Dance	2.0
DANCE 20 World Dance Styles and Forms	2.0
DANCE 21A Beginning Asian Pacific Dance	2.0
DANCE 21B Intermediate Asian Pacific Dance	2.0
DANCE 22A Beginning Mexican Dance	2.0
DANCE 22B Intermediate Mexican Dance	2.0
DANCE 24 Flamenco Dance 1	2.0
DANCE 24B Intermediate Flamenco Dance	2.0
DANCE 25 African Dance	2.0
DANCE 25B Intermediate African Dance	2.0
DANCE 26A Beginning Salsa Dance	2.0
DANCE 26B Intermediate Salsa Dance	2.0

Total: 22.0