

Course Information

Award: Pearson BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Performing Arts (Performance) Dance Pathway

UCAS Code: 4B22

Location:

Southend Campus
South Essex College of Further and Higher Education
Luker Road,
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
SS11ND

And

South Essex College Thurrock Campus
High Street
Grays
Essex
RM17 6TF

The course timetable is predominately delivered at the Southend Campus, with final assessment rehearsals and performances being situated at the Greys Campus. The final year show is performed at The Towngate Theatre, Basildon, SS14 1DL

Awarding body:

Pearson Education Ltd (BTEC).

Students who complete the course successfully will receive a Pearson BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Performing Arts. The agreement between South Essex College and Pearsons is reviewed on an annual basis for quality assurance purposes and was originally established in 2013.

Professional body accreditation:

N/A

Duration:

2 Years (full time)

Academic year:

Full-time course: September 2019/2021

Part-time study:

No

Work placements:

Throughout the programme you will work with current industry practitioners on live unit briefs, providing a variety of vocational performance opportunities reflecting industry timescales and expectations. These includes Council based community projects and our international collaborative

site specific performance with an Italian based theatre company. The end of year Dance show acts as platform for you to network with invited agencies and potential employers helping you to establish industry connections.

Timetables:

Timetables are normally available one month before registration, though we endeavour to let you know an outline as soon as possible. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure that timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled teaching can take place on any day of the week. Typically, year groups are expected to attend lessons for 15 hours a week spread over 3 days. We expect students to build on this learning through Independent Study for at least a similar period. For this time we usually have space available within the Campus or at the Forum in Southend.

Entry Requirements:

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Entry requirements 2019-20:

You will need a minimum of 64 UCAS points from one or more of the following:

- At least two A-levels
- BTEC/UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma/Diploma/Subsidiary Diploma/Certificate [RQF]
- BTEC National Award/Certificate/Diploma [NQF]
- Access to Higher Education Diploma (minimum 15 credits at merit or above)
- International Baccalaureate
- AQA Baccalaureate
- Progression Diploma
- Advanced Diploma

You will also need GCSE English at grade C (old specification) or Grade 4 (new specification) or above OR a Level 2 equivalent such as functional skills qualification.

To find out how many points your qualifications are awarded, [view the UCAS Tariff tables](#).

You will also be required to undertake a portfolio-based interview. Portfolios should include examples of recent project work and may reference a variety of media.

Exceptional Entry:

Applications from mature students who do not possess the entry requirements as listed above, but who possess related professional experience or professional qualifications are welcome to apply. You will need to demonstrate by interview, exceptional entry portfolio (this is likely to include evidence of paid or unpaid work experience) and/or written assessment that you are suitable for the course. In the first instance we suggest you contact HEAdmissions@southessex.ac.uk to discuss your application.

International applicants:

If English is not your first language you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum score of 5.5 in each component (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking), or an equivalent English

Additional requirements:

Practical Audition and Interview

As a prospective student you will participate in 2 dance classes of contrasting genres before presenting a solo of your own choice (between 1 ½ & 2 minutes in length). The practical sessions will be followed by an interview with the course team. You will also need to provide an example of some written academic work.

(Credit transfer and accreditation of prior learning or experience)

For further information please visit our Credit Transfer page [link]. Other qualifications and relevant work experience may also count for academic credit. Further information is available at our

Course Overview : Pearson BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance Pathway)

The nature of the Performing Arts industry is extremely competitive and the opportunities for career diverse. The HND in Performing Arts (Dance Pathway) has been designed to provide a vocational based training programme equipping you with the required skills to succeed in the range of career paths available. Our programme provides diverse and challenging learning experiences, refining your physical skills alongside developing greater understanding and command of specific techniques in multi disciplines. The selection of units also enables you to nurture your own creativity finding your own voice as future innovators within the art form. The overriding focus of the programme is based on acknowledging the importance of versatility to allow for longevity within the industry. Through the programme we aim to ensure that you become an all-round performer, skilled for a successful career in the ever evolving Performing Arts industry.

Year 1 (Level 4)

The first year is designed to introduce you to the broad spectrum of the Performing Arts Industry with focus on a Dance specific pathway. You will train in a variety of styles and techniques including contemporary dance, classical ballet, commercial, jazz and tap, and choreography for performances. With the exploration of theory based studies allowing for the acquisition of a wider understanding of the historical and cultural context of dance as an Art form. You will be encouraged to develop reflective and enquiring approaches to your work, drawing on independent research in order to underpin your own practice. Within this year you will have the opportunity to participate in a collaborative project with the theatre company Teatro dei Borfia, resulting in a site specific piece performed in Italy.

Year 2 (Level 5)

Through your second year you will continue to hone your practical skills participating in technique classes and refining your own choreographic style. An emphasis is placed on vocational training, and the skills required to enter into the professional worlds of performing arts. You will have opportunities to explore current industry trends in order to equip you to step into the industry. The course will prepare you for auditions and castings, in addition to nurturing your own creativity, allowing you to pursue the diverse range of further education or employment routes current within the dance industry.

Unit Information:

Unit map

This unit map provides a list of the units that make up your course.

Each unit is worth a specified number of credits: all are compulsory, enabling you to cover key subject knowledge while developing your own interests.

You must take units worth a total of 120 credits at each level of the course- equalling in a total of 240 credits for the complete qualification.

Our teaching is informed by research, and units change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline. You can always find the most up-to-date information about your units and who is teaching them through our VLE, [Canvas](#) and in the Course Handbook.

The units available on the course are as follows:

Year 1 for full-time students (Level 4)

Unit 1 The Performing Arts Industry - (Mandatory Unit-15 credits)

This core unit develops your awareness of key areas of working in performing arts and allows for exploration and research in all matters related to surviving and thriving within the performing arts industry. Employability, self-maintenance, managing finances and the increasing importance of online and offline marketing are all areas that will be covered throughout this unit. By the end of this unit, you will have a clear understanding of how the performing arts industry works and the steps that are required to access employment opportunities. You will also have developed their understanding of health and wellbeing within the performing arts environment.

Unit 2 Professional Development - (Mandatory Unit-15 credits)

In this core unit, you will explore the many potential avenues of employment that relate to your specialism, build an awareness of how to present yourselves to the market place and embark on a journey of professional development. On completion of this unit, you will have made decisions around your vocation and demonstrated the level of autonomy needed for success in the creative industry.

Unit 3 Group B Jazz Dance 1 – (Specialist Unit Mandatory-15 credits)

The unit aims to enable you to develop your ability in the studio as a jazz dancer and broaden your contextual knowledge, which will, in turn, inform style and performance. An emphasis is placed on the quality of the work produced, and the ability to self-correct through knowledge and understanding of jazz technique. You will also learn to combine steps, which will result in the ability to pick up choreographic combinations. By the end of this unit, you will be able to execute the required vocabulary in set and unset combinations, incorporating and demonstrating musicality and artistry. You will also have a broader knowledge of the development of jazz as a dance genre.

Unit 4 Ballet 1 – (Optional Unit-15 credits)

This unit has been designed to allow technical and artistic development in the dance studio and to encourage the independent investigation of different approaches to ballet technique. You will develop an understanding of how these different approaches may or may not assist them within your personal facility, physicality and prior experience. You will learn to combine vocabulary, which will result in the ability to pick up enchaînements. In addition, you will be required to investigate different approaches to ballet which inform technique and style, reflecting on how they may or may not be accessible or useful, depending on personal factors such as facility, physicality and prior experience. On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to execute the required vocabulary in unset combinations and enchaînements, incorporating and demonstrating musicality and artistry. You will also have a broader knowledge of different approaches to ballet and be able to reflect constructively on how these approaches may or may not be appropriate or useful to them.

Unit 5 Contemporary 1 – (Optional Unit -15 credits)

The aim of this unit is to give you a grounding in contemporary dance technique, achieving greater control over your creativity, agency to grow as a unique artist, improving the quality of movement and strengthening of your body through dance combinations, the learning of modern dance language, contemporary dance technique and to develop a stronger relationship to musicality and creativity. Topics included in this unit are: the development of modern dance techniques; examination of movement quality; development of musicality and creativity; development of the unique artist voice; measuring dance ability using combinations of contemporary dance language; and the presenting of a project regarding current contemporary dance culture. On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to use the required contemporary dance language to develop and maintain a sound technical foundation to use in the professional world of dance. You will be able to pick up and retain combinations of the required technique. An approach to research and delivery of said research will also be covered

Unit 6 Commercial Dance 1 – (Optional Unit- 15 credits)

The unit aims to enable you to develop your ability in the studio as a dancer and your contextual knowledge which will, in turn, inform style and performance. While studying this unit, you will participate in regular commercial classes in order to develop the skills listed below along with the knowledge of the required content and how to execute it. You will also learn to combine steps, which will result in the ability to pick up choreographic combinations. In addition, you will investigate the history and development of commercial as a dance genre in order to enhance knowledge and understanding. On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to execute the required vocabulary in unset combinations and enchaînements, incorporating and demonstrating musicality and artistry. You will also have a broader knowledge of the evolution and development of commercial dance.

Unit 7 Tap 1 – (Optional Unit- 15 credits)

This unit has been designed to allow technical and artistic development in the dance studio alongside the acquisition of basic vocabulary in various combinations and to encourage the independent investigation of different tap practitioners and their influence on the genre as it is today. By the end of this unit, you will be able to execute the required vocabulary in unset combinations, incorporating and demonstrating rhythm, control, tone, musicality, style and performance. You will also have a broader knowledge of different tap practitioners and how they have influenced the genre as it stands today.

Unit 9 Choreography 1 – (Optional Unit-15 credits)

The aim of this unit is to give you an overview of choreography, establishing an understanding of what goes into dance making. You will also explore the history of movement as an art form, how to construct an original piece of choreography, how to measure your own skill as a choreographer and develop an understanding of choreography as a chosen career pathway. On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to apply the required choreographic skills to develop and maintain a sound stylistic foundation to use in the professional world of movement making. You will be able to improvise ideas and set original combinations of the required choreographic skills. You will develop other skills such as leadership, communication, improvisation, research, reasoning and interpretation, recall, adaptation, which are all critical for gaining employment.

Year 2 for full-time students (Level 5)

Unit 30 Creative Research Project - (Mandatory Unit-30 credits)

This unit will equip you from any area of interest with core research skills. Alongside learning qualitative and quantitative research methods, you will have the opportunity to apply these methods in the completion of a mini dissertation. With a strong emphasis on taking a creative approach to research, the completion of this dissertation will, in addition, demonstrate the academic requirements to progress into Level 6. By the end of this unit, you will be armed with the necessary tools to not only enter the final year of a University degree, but to embark upon any career path within the performing arts industry

Unit 31 Working in the Performing Arts Industry - (Mandatory Unit-15 credits)

This unit has been designed in order to further explore working in the performing arts industry. It will help you to apply practical skills to prepare you for future employment as a performing art professional. In completing Level 4 of this qualification, you will have explored your career goals and your own individual skills in relation to future employment. This unit supports you in analysing those goals and how accessible they are, and the sustainability of your potential employment, so that you are fully informed about your intended progression route. By the end of this unit, you will have created a marketing strategy and online profile to enhance your future employability prospects. You will also have developed a personal strategy, having analysed health and wellbeing and your own development, to work towards a sustainable career in the performing arts industry.

Unit 32 Group E Jazz Dance 2 – (Specialist Unit Mandatory-15 credits)

This unit is a progression from Level 4 Jazz and, as such, will further develop you in relation to technical acquisition and strength. It will involve assessed performance, class assessments and a presentation which will demonstrate your ability to compare different innovators within the field of jazz as a dance genre and show how their work has influenced the genre as it currently stands. On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to execute the required content vocabulary in a range of combinations, incorporating and demonstrating musicality and artistry with secure jazz technique. You will also have a greater knowledge of the different jazz techniques created by innovators and how this can assist your work.

Unit 34 Contemporary 2 – (Optional Unit-15 credits)

The aim of this unit is to give you a more intense exploration of contemporary dance technique and culture, achieving a degree of mastery over your creativity, stronger identification as a unique artist

and ownership over quality of movement. You will focus on strengthening your body through dance combinations, learning modern dance language and contemporary dance technique, and so develop an even stronger relationship to musicality and creativity. On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to use the required contemporary dance language to develop and maintain a robust technical foundation to use in the professional world of dance. You will be able to pick up and retain combinations of the required technique. An approach to research and delivery of said research will also be covered.

Unit 35 Commercial Dance 2 – (Optional Unit-15 credits)

This unit is a progression from Level 4 Commercial Dance and, as such, will further develop you in relation to technical acquisition, style, musicality and strength. It will involve assessed performance, class assessments and a presentation which will demonstrate your ability to compare different innovators within the field of commercial dance as a dance genre and show how their work has influenced the genre as it currently stands. It will also allow you to consider the employment opportunities that commercial dance can offer. On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to execute the required content and vocabulary in a range of combinations, incorporating and demonstrating musicality and artistry with secure commercial dance technique. You will also be more aware of specific innovators within the field and the job opportunities that may arise for commercial dancers.

Unit 45 Choreography 2 – (Optional Unit- 15 credits)

The aim of this unit is to develop your use of choreography in more complex routines, clearly demonstrating your understanding of the development and complexity of dance-making, and the history of movement-making as an art form. Successful communication of your intentions will be developed with an exploration of what is defined as artistry in the world of dance and how this translates into movement. On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to use complex contemporary dance language to develop routines, appropriate for the professional world of dance. You will be able to pick up and retain complex combinations of the required technique and communicate your own artistic intentions to fellow dancers and the audience. You will understand and develop your own unique choreographic style and apply this where appropriate.

Unit 50 Performance Project – (Optional Unit- 15 credits)

This unit is designed to provide an opportunity to test your skills developed during training before an audience in either a live or recorded medium. You will gain knowledge of rehearsal processes as well as performance techniques. The intention should be that the rehearsal and performance aspects of the unit reflect professional working practices and give you an authentic experience of the workplace. On successful completion of this unit, you will have gained the satisfaction of producing a performance for an audience and appreciating the skills you have developed.

Teaching and Learning:

Teaching

The learning outcomes in year one facilitate the discovery of key theories and principles, in acquiring basic practical skills, and in developing a knowledge framework with a limited amount of independence. In year two the learning outcomes are geared towards industry requirements, in developing professional skills, and in synthesizing knowledge with independence. Throughout the programme there is an emphasis on self-direction, working in teams, and in problem solving. These

are inherent within the unit learning outcomes. Units are delivered through a variety of methods of teaching and learning. These include practical workshops and demonstrations, technique classes, group and individual projects, peer group presentations, lectures, seminars and tutorials. All courses emphasise active participation and experiential learning, in combination with the development of research, analytical and critical skills.

Independent learning:

When not attending lectures, seminars and workshops or other timetabled sessions you will be expected to continue learning independently through self-study. Typically, this will involve reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, rehearsing, undertaking research in the library, preparing coursework assignments and presentations. A range of excellent facilities, including the library, the Learning Resource Centre and the Forum, supports your independent learning.

Overall workload:

Total Guided Learning –Higher National Certificate (HNC) = 540 hours

Total Guided Learning –Higher National Diploma (HND) = 1080 hours

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours of around 15 hours per week, which is a full three days in college, split 5 hours theory and 10 hours practical. (120 credits per year).

There is an expectation for students to further develop their performance practice through rehearsal & workshops outside of timetabled classes for which the studio spaces will be made available. An additional 5 hours of Independent study is recommended.

The following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

Level 4: 75% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities

Teaching, learning and assessment: 540 hours

Independent learning: 180 hours (5 hours per week)

Level 5: 75% of your time is spent in timetabled teaching and learning activities

Teaching, learning and assessment: 540 hours

Independent learning: 180 hours (5 hours per week)

Assessment & Feedback:

Assessment:

Coursework is assessed in a range of different ways in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles and aptitudes including workshops, rehearsals, performances, presentations, viva voca written essays and research folders.

Percentage of the course assessed by coursework

Year 1- HNC

100% coursework: 75% Practical with a written element 25%

Year 2-HND

100% coursework: 75% Studio based with a written element 25%

Feedback:

You will receive formative feedback as part of your one-to-one sessions with your unit teachers. You will also receive summative feedback on all formal assessments undertaken by coursework. Feedback is intended to help you learn and you are encouraged to discuss it with your unit leader tutor. Feedback can be given in a range of different ways in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles and aptitudes including group critiques, recorded verbal feedback and written feedback.

We aim to provide you with feedback within 20 working days of hand-in for all summative coursework assessments.

Academic support:

Our Academic Support Team provides help in the following areas:

- Study skills (including reading, note-taking and presentation skills)
- Written English (including punctuation and grammatical accuracy)
- Academic writing (including how to reference)
- Research skills (in conjunction with the library)
- Critical thinking and understanding arguments
- Revision, assessment and examination skills (including time management).

Our Disability Advice and Support Service helps students with additional needs resulting from disabilities such as sensory impairment or learning difficulties such as dyslexia.

Teaching staff:

You will be taught by an experienced teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the units on the course. The team includes senior academics, professional practitioners with industry experience, co-ordinators and technical officers. Our teaching is informed by the research and consultancy we undertake, and all of our lecturers have a teaching qualification.

Course Costs:

Course Name: HND Performing Arts (Dance)

Duration: 2 years (full-time)

Fees

For the academic year 2019-20 the tuition fees for this course are:

UK

Full-time £7,000

Part-time N/A (Full-time route only)

The following course-related costs are included in the fees:

- Overseas performance project to Italy working with internationally acclaimed theatre company Teatro dei Borgia.
- Workshops with current practitioners
- A contribution to your end of year show from the Faculty of Higher Education

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- 2 educational visits per year – such as Art gallery trips & watching current performance work; from fringe venues to larger institutions including Sadler’s Wells & the National Theatre
- Costumes fees for performance projects-End of Year Show at the Towngate Theatre.
- Uniform and dance shoes

Accommodation and living costs not included in the fees

This information can be obtained from our Accommodation Services home page

<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/accommodation>

Sources of financial support:

If you receive funding from Student Finance you may be eligible to apply for additional benefits.

Details can be obtained from our Student Services home page

<https://www.southessex.ac.uk/higher-education/fees-and-funding>