

Dancers and Choreographers

SOC: 27-2030 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$49,920

Median Salary

17,000

Employment

+5.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: See Requirements (BLS)

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

6.3/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Athleticism, Creativity, Leadership skills, Persistence, Physical stamina, Teamwork

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Dancers and Choreographers are performing artists who express ideas, emotions, and stories through **movement, rhythm, and physical expression**. Dancers perform in live and recorded productions, while choreographers create and arrange dance sequences for stage, film, television, and digital media. Their work blends athletic ability, artistic creativity, and disciplined practice. This career is well suited for individuals who are physically expressive, creative, and passionate about performance and movement-based storytelling.

What Do Dancers and Choreographers Do?

These professionals perform and design dance works across a variety of artistic settings.

Common responsibilities include:

- Rehearsing dance routines and movement sequences
- Performing in front of live or recorded audiences
- Learning and memorizing choreography
- Creating original dance routines or movement concepts
- Teaching dancers choreography and refining performances
- Collaborating with directors, musicians, and designers
- Maintaining physical conditioning and injury prevention

Dancers vs. Choreographers

While closely connected, these roles focus on different aspects of dance:

- Dancers: Perform choreographed routines and interpret movement.
- Choreographers: Design, structure, and direct dance compositions.

Many professionals transition between performing and choreographing over their careers.

Styles and Performance Settings

Dancers and choreographers may specialize in specific styles or venues:

- Ballet and Classical Dance
- Modern and Contemporary Dance
- Jazz, Hip-Hop, and Street Styles
- Cultural and Traditional Dance
- Musical Theater and Stage Productions
- Film, Television, and Digital Media

Skills and Abilities Needed

Dancers and choreographers combine physical skill with creative and instructional ability.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Training Pathway

Paths into dance are skill- and performance-based:

- Formal Dance Training (common): Dance schools, conservatories, or university programs
- Workshops and Master Classes: Continued technique development
- Auditions and Casting Calls: Entry into professional roles
- Teaching or Assistant Experience: Gaining choreographic skills
- Continuous Physical Training: Maintaining performance readiness

Where Do Dancers and Choreographers Work?

They work across a wide range of artistic and entertainment environments:

- Dance Companies and Ensembles
- Theaters and Performing Arts Venues
- Film, Television, and Streaming Productions
- Music Videos and Live Concerts
- Schools, Studios, and Training Centers
- Freelance and Independent Productions

Work schedules are often irregular and project-based.

How Much Do Dancers and Choreographers Earn?

Earnings vary widely based on role, experience, and contracts:

- Entry-Level Performers: Often earn hourly or per-performance pay
- Established Dancers or Choreographers: Typically earn higher compensation
- Freelance or Contract Artists: Income may fluctuate seasonally

Compensation often depends on funding, audience demand, and production scale.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is physically and emotionally demanding. Dancers must maintain peak physical condition, handle performance pressure, and navigate a competitive job market. Choreographers face creative and logistical challenges in producing original work and leading teams.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Dancer or Choreographer?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Love movement and physical expression
- Are disciplined and committed to practice
- Enjoy performing or creating artistic work
- Can handle competition and physical demands
- Want a creative, expressive career

How to Prepare Early

- Begin dance training at a young age if possible
- Study multiple dance styles
- Build strength, flexibility, and endurance
- Perform in recitals, shows, or competitions
- Learn choreography, teaching, and creative composition skills

Dancers and choreographers transform movement into meaning, using physical expression, creativity, and discipline to tell stories, evoke emotion, and bring artistic visions to life on stages and screens around the world.