Located in Oakland, California 15 miles east of San Francisco, Mills College offers artists a rigorous and exciting two-year journey into dance and performance committed to thinking bodies and moving minds. Whether your love is ballet or samba, Mills gives you the tools you need to push the boundaries of your art.

From the moment the first semester begins Mills graduate students dive into a rigorous combination of creative and critical dance studies. This is supported by a curriculum designed to have every student hone their skills across the discipline, including performance, choreography, research, teaching, and dance writing. To deepen students’ ways of knowing, we encourage students to bring the studio and the classroom into conversation by infusing academic work with the embodied knowledge gleaned in the studios and allowing analytical knowledge to have a bearing on what they do on the dance floor. We also urge our grads to find inspiration in the broad international community of impassioned artists outside the College gates, and to share that experience with their peers.

Performance matters, too. In addition to dancing in choreography by faculty and fellow students, Mills grads have the chance to work closely with noted artists and organizations both on and off campus. And we provide support to our scholars interested in joining the larger dance studies community by linking them to dance studies working groups and supporting their participation in the annual national dance studies conference.

Our grads are also asked to teach, either as part of criticism and theory class or as graduate assistants, and we mentor them in the foundations of pedagogical methods and syllabi writing. As students leave, diplomas in hand, they are ready to teach, perform, choreograph, stage, and shoot dance just about anywhere, and they do. They dance in and lead companies, join faculties in colleges and universities, run dance studios, get PhDs, and become leaders in the field.

Programs
Master of Arts in Dance
Master of Fine Arts in Dance