


**From:** MORENO\_MARISSA MORENO\_MARISSA@smc.edu   
**Subject:** Santa Monica College collegial consultation - A.S. in Commercial Dance  
**Date:** November 18, 2025 at 4:09 PM

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Hello LARC Voting Members and Faculty,

The purpose of this email is to serve as collegial consultation as Santa Monica College is submitting for a new program in A.S. in Commercial Dance and the application that will be a program recommendation on the December agenda.

Los

Angeles is the epicenter of the commercial dance industry, and a large percentage of SMC Dance students intend to pursue careers within this industry as performers, choreographers, producers, artistic directors, educators, private studio owners, talent agents, company managers, rehearsal directors, stage and production managers, somatic therapists, dance filmmakers, digital content creators, marketing personnel and arts administrators.

Through an interdisciplinary curriculum that integrates movement, theory, and performance courses, students would develop technical proficiency and artistic versatility while cultivating critical thinking, communication,

and collaboration skills essential for career success and/or university transfer. Experiential learning opportunities, including internships and guest artist workshops, would provide practical, hands-on experience and direct connections to industry professionals.

The program emphasizes the application of current industry knowledge, creative problem-solving, entrepreneurial skill sets, audition preparation, and professional networking strategies that support sustainable careers in the performing arts.

The LMI report (attached) meets two out of three program endorsement criteria, specifically showing a projected increase in occupational demand. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to dancer/choreographer occupations is projected to increase by 8% through 2028. There will be nearly 700 job openings per year through 2028 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2023 for middle-skill commercial dance occupations (69%) were located in Los Angeles County. It is also important to note that the LMI report listed Top Employers as amusement parks and private dance studios, but did not include production companies that hire for TV/film/commercial/tour gigs. These jobs, particularly SAG-AFTRA (union) roles, are typically the highest paying dance jobs in the industry, and were not included in the LMI living wage or job posting analysis.

Curriculum Overview:

SMC

is the only community college in the Greater LA area that offers a Commercial Dance Certificate of Achievement (Fall 2023). This new degree builds upon the Certificate curriculum by offering additional training in diverse performance techniques including Acting and Musical Theater to serve those students desiring an Associate's degree and/or who seek to expand their artistic range for employment in the entertainment industry.

**REQUIRED COURSES:**

DANCE

[12 Intermediate Hip Hop](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[13 Advanced Hip Hop](#)

(2 units)

DANCE

[15 Intermediate Jazz](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[16 Advanced Jazz](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[55A: Dance Performance - Modern](#) (4 units)

DANCE

[57A: World Dance Performance](#) (4 units)

DANCE

[60: Fundamentals of Choreography: Dance Improvisation](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[63: Choreography: Special Topics](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[77: Navigating Careers](#) in Dance

(3 units)

DANCE

[90A: Dance Internship](#) (1 unit)

THEATRE

THEATRE

[ARTS 41 Acting I](#) or

THEATRE

[ARTS 45 Musical Theatre Workshop](#)

(3 units)

Required

Program Electives (6 units chosen from the following) -

DANCE

[17 Beginning Tap](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[18 Intermediate Tap](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[19A Beginning Ballroom Dance](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[20 World Dance Styles and Forms](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[21B Intermediate Asian Pacific Dance](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[22B Intermediate Mexican Dance](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[24B Intermediate Flamenco Dance](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[25B Intermediate African Dance](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[26B Intermediate Salsa Dance](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[27B Intermediate Brazilian Dance](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[29 Middle Eastern/North African Dance](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[31A Ballet 1A](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[31B Ballet 1B](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[32A Ballet 2A](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[32B Ballet 2B](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[33A Intermediate Ballet 3A](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[33B Intermediate Ballet 3B](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[34A Advanced Ballet 4A](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[34B Advanced Ballet 4B](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[41 Contemporary Modern Dance 1](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[42 Contemporary Modern Dance 2](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[43A Intermediate Contemporary Modern Dance 3A](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[43B Intermediate Contemporary Modern Dance 3B](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[44A Advanced Contemporary Modern Dance 4A](#) (2 units)

DANCE

[44B Advanced Contemporary Modern Dance 4B](#) (2 units)

**TOTAL**

**UNITS: 33**

Thank you for your time and consideration. Feel free to reach out to me or the Dance Department Chair Mark Tomasic ([TOMASIC\\_MARK@smc.edu](mailto:TOMASIC_MARK@smc.edu)) if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,

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