

Collin White  
Professor Michael Rasbury  
Miller Arts Scholars  
01 April 2022

Expanding my Dance Training and Preparing for Future Choreographic Work

My project proposal is to attend the [Joffrey Ballet School San Francisco summer intensive program](#) from July 25 - August 6, 2022. With this grant, I am hoping to gain more experience within my discipline. At this intensive, I will be able to take ballet, contemporary, modern, pilates, and a variety of other classes throughout the two weeks that I am there. I will be able to learn from guest teachers, such as [Adam Skulte](#) (the Artistic Director of Ballet West) [Allison DeBona](#) (the Artistic Director of artÉmotion), [Anh Dillion](#) (an ABT certified teacher), and many more. These teachers will help me expand upon some of the skills that I have already learned here at the university. I will be able to continue studying the dance styles that I have been exposed to, but I will be learning them at a different level than what I am used to learning. Their comments on how to become a stronger dance technician and artist will be very beneficial, and I am excited to learn from the faculty and staff that will be teaching at this intensive.

In addition, this experience will help me navigate on my own in a new environment. I have never been to the west coast, so I am very excited to be able to travel out to California on my own. I love to travel and am excited to learn about how dance is taught in a place that is very unfamiliar to me. I have grown up dancing mostly in Virginia and Tennessee and I am excited to compare the teaching styles in California to those that I have been taught in these states.

I will also be able to learn from fellow dancers who come from very different backgrounds than mine and have had different training and experiences. By having a roommate and making new friends with other dancers in my classes, I will be able to hear first hand more about their dance experiences and be able to compare these to my own. Not only can the teachers influence my dance style, but fellow student dancers can as well. These relationships will help me network and build connections that can benefit me in the future.

I look forward to applying this newly gained knowledge to my dancing here at UVA. This intensive will help me in my future endeavors as a dance artist in the Dance Minor program. Once I return in the fall semester, with the experience gained from this intensive, I intend to choreograph in either the Fall or Spring Dance Concert here at the university. I will continue to take classes to fulfill my dance minor, but will also participate in student dance clubs such as the Rhapsody Ballet Ensemble. I plan to take Ballet I next semester with Mrs. Schetlick after I have officially declared the dance minor. I am hoping to take Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis and another dance course with Mrs. Brooks Mata in the Spring semester of 2023. I am also considering teaching at a local dance studio next year, but this depends on a number of variables. I love children, so teaching a dance to younger children would be ideal.

I am requesting \$3000 for this Third Year Art Award to be used for the ballet summer intensive program. This funding will cover the majority of tuition, housing, meals, and includes a

miscellaneous category for meals not covered by the meal plan, a bus pass to travel around the city, and tickets to see local shows. I think this intensive has many opportunities for personal growth, not all of which pertain to dance. However, there still are numerous benefits and learning opportunities to further my education as a dancer, budding choreographer, and aspiring teacher.

I already have much of the necessary equipment for this intensive including tights, leotards, pointe shoes, and flat shoes. I have an abundance of masks that I will use as well, as these are still required in order to participate in the program.

The only limitation that I may have is if I am not accepted into the program. I have a virtual audition this Saturday, April 2nd, from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. I will be waiting to hear back if I am accepted into the program after this date. Because of this, I am also planning to submit a video audition to the [Oregon Ballet Theater](#) or the [Brussels International Ballet](#). Should none of these options work out, I will work with Mrs. Kim Brooks Mata to identify a new plan and amend this proposal accordingly.

I will create my outcome report and present it next April by using videos, pictures, and testimonials from my time at the intensive. Depending on where I am in my choreographic process, I may be able to share excerpts from my creative work.

I am planning to keep a journal as well. This way, I can easily refer back to the corrections that I receive from my teachers and take notes of the many combinations we will perform in class. I will be able to refer to this journal as a source of information for my outcome presentation and for future teaching.

***Timeline:***

*July 25th-August 6th 2022:*

Attend Joffrey Ballet San Francisco Program

- I will be taking classes throughout the week and will have the opportunity on the weekends to see local performances. There are events on the weeknights and weekends, which are sponsored by Joffrey Ballet.
- I will be journaling throughout the program to reflect on class experiences and to take note of my observations from the performances I attend.

*Fall and Spring Semesters 2022-2023:*

- I will continue to take dance classes at UVA and take the opportunity to choreograph for either the Dance Minor Program or Rhapsody Ballet Ensemble dance concerts in the fall of 2022 or spring of 2023. This will allow me to apply some of the skills I gained during the summer intensive to the creative process. I will continue to work on my outcome report with guidance from Mrs. Kim Brooks Mata. By using pictures, testimonials, videos, and my journal excerpts, I am hoping that I will be able to demonstrate the skills that I learned during the intensive in the report.

***Budget:***

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Tuition	\$1,398 (\$699 per week, includes both weeks)
Housing at San Francisco State University	\$1,298 (\$649 per week, includes both weeks)
Meals	\$550 (\$225 per week, includes both weeks)
Miscellaneous	\$150
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3396</b>
<b>Total Funding Requested:</b>	<b>\$3000</b>

\*I can cover the difference between the total and the total funding requested with personal funds. I have already paid for the \$35 audition fee for my application.

***Artistic Involvement at UVA:***

While at UVA, I have been able to participate in the arts by taking many dance classes. While some of those classes were on Zoom during my first year, I still gained lots of experience from them. As of now, I am involved in in-person classes, which have been very beneficial to my dance education. I find it much more exciting to finally be dancing in person, and am excited for the next few years for this to continue.

Last year, I also participated in the Spring Dance Concert. Ching-I Chang (a guest choreographer based in New York) and Zoe Ziff (a dance arts scholar and current 4th year dance minor) were excellent choreographers that I was given the chance to work with, both in person and through Zoom. We were able to show our performance virtually last year at the end of the semester. I was also able to attend virtual guest artist talks and master classes with Maya Taylor and Helen Simoneau.

Within the Miller Arts Scholars, I have taken CASS 1010 and am in the process of completing CASS 1011, both of which allow me to interact with other artists in various disciplines. We have many guest artists come to speak to the class. My favorite part of the class has been listening to other dancers talk about their journeys and dance careers.