Department of Dance

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http://dance.arts.uci.edu/

Overview

The Department of Dance fosters an educational environment in which performance opportunities, creative projects, and theoretical studies complement and reinforce each other, providing a foundation for careers in dance. The program focuses on the dance techniques of ballet, modern, jazz, tap, world dance, and dance and technology. Theoretical studies include dance history and theory; dance writing; Laban studies; dance pedagogy; dance ethnography; dance science; and aesthetics of digital media. Creative opportunities bridge the studio and theoretical work through performance and choreography for multiple contexts; creative applications of animation, motion capture, audio and video technologies; lecture demonstration; and critical, historical, ethnographical, and scientific writing.

The objective of studio work is to develop kinesthetic resources, precision, flexibility, creativity, and freedom in a coordinated and intelligently responsive dancer. The techniques of classical ballet, modern dance, and jazz constitute crafts and styles for the dancer that serve not only as a basis for the training of the body, but also as a basic language of movement for the choreographer.

The theoretical, historical, and scientific courses are designed both to broaden the perspective of those students whose first interest is performance or choreography, and to provide a foundation for those students who plan to pursue careers in the academic, scientific, technological, or administrative fields of dance.

The dance archives in the UCI Langson Library Special Collections offer a rich source of research materials which enhance the Dance program. Among other special holdings, the archives include the extensive Ruth Clark Lert collection of dance books, journals, photographs, original costume sketches, and memorabilia of dance in Europe and the United States from pre-World War I to the present.

The Undergraduate Program

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) is designed for those who wish to obtain a broad undergraduate background as preparation for careers or graduate work and related fields. It offers students a dance education that stresses performance and choreography, and, at the same time, intellectual depth and scope. In addition to the core, 12 units of elective Dance courses are required. The remaining elective units required for graduation may be chosen from Dance or other disciplines in relation to a student’s individual interest. While the program of study in Dance stresses technical proficiency and academic understanding in dance, the B.A. degree program also enables students to pursue elective subjects in their special areas of interest in other academic disciplines.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) program with specializations in Performance and Choreography, is designed for students who wish to prepare intensively for careers in those areas. The courses required in addition to the core are primarily in Dance. The B.F.A. program allows for a few free electives in other areas. Admission to the B.F.A. program with a specialization in Choreography is by faculty approval only.

The B.F.A. program with a specialization in Performance does not require additional faculty approval beyond the required audition for admission to the Dance major; students should declare their intention to pursue this specialization during spring quarter of their sophomore year.

Proficiency Levels

In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to UCI, applicants must demonstrate technical and creative promise. The Department holds annual entrance auditions for potential freshmen and transfer students during the winter quarter prior to the fall quarter when entrance is anticipated. First-year students wishing to major in Dance must be at technique level II in at least one of the three major genres (ballet, modern, jazz).

Placement auditions for admitted students are held during Welcome Week to determine levels of technical ability for placement in courses. It is suggested that transfer students wishing to pursue a B.A. in Dance complete, in addition to their general education requirements, one course in choreography, two courses in dance technique, and one course in music for dancers prior to transfer to UCI.

Transfer students wishing to pursue the B.F.A. must declare their intention in writing at the time of their entrance audition and demonstrate technique and/or choreography levels appropriate to their year. It is suggested that transfer students complete, in addition to their general education requirements, one course in choreography, two courses in dance technique, one course in music for dancers, and one course in dance performance prior to transfer to UCI.

Students deficient in level of performance or academic preparation should be prepared to extend their studies beyond the normal four-year program in order to meet the requirements for graduation.
Requirements for the B.A. in Dance

All students must meet the University Requirements.

School Requirements: None.

Departmental Requirements for the Major

A. Complete the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 2</td>
<td>Dance Health and Injury Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 21A</td>
<td>Music for Dancers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 60A</td>
<td>Choreography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 90A</td>
<td>Dance History 1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 90B</td>
<td>Dance History 1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 90C</td>
<td>Dance History 1C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 100</td>
<td>Kinesiology for Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 180C</td>
<td>Laban Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 185</td>
<td>Critical Issues in Dance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

B. Complete one four-unit course from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 125A</td>
<td>Teaching of Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 127A</td>
<td>Costume Design for Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 162A</td>
<td>Choreography II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 163</td>
<td>Dance and Video Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 164</td>
<td>Screendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 180A</td>
<td>Laban Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 194</td>
<td>Topics Vary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 195</td>
<td>Arts Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Technique: Students must complete at least one Dance technique course (ballet, modern dance, jazz, Spanish, world dance, pointe, social dance, tap, or repertory) each quarter in residence. At a minimum, students must complete level II in Ballet, Modern, and Jazz (DANCE 132A-DANCE 132B-DANCE 132C, DANCE 142A-DANCE 142B-DANCE 142C, and DANCE 152A-DANCE 152B-DANCE 152C) and level III in either Ballet or Modern (DANCE 133A-DANCE 133B-DANCE 133C or DANCE 143A-DANCE 143B-DANCE 143C). Students who place above level II in any technique must take a year of that technique at the level in which they are placed. All students must also complete one course chosen from DANCE 12A, DANCE 12B, DANCE 12C (Spanish Dance), DANCE 14 (Social Dance), DANCE 52A, DANCE 52B, DANCE 52C (Tap I) or DANCE 110 (World Dance). NOTE: Units earned in ballet, jazz, and modern technique courses beyond the required amount do not count toward departmental elective requirements but may count toward University requirements.

D. Performance:

Select two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 170</td>
<td>Dance Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 171</td>
<td>Dance Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 172</td>
<td>Master of Fine Arts Concert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. Four units of DRAMA 101 (Theater Production) must be taken during the first year in residence.

F. Electives: 12 units of electives must be completed within the major.

Requirements for the B.F.A. in Dance

All students must meet the University Requirements.

School Requirements: None.

Departmental Requirements for the Major

Students must complete the departmental requirements as listed for the B.A. degree in Dance. In addition, B.F.A. students must complete the requirements for either the specialization in Choreography or Performance.

Choreography Specialization:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 60B</td>
<td>Choreography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 60C</td>
<td>Choreography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 127A</td>
<td>Costume Design for Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAMA 30A</td>
<td>Acting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAMA 50C</td>
<td>Introduction to Lighting Design</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any three quarters of courses chosen from the following:
DANCE 162A-162B-162C  
Choreography II and Choreography II and Choreography II

DANCE 164  
Screendance

Select two courses in DANCE 1651

Four units (one or two courses) in Art History, Music, Studio Art, or Drama (in addition to DRAMA 30A, DRAMA 50C, and DRAMA 101 requirements).

Performance Specialization:

Technique: At a minimum, students must complete level III in Ballet, Modern, and Jazz (DANCE 133A, DANCE 133B, DANCE 133C, DANCE 143A, DANCE 143B, DANCE 143C, and DANCE 153A, DANCE 153B, DANCE 153C) and level IV in either Ballet or Modern (DANCE 134A-DANCE 134B-DANCE 134C or DANCE 144A-DANCE 144B-DANCE 144C). Students who place above level III in any technique must take a year of that technique at the level in which they are placed.

DANCE 139  
Partnering

Performance:

DANCE 137  
Repertory

or DANCE 179  
UCI Etude Ensemble

DANCE 170  
Dance Performance (series)2

Select one of the following:

DRAMA 30A  
Acting

or a fourth additional performance in the DANCE 170 series.

1  Choreographic Projects—one original choreographic work, approved by the faculty, must be presented in both the junior and senior years.

2  DANCE 170 series: must be in three additional performances beyond the B.A. requirements, one of which must be DANCE 170, DANCE 171, DANCE 172, or DANCE 174. DANCE 171 and DANCE 172 may be repeated for credit. Students must demonstrate proficiency in at least two dance genres in these performances.

Sample Program for Freshmen (B.A. and B.F.A. Programs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WRITING 39B</td>
<td>WRITING 39C</td>
<td>DANCE 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE 21A</td>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>General Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technique</td>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>Technique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>Drama 101 (2 units)</td>
<td>Drama 101 (2 units)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Information

Careers for the Dance Major

Careers in dance require excellent training and extraordinary discipline, tenacity, and dedication. Graduates of the Department have an excellent record of placement in the many fields of dance. Some have become professional dancers in ballet companies (including the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Nashville Ballet, and Joffrey); in modern dance companies (including Hubbard Street Dance Company, MOMIX, and Martha Graham Dance Ensemble); in touring companies (including The Lion King, Fame: The Musical, Carousel, and Cirque du Soleil); and in films, television, and theatre.

In addition to training for professional dance performance and choreography, the major in dance serves as a basis for graduate study or job opportunities in fields such as dance history, dance science, dance pedagogy, dance reconstruction, dance criticism, dance video, and technology. Related fields, such as arts administration, law in relation to the arts, arts therapies, design and production, and music also offer positions for graduates. Students who are interested in a career in athletic training, physical therapy, or dance science will find a major in Dance, with related course work in chemistry, physics, biology, and mathematics, to be excellent preparation for further study.

Master of Fine Arts Program

Degree Offered

M.F.A. in Dance.

General Information

The M.F.A. program is an intensive program requiring a core of courses in studio and academic areas. The student’s individual area of interest is explored through the thesis project in the second year. Projects or written theses may be pursued in choreography, video choreography, dance training, dance history and theory, ethnography, dance science, dance reconstruction, and dance and digital technology.
Admission
Applicants for admission to the degree program must meet the general requirements for admission to graduate study and hold a B.A. or B.F.A. in Dance or the equivalent. Candidates must meet the minimum requirements for the B.A. in Dance at UCI. Proposals for three choreographic works that could be completed in the graduate program must be submitted. An audition in ballet and modern technique is required for admission and is held in winter quarter. At this audition, applicants must also present a prepared five-minute choreographed piece, which may be a solo performed by the applicant, or a videotape of the applicant’s choreography. Interviews with faculty are conducted following the audition, and applicants are given a short writing exercise.

Teaching Assistantships
Graduate students are encouraged to apply for teaching assistantships in areas such as notation, dance science, history, music for dancers, choreography, world dance, dance video, critical issues, and all technique classes. Students with expertise in any of these areas are given special consideration.

General Degree Requirements
Normally two years of residence are required. Each candidate must enroll for three courses each quarter for six quarters, exclusive of summer sessions.

In the second year, satisfactory attainment must be demonstrated by a major thesis; in choreography this consists of the composition and production of a choreographic work; in other areas, such as dance history, dance training, or dance science, this consists of a written thesis or a comprehensive project in a chosen area of study. All theses must be defended in a one-hour oral examination which may also test the candidate’s general knowledge in the area.

The normative time to degree for students in the M.F.A. program is two years. Residence is required. The normative time to degree can be extended to three years only when a student requests extra time for more involved thesis research through a petition to the Chair of the Department. The maximum time to degree is three years. Students who do not complete the degree in three years will be dropped from the program.

Specific Degree Requirements
Seventy-two quarter units in graduate or approved upper-division undergraduate courses must be completed with a grade of at least B in each course. No more than 20 units in upper-division courses may count toward the degree. Fulfillment of the technique course requirements must be approved by the faculty advisor.

A. Complete the following:

DANCE 201 Seminar in Kinesiology for Dance
DANCE 222 Musical Resources
DANCE 225 Seminar in the Teaching of Dance Techniques
DANCE 261A-261B Graduate Studio in Choreography
DANCE 261A-261B and Graduate Studio in Choreography
DANCE 281 Dance and Video Technology
DANCE 282 Seminar in Movement Analysis
DANCE 283 Critical Issues in Dance
DANCE 284 Bibliography and Research
DANCE 286 Thesis
DANCE 296 Proseminar in Dance History

Also required: Six courses chosen from any graduate or upper-division dance technique course.

By the end of their first year, students will choose their area of study for their thesis. Students who wish to produce a choreographic thesis must apply to the graduate choreography advisor during winter of their first year. The faculty will review the applications and will consider the quality of the student’s work in DANCE 261, as well as the choreographic proposal, in making their selection.

Faculty
David Allan, Choreographer/Former Soloist, National Ballet of Canada; Choreographer, ballet companies, operas, film, and television, Professor Emeritus of Dance (ballet, pas de deux, choreography)
Shaun D. Boyle, M.A. Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, Assistant Professor of Dance (ballet, repertory, choreography)
Mary E. Corey, M.A. University of California, Riverside; Certified Professional Labanotator, Professor of Dance (dance history, dance notation and reconstruction)
John L. Crawford, Media Artist and Software Designer, Graduate Advisor and Associate Dean for Research Creation and Associate Professor of Dance; Informatics (dance film, interactive media, telematic performance, motion capture, digital arts)
Diane L. Diefenderfer, Former Soloist, Los Angeles Ballet, Eglevsky Ballet Company, Frankfurt Ballet Company, Director of Pilates Program for Dance Wellness, Undergraduate Advisor, Lecturer with Security of Employment of Dance (ballet, pointe, repertory)

Jennifer J. Fisher, Ph.D. University of California, Riverside; Decade diversity mentor, founder and editor of Dance Major Journal, Associate Professor of Dance (dance history and theory)

Israel Gabriel, Bat-Dor Dance Company; Former Assistant Artistic Director, Lecturer with Security of Employment Emeritus of Dance (ballet, modern, pas de deux, repertory)

Michel Gervais, Lecturer of Dance

Charlotte Griffin, M.F.A. University of Texas, Austin, Assistant Professor of Dance (choreography, modern, screen dance)

Chad M. Hall, M.F.A. Ohio State University; Pilates Mat Certified, Assistant Professor of Dance (modern dance, choreography, improvisation)

Loretta Livingston, B.F.A. California Institute of the Arts; Certified Laban Movement Analyst; former principal with Bella Lewitzky Dance Company, Graduate Advisor and Associate Professor of Dance (modern dance, choreography, improvisation, Laban movement analysis, teaching of dance)

Lar Lubovitch, Honorary Doctorate, Juilliard School of the Arts, Founder and Director of New York-based Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and UCI Distinguished Professor of Dance (choreography, repertory, technique, and special projects)

Molly L. Lynch, M.F.A. University of California, Irvine; Pilates Certified; Choreographer/Artistic Director of the National Choreographers Initiative, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Affairs and Associate Professor of Dance (ballet, pointe, repertory, partnering, arts management)

Donald McKayle, Choreographer/Director, Claire Trevor Professor and Professor Emeritus of Dance (Etude Ensemble)

Lisa Marie Naugle, Ph.D. New York University, Department Chair and Professor of Dance (modern dance, choreography, dance and digital technology, improvisation, teaching of dance)

James W. Penrod, M.F.A. University of California, Irvine; C.M.A. Laban Institute of Movement Studies, Professor Emeritus of Dance (ballet, modern, dance notation, choreography, movement analysis)

Janice G. Plastino, Ph.D. University of Southern California, Professor Emerita of Dance (kinesiology/anatomy, research methods, choreography, dance science/medicine)

Nancy L. Ruyter, Ph.D. Claremont Graduate University, Professor Emerita of Dance (dance history, Spanish dance, bibliography and research)

Kelli Sharp, D.P.T. Chapman University, Assistant Professor of Dance (somatic practices, dance science, kinesiology, physical therapy)

Alan Terricciano, M.A. Eastman School of Music, Professor of Dance; Music

Tong Wang, M.F.A. University of Utah; Principal dancer with the Shanghai Ballet, Tulsa Ballet Theatre, Dayton Ballet, Ballet West, Assistant Professor of Dance (ballet, choreography, men's ballet)

Sheron C. Wray, Ph.D. University of Surrey, Associate Professor of Dance; African American Studies (jazz, choreography, improvisation)