Dance figures

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Dance has had a long and illustrious history at Tulane. In the 1920s, dancers performed the maypole dance on the Newcomb College lawn, and by the 1940s, the Newcomb College Dance Club was established and dance became part of the curriculum of the Newcomb Women’s Physical Education Department, later led by Elizabeth "Lib" Delery. By 2000, a full-fledged dance major was available to students to earn either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance. The master of fine arts degree program launched in 2013.

Each semester approximately 400 students enroll in dance classes through the Newcomb Dance Program in Tulane’s Department of Theatre and Dance.

Dance program faculty have a collective 143 years of teaching experience at Tulane.

Eight genres of dance are taught: classical ballet, modern dance, jazz, hip-hop, musical theatre, African, Brazilian and tap.

Eléonora Perrilliat McWilliams, former Newcomb Dance Club President of 1944, donated the anchor grant for construction of McWilliams Hall in 1955. McWilliams Hall includes four dance studios on the uptown campus.