

Assistant Professor in Dance
Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts
Department of Dance + Choreography

Full-time Tenure-track position beginning August 16, 2019

Review of applications begins March 11, 2019

The Opportunity:

The VCUarts (arts.vcu.edu) Department of Dance and Choreography at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA—an energetic undergraduate program focused on dance-making and performance that fosters lively engagement within diverse areas of the dance field by students and faculty alike—invites applications for a tenure-eligible faculty position in Dance at the rank of Assistant Professor. The department seeks creative, collaborative applicants with qualifications, experiences, and demonstrated strengths in the field of contemporary dance with a dedicated commitment to fostering an equitable learning and working environment.

VCUarts (<https://arts.vcu.edu/>) in Richmond, Virginia offers a variety of graduate and undergraduate degrees in design, fine and performing arts, with a unique emphasis on creative immersion. Far more than receiving simply an education or preparation for a career; students leave VCUarts with the practical, professional and personal skills needed to make a life in the arts, no matter how they define it. That's why VCUarts' programs emphasize both doing and knowing: why the majority of its faculty are working artists performers and designers; and why they encourage students to take advantage of the many academic and intellectual opportunities that come with being part of a research university. Today, VCUarts graduates can be found throughout the academic and professional fields and have been recognized with everything from Emmys to MacArthur Fellowships.

VCUarts is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the National Association of Schools of Dance, the National Association of Schools of Music, the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the Virginia Department of Education, the Council for Interior Design Accreditation and the National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education.

VCUarts is ranked as the #1 public university arts and design graduate school in the country by US News and World Report. The school is comprised of sixteen departments, includes more than 3,000 students, and has become known as a pillar of artistic creation and expression. Its emerging artists explore their potential and strive for high standards set by faculty members acknowledged for their inspiration and achievement.

VCUarts is dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse and pluralistic faculty committed to teaching and working in a multicultural and inclusive environment and strongly encourages applications from all racial/ethnic, gender and social identities. We are especially interested in candidates who combine their creative research with activism and entrepreneurship at the community, national or international level, with a focus on equity, diversity, social and racial justice and creative literacy.

Our new colleague will contribute

In Research:

The successful candidate will demonstrate a dynamic, active, and innovative artistic practice and/or scholarly research in dance. The faculty member will be required to have an established research agenda, clear potential for external funding as appropriate, and potential for scholarship or creative expression that complements and expands existing expertise in the department. In addition, the caliber of the faculty member's scholarly and creative activity should be recognized by and contribute to the evolving field of dance studies and performance.

In Teaching:

The department seeks an expert educator and embodied practitioner who can teach all levels of traditional modern or contemporary techniques in a B.F.A. program, contributing biomechanically-sound training that

expands VCU dance majors' literacy and skills in contemporary training. Additionally, candidates are expected to teach in two or more of the following areas: global dance forms, hip hop, jazz, tap, commercial, ballet, improvisation, composition, choreography, site-specific and/or interdisciplinary coursework, dance history, partnering, somatic practices, repertory, or senior project capstone. The ability to relate contemporary trends in dance practice to historical, theoretical, and critical issues is essential.

In Service:

Service to the university, school and department will be required and could include serving on committees as designated by the chair; serving in a professional capacity in their field; advising students' creative work and serving as a mentor to students at all levels; directing formal and informal concerts; coordinating student activities; serving on departmental juries and committees; supporting curricular development; and engaging collaboratively with faculty and staff to achieve departmental goals and objectives. The successful candidate will be committed to working in and fostering an inclusive faculty, staff, and student environment as a collegial faculty member at VCU.

Required Qualifications

- Ph.D., M.F.A., M.A. in Dance or equivalent experience;
- Demonstrated ability to train, educate, motivate, and inspire dance majors in a college dance program;
- Teaching experience at a university and/or professional level in modern and/or contemporary practices and at least two areas listed above;
- Professional performance experience;
- Thorough record of research presented in well-regarded venues;
- Demonstrated interest working in and promoting an inclusive faculty, staff, and student environment, and commitment to do so as a faculty member at VCU;
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate and interest in developing productive connections across creative disciplines;
- Effective communication skills;
- Demonstrable interest in progressive pedagogies is preferred;
- Academic, research and/or professional experiences at urban research universities, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) or Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) is preferred.

About VCU Dance + Choreography

VCU Dance offers a pre-professional program that culminates in a B.F.A. in Dance and Choreography or a B.F.A. concentration in performance for Richmond Ballet Trainees. The program offers a technique curriculum with four levels of modern dance and ballet alongside a strong creative track with numerous opportunities for students to perform and present choreography. The department presents 6-8 productions each year in the Grace Street Theater, which was specifically designed for dance, modeled after the Joyce Theater in New York. Productions include student and faculty concerts, as well as touring dance companies.

The Department of Dance and Choreography curriculum includes Modern and Ballet techniques, Improvisation, Composition, Choreography, Music and Dance Forms, Studies in Music, Dance Science, Web Anatomy, Dance History, Dance in World Cultures, African American Presence in American Dance, Business of Dance, Dance Criticism, Teaching Methods, Children's Pedagogy, Video/Choreography, Sound Design for Dance, Production, Lighting Design for Dance, and many technique electives such as Jazz, Tap, West African Dance, Hip Hop, Modern Partnering, Contact Improvisation, Ballroom, Pilates, Dance Conditioning, and Yoga. The program sustains an enrollment of 90-100 dance majors and attracts a culturally diverse and highly motivated group of young artists who function with a strong sense of community and professionalism. Named one of the nation's "Top Ten Schools for Choreography" by Seattle PI, VCU Dance is one of 16 departments that make up VCU's School of the Arts, the #1 ranked public university arts and design program in the country, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. The department is currently staffed with seven full-time and 10 part-time faculty. Virginia Commonwealth University is a state-supported institution with enrollment over 30,000 students. Virginia Commonwealth University is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Dance. To learn more about VCU Dance, please visit arts.vcu.edu/dance

Application Instructions:

To apply, please submit application materials via VCU eJobs at www.vcujobs.com. Only electronic applications submitted via eJobs will be accepted.

Application materials should be to the attention of Scott Putman, Associate Professor and Chair of the search committee, and should include the following:

- 1) Letter of interest that conveys relevant academic and professional background and a clear research vision; and describes experiences and/or professional service that inform the candidate's world views and/or perspectives about identity, to potentially include race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexuality, religion, and/or disability;
- 2) Current CV;
- 3) A list of five references including names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses (references will not be contacted prior to applicant's approval).
- 4) Statement of Teaching Philosophy;
- 5) Link(s) to video of creative work and/or scholarly writing; and Links of video clips that speak to your teaching philosophy;

The Letter of Interest should be submitted as one PDF in the "Cover Letter/Letter of Application" section in eJobs; the CV/Resume + list of references + teaching philosophy should be submitted as one PDF in the "Curriculum Vitae (CV)" section of eJobs; and link(s) to creative work and/or scholarly writing should be submitted in the "Other Document" section of eJobs as an accessible link in a PDF that points to a website or cloud storage (with access instructions) to view work.

Review of applications begins March 11, 2019, and will continue until the position is filled.

To read more about VCUarts: <http://arts.vcu.edu>

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action university providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation or disability.