

DANCE AUDITION 2025/26 REQUIREMENTS



WHAT TO DO?

An audition is required for admission to the Dance Major in the School of Theatre and Dance. In the 2025-2026 Admissions Cycle, we will offer in-person and video submission options. Students should apply to both JMU and the School of Theatre and Dance separately.

1. Apply to JMU

Apply to JMU using the [Common App](#). Once you have listed JMU as one of your schools and have listed your intended major, a portfolio section will be available under JMU in the My Colleges tab.

2. Register for a Dance Audition

Register for a Dance Audition through the links below:

- [Saturday, November 8](#)
- [Saturday, December 6](#)
- [Saturday, February 7](#)

3. Submit Slideroom to the School of Theatre and Dance

Once you add JMU as one of your schools in CommonApp, you will be linked directly to JMU's [SlideRoom](#) portfolio portal, where you can submit your artistic achievements and upload videos to be reviewed by our faculty.



AUDITION OPTIONS

IN-PERSON APPLICANT

On-campus auditions include multiple genres of dance and opportunities to interact with current students, faculty, and staff. You will receive an email about a week before your selected audition date with more information. Please complete all of the elements of the Slideroom portfolio, including: uploading one video of yourself in any style of your choosing, a photo, a resumé, an unofficial transcript, and a personal statement. If you have trouble uploading videos to SlideRoom, please upload them to YouTube and paste the video links, along with titles and descriptions, at the top of the Essay Submission section. Submit your finished Slideroom portfolio no later than **9 days** before your registered audition day.

VIDEO SUBMISSION APPLICANT

If you are unable to join us for one of the in-person auditions, you can submit a Slideroom Video application. Please download and learn the ballet and modern combinations in the link below, and upload videos of you performing these combinations to your Slideroom portal. We want to see how well you embody the combinations and your level of technique. You may also submit an optional 3rd video in a style of your choice. If you have trouble uploading videos to SlideRoom, please upload them to YouTube and paste the video links, along with titles and descriptions, at the top of the Essay Submission section. Finally, please upload a 30-second video of you responding to the following prompts: Why are you interested in James Madison University? Why are you interested in JMU Dance? What are your goals and how do you plan to use your JMU degree to achieve them?

This option requires your Slideroom portfolio to be completed by **February 8th, 2025**.

***Ballet and modern combinations for Video Submission Applicants:**

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9DEcVFbSOJbwkMCvS_8owEfITMnKXg8Q

OFF-CAMPUS & NEXT STEPS APPLICANTS

If you have already auditioned for the program at an off-campus location OR at JMU's Next Steps Summer Residency Program AND have been artistically accepted to JMU Dance via email, you still need to complete a Slideroom portfolio. Please complete all of the elements of the portfolio, including uploading one video of yourself in any style of your choosing, a photo, a resumé, an unofficial transcript, and a personal statement. If you have trouble uploading videos to SlideRoom, please upload them to YouTube and paste the video links, along with titles and descriptions, at the top of the Essay Submission section. Please be sure to indicate, when prompted, that you have already auditioned and specify where that took place.



SLIDEROOM



All Dance Major applicants must submit a portfolio to the School of Theatre and Dance. Portfolios are accessed through an online portal called **Slideroom**. Each portfolio includes the following materials:

- **Headshot:** Photo of yourself
- **Resume:** including any relevant artistic experience. For instance, we are interested in where you have studied dance, what types of dance you have trained in, musicals and dance competitions you have been involved in, teaching experiences, and any other artistic experiences you have had (acting, visual art, lighting design, projection design, stage managing, costume design).
- **Unofficial Transcript:** from high school or, in the case of transfer students, BOTH college and high school.
- **Personal Statement:** Please discuss why you want to join the School of Theatre and Dance at JMU. This essay should focus on how you think the BA degree with a major in Dance will help you meet your academic and professional goals. Your essay will be used in conjunction with your audition for admittance to the program and scholarship consideration. Please limit your response to 1000 words or less.
- **Dance Videos:** Please upload the videos requested for the audition option of your choice.

*Please submit your **Slideroom** portfolio at least 9-days prior to your audition.*

IN-PERSON AUDITION DAY

We will host an audition day at JMU's Forbes Center facilities. Below is a similar schedule to the day of the event.

- **9:00am:** Arrival and sign-in at the Forbes Center Interlude Lobby; continental breakfast for prospective students and families in warm-up space.
- **9:30-11:15am:** Audition Class
- **11:25am-12:25pm:** Informational meeting, question and answer session with the dance faculty
 - Often includes a showing by dance majors in Virginia Repertory Dance Company.
- **12:30-1:45pm:** Individual interviews for prospective students with dance faculty in their offices located on the second floor. Your interview slot will be assigned on the day of your audition. Please wait in the upstairs lobby to be called for your interview. Optional Tours of Wayland Hall (Arts Dorm) are often available following the interviews. You are free to go after your interview if you do not want to tour Wayland.

Be yourself and have fun. Remember that we want you to do your best!

Questions? Contact Tara Lee Burns, Dance Recruitment Coordinator at burnstl@jmu.edu.

We aim to host inclusive and accessible auditions, portfolio reviews, and interviews that allow all participants to engage and share fully. To request accommodations, please contact burnstl@jmu.edu.



OFF-CAMPUS AUDITION

We will audition and accept students into the dance program from off-site auditions. If you have auditioned for the program at an alternate location (festival, masterclass, studio, high school, etc.), please follow the instructions below.

- If you have already auditioned AND received an acceptance email from JMU Dance, please:
 - Complete a Slideroom portfolio by following the directions above (page 3) and indicating where you auditioned for the program.
 - Apply to the university! If you have received an artistic acceptance to the dance program, you will still need to apply to the university for academic acceptance.
 - If you have already auditioned for the program, you DO NOT need to complete an audition registration (#2 page 2). You will only need to apply to the university and complete a Slideroom portfolio.

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