



The National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), a leading organization that provides the latest resources in dance education to help ensure that every child is provided a high-quality dance education by a qualified dance educator, underwent extensive research into PreK-12 dance education programs and certification requirements to support its members and those interested in PreK-12 dance education. By conducting internet research, and speaking directly with school administrators and state boards of education, NDEO compiled a list of higher education institutions that offer PreK-12 dance education programs and certification ([access document](#)), and provided updated information on state credentials and standards ([access document](#)). This document includes the District of Columbia as part of its statistics.

NDEO identified 624 college/university dance programs in the United States. Of the 624 programs identified, 75 offer a PreK-12 dance education track, dance degree program, or certification. Only dance programs that met the criteria above was taken into consideration for this research. Some dance programs led to teacher certification, but was not mandatory. It is important to note that when 'dance education/educator program' is stated, it refers specifically to programs that focuses on PreK-12 dance education preparation.

The statistics below show the growth that PreK-12 dance education has made in the United States since 2014, the last time NDEO did this research. They are:

- 75 (2017) vs. 62 (2014) number of dance education programs
- 38 (2017) vs. 30 (2014) number of states with dance education programs

Five categories to consider when looking at college/university dance education programs compared to state-approved dance certification for PreK-12 schools in the United States are:

1. Number of colleges/universities that offer dance education programs
2. Programs that exist in states without a state-approved credential in dance
3. States that have a state-approved credential in dance, but do not have a program

4. States that have neither a state-approved credential in dance education or a college/university dance education program
5. States that are leading in college/university dance education programs

75 higher education institutions in the United States have some type of dance education program:

- 9 of the 75 colleges/universities that have dance education programs exist in states where there is no state-approved credential in dance: Drexel University, Muhlenberg College, Point Park University, Seton Hill University, Temple University, University of California-Santa Barbara, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Idaho, and University of Montana
- 3 of these colleges/universities offer alternative certification (e.g. physical education) to teach dance in a PreK-12 setting: Drexel University, Muhlenberg College, and the University of Montana
- 5 states and D.C. have state-approved PreK-12 dance certification, but do not have any dance education programs in colleges/universities: Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maine, Missouri, and West Virginia
- 7 states do not have state-approved dance certification for PreK-12 nor colleges/universities that offer dance education programs: Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- Leading states offering PreK-12 dance education programs in colleges/universities are: North Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, and Utah with five in each state; South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin with four in each state; and Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia with three in each state

### **Opportunities for the Future:**

This research enables NDEO to continue to support its members throughout the country. Identifying dance education programs nationwide and providing up-to-date information on credentials and standards for each state supports prospective dance educators to forge ahead into pursuing a career in dance education with assurance, empowers current educators and educational leaders with the information needed to continue to grow and advocate for their dance education programs, and supports the development of new dance programs where they currently do not exist.

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