

DANCE

Dance
510.430.2175
dance@mills.edu

The Mills College Dance Program is dynamic, multifaceted, and visionary, like the Bay Area itself. Dancers often arrive on campus as tappers, ballet dancers, hip-hop artists, musical theater practitioners, world dance dancers or improvisers. They graduate as that and more: as confident, articulate, and thinking movers situated in a global community of artists. Artistic voices become refined, minds are stretched, and hearts are made larger by the joy of learning in a community of impassioned peers and professors.

The College's dance major is divided into three areas of concentration: **dance**, **dance/theater** and **dance and digital performance**. These share a group of core classes and then branch into focused study, letting students opt for a program that closely fits their performance and academic passions.

Because we are dedicated to the dancer as a whole being, the Dance Department provides a curriculum that deepens the conversation between body and mind through such courses as somatics, dance history, live and digital media, dance studies and cultures, improvisation, and composition. The Mills College Repertory Dance Company invites students to sharpen their performance skills under the guidance of gifted faculty and renowned visiting artists, while the annual Undergrad Underground gives our undergraduates the chance to curate and mount a show of their own devising. Undergraduates also get to work closely with our small, committed group of MFA and/or MA students, engage with noted members of the dance community, go on field trips and attend life-changing performances at some of the many theaters in the area. Each year the department also participates in the exciting inter-college Bay Area Dance Exchange, often hosted by Stanford University, and the American College Dance Festival, which represents colleges by region across the country.

Program Goals:

- Develop the technical, creative, and intellectual skills needed to be an original performer
- Develop the technical, creative, and intellectual skills to be a choreographer
- Develop the analytical and communication skills to contextualize dance socially, culturally, and historically
- Develop the confidence and skill for self-directed engagement in the field

Majors & Minors

Major

Dance Major—BA (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/dance/dance-ba>)

Minor

Dance Minor (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/dance/dance-minor>)

Faculty & Staff

Faculty

Kara Davis

Artist in Residence
Richards Lodge 103, 510.430.3261, kadavis@mills.edu
Office Hours: By appointment only
Professional Interests: Classical ballet, improvisation, contemporary dance and partnering, dance pedagogy, choreographic/collaborative process, corporeal empowerment

Sonya Delwaide

Professor of Dance
Richards Lodge 104, 510.430.3258, sdelwaid@mills.edu
Professional Interests: Modern techniques, ballet, choreography, composition, partnering, movement for actors, dance theater, repertory

Molissa Fenley

Professor of Dance, Spring
Richards Lodge 102, 510.430.3185, mfenley@mills.edu
Professional Interests: Choreography, repertory, technique, thesis supervision

Katherine McGinity

Visiting Adjunct Professor, Spring
Richards Lodge 102, 510.430.2175, 510.430.2175, kmcginity@mills.edu
Professional Interests: Classical and contemporary ballet, choreography and improvisation, the Balanchine legacy, Laban Movement Analysis, dance pedagogy, Vaudeville, musical theater, tap dance as an American art form, 20th century German choreographers

Ann Murphy

Mary S. Metz Professorship for Excellence and Creativity in Teaching
Associate Professor of Dance
Department Head
Richards Lodge 107, 510.430.3301, amurphy@mills.edu
Professional Interests: The role of the American West in the rise of 20th century dance; the screendance partnership of Bill Robinson and Shirley Temple; Africanist influences in the dance of Molissa Fenley; dance criticism; dance at the margins; contemporary ballet

Sheldon Smith

Associate Adjunct Professor
Richards Lodge 101, 510.430.3260, shsmith@mills.edu (shsmith@mills.edu)
Professional Interests: Dancing, making dances, making music, working with dance and technology, making video art

Staff

Sylvia Nuzzo Philis

Faculty Administrative Assistant
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