

USBI Training Program Outline

Program Description

US Ballet Institute (USBI) is the only vocational leadership certificate program in the world. USBI provides classroom, on the job, and laboratory practicum training with the sole purpose of giving advanced classical ballet dancers the artistic, business and management skills necessary to be employed as leaders in ballet institutions.

Ballet performing companies, high school arts institutions, and Ballet Universities all leave an advanced dancer unprepared to transition into a post performance career in ballet leadership. Advanced dancers are typically displayed at the end of their academic or performance career due to the lack of practical employable training in dance leadership and management.

USBI is the exclusive global leader in offering an advanced dancer training that will bridge the gap from a performance or academic career to an employable leadership career.

History

US Ballet Institute was established as an in-house training program in 2014, USBI was founded as an extension department of the Wilmington School of Ballet, Inc which was established in 1999. USBI has had 20 graduates since 2014. Graduates have gained employment in a variety of organizations as ballet leaders including (but not limited to) performing companies, Art Councils, outreach organizations, and Private studios.

US Ballet Institute training program consists of three divisions:

I. Formal Classroom Training

Each trainee will receive fifteen hours a week of classroom and direct mentoring training (with the exception of theater weeks). The schedule of classroom and direct mentoring training will be set by semester based on the curriculum requirements of the semester. Renowned leaders from each of the three organizations (USIB,WBC,WSB) will provide trainees with extensive instruction in the implementation of best practices in business management, artistic execution, and overall leadership in their individual area of expertise..

II. Rotational Assignments in project divisions

The trainees will be assigned practicum on a rotational basis with expert team leaders. Trainees will receive on-the-job experience in ongoing operations of each of the three institutions (WBC/USIB/WBC). Rotational assignment schedule will be set by each semester depending on the curriculum schedule. During these rotations, trainees will work as teams under the direct supervision of designated senior leadership alongside experienced company team members. Teams will develop, manage, and implement on-going projects. Trainees will gain critical skills in management, leadership, artistry, and business through the practical experience on these teams. On the job training time will be 25 hours per week not including homework study projects. Homework study projects will vary typically between 3-5 hours per week.

III. Theater week schedule /locations

There are 5 productions each year. During the theater week, the schedule will vary based on availability and rehearsal/staging requirements for each individual show. Theater weeks will be Vampires (October), Nutcracker (two weeks in December), New Hanover County School System partner performance (two days in January), Literature series (April), Repertoire Concert (May), University Classical Series (June), Summer Concert (July).

Theater weeks will also occur at a variety of locations including but not limited to: Wilson Center, Odelle Williamson Auditorium, Thalian Hall, Kenan Auditorium, Hannah Block Community Center, Leland Cultural Center, and Minnie Evans Performing Arts Center.