

# Dance, MFA

The Master of Fine Arts program in dance offers subprograms in choreography or performance. Students must first complete the online application and then be selected to interview and audition to be considered for admission.

## Learning Outcomes

- **Movement expertise:** achieve professional-level expertise in contemporary movement practices and techniques as a means to advanced, body-based creative research and teaching.
- **Creative research:** establish individualized creative research trajectories that couple dance theories and practices and foster coherent aesthetic points of view in both scholarly and performative contexts.
- **Communication:** demonstrate skilled communication through artistic process and product, and through verbal, written, digital, pedagogical, and emerging artistic forms.
- **Artistic citizenship:** understand and develop the combined artistic, social, and organizational skills of the artist-citizen who, in humane ways, contributes to the local, national, and global dialogues about dance and contemporary culture, and to the evolution of the professional field.
- **Career readiness and sustainability:** understand the diverse and ever-changing nature of the field of dance and develop the relevant agility to hold significant roles in a sustained, lifelong career.

## Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts in dance requires a minimum of 60 s.h. of graduate credit. The program is designed to be completed in four to six semesters in residence. Students must maintain a graduate college program grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.00.

Students who demonstrate accomplishment in dance performance and/or choreography may apply for admission to the MFA program. Applicants select the choreography or the performance subprogram before they are admitted.

The MFA in dance requires the following coursework.

## Dance Core

A total of 29 s.h. of core coursework is required.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
DANC:4060	The Contemporary Dance Scene	3
DANC:5060	Theories of Dance and the Body	3
DANC:5545	Teaching Dance in Higher Education	3
DANC:5880/ THTR:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
DANC:6050	Graduate Improvisation II	3
DANC:6060	Graduate Seminar in Dance	3
DANC:6350	Graduate Choreography III	3
DANC:7990	Thesis (taken once for 8 s.h.)	8

## Movement Practices and Extended Techniques

Students in the choreography subprogram complete 7 s.h. and students in the performance subprogram complete 14 s.h. from the courses listed below. Performance subprogram students must satisfy at least half (7 s.h.) of their movement practice coursework in the ballet and contemporary movement practice curriculum (courses ending in 30 for ballet and 40 for contemporary movement).

Other university courses outside the Department of Dance can satisfy the movement practices requirements with permission of the MFA advisor if they serve a student's embodied creative research objectives.

Course #	Title	Hours
DANC:3030	Major Ballet I	1-3
DANC:3040	Major Contemporary Movement Practices I	1-3
DANC:3851/ MUS:3851	Introduction to the Alexander Technique	3
DANC:3852	Introduction to the Feldenkrais Method: Posture, Perception, and Pain Relief	3
DANC:3853	Introduction to Klein Technique	3
DANC:4034	Ballet Pointe	3
DANC:5085	Graduate African Caribbean Dance Practices	3
DANC:5530	Graduate Majors Ballet II	1-3
DANC:5540	Graduate Contemporary Movement Practices II	1-3
DANC:6030	Graduate Majors Ballet III	1-3
DANC:6040	Graduate Contemporary Movement Practices III	1-3
DANC:6540	Graduate Contemporary Movement Practices IV	1-3
DANC:7550	Graduate Contemporary Movement Practicum	2-3
DANC:7560	Graduate Ballet Technique Practicum	2-3

## Choreography Subprogram

Choreography students complete 12 s.h. in the following courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
DANC:6450	Graduate Choreography IV	3
DANC:6990	Graduate Independent Projects (taken three times for 3 s.h. each)	9

## Performance Subprogram

Performance subprogram students complete 14 s.h. in the following courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
DANC:5055	Embodying Voice/Performing Persona	3

DANC:6990	Graduate Independent Projects (taken twice for 3 s.h. each)	6
At least 5 s.h. from these:		
DANC:3885	Repertory Dance Company	1-3
DANC:6880	Dance Gala Performance	1-4
DANC:6881	Graduate Concert	arr.
DANC:6882	Graduate/Undergraduate Concert	1-4
DANC:6883	Faculty/Graduate Concert	1-4
DANC:6885	MFA Thesis Concert	1-4
DANC:6888	Special Project Student Performance	arr.
DANC:6889	Graduate Performance Credit	1-3

## Electives

Choreography students complete 12 s.h. of electives; performance students complete 3 s.h. of electives. Electives may be selected from dance courses (prefix DANC) numbered 3000 or above, excluding DANC:4880-DANC:4980 and DANC:7990 Thesis; this may include additional courses in the requirement areas listed above. Electives are chosen in consultation with the student's advisor; courses in other departments numbered 3000 or above may be approved.

## Graduate Education

Graduate education prepares students with advanced knowledge and skills in specialized fields. At the University of Iowa, the Graduate College advocates for student-centered graduate education and supports equitable application of rules and policies across graduate programs.

## Academics

University of Iowa graduate credentials are regulated by policies and requirements found in the Graduate College Manual of Rules and Regulations. This includes minimum grade-point average (GPA) requirements for academic standing and degree conferral. The Graduate College sets the minimum requirement. Individual graduate programs may establish higher GPA requirements.

## Admissions

Graduate student applicants must meet admission requirements for both the Graduate College and the program to which they have applied. University of Iowa graduate admission requirements are published by the Graduate College and on the Graduate Admissions website.

## Financial Support

Graduate students might be eligible for financial support. Several contingencies apply, including degree program and award type, satisfactory progress toward degree, satisfactory completion of all duties related to an appointment, and availability of funding. Graduate students should inquire directly with their program for more information about funding availability. The Graduate Student Employment Standards govern the employment relationship between the University of Iowa and all graduate teaching and research assistants in all matters except wages, which are covered by an existing collective bargaining agreement or the conditions of an applicable federal grant.

## Admission

Admission is based on a review of submitted choreographic and performance work, letters of recommendation, transcripts, teaching application, statement of purpose, and curriculum vitae. Selected applicants participate in an interview and audition which includes a solo dance, a teaching audition, and when possible, an on-campus visit that includes advanced classes in ballet and contemporary movement practices to determine class placement level.

Demonstrated accomplishment in performance or choreography is a prerequisite for admission to the program. For more information, see Master of Fine Arts in Dance on the Department of Dance website.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

## Career Advancement

Graduates establish successful, professional careers as professors in higher education and as dance-makers and artistic directors, performers in regional and national companies, writers who contribute to knowledge in the field, and teachers for the next generation of dancers.

## Academic Plans

### Sample Plans

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

### Dance, MFA

- Choreography Subprogram
- Performance Subprogram

### Choreography Subprogram

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Academic Career</b>		
<b>Any Semester</b>		
60 s.h. must be graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. <sup>a, b</sup>		
<b>Hours</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
DANC:5060	Theories of Dance and the Body <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:6050	Graduate Improvisation II <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:6350	Graduate Choreography III	3
DANC:6990	Graduate Independent Projects <sup>d</sup>	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
DANC:6060	Graduate Seminar in Dance <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:6450	Graduate Choreography IV	3
DANC:6990	Graduate Independent Projects <sup>d</sup>	3
Elective course <sup>e</sup>		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

**Second Year****Fall**

DANC:4060	The Contemporary Dance Scene <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:5545	Teaching Dance in Higher Education <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:6990	Graduate Independent Projects <sup>d</sup>	3
Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>f</sup>		1

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>10</b>
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**Spring**

Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>f</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>e</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>e</sup>		3

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>9</b>
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**Third Year****Fall**

DANC:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>f</sup>		2
Elective course <sup>e</sup>		3

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>8</b>
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**Spring**

DANC:7990	Thesis <sup>g</sup>	8
Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>f</sup>		1
Exam: Master's Final Exam <sup>h</sup>		

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>9</b>
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<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>60</b>
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- a The program is designed to be completed in four to six semesters in residence.
- b Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- c Typically this course is offered every other year. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.
- d Taken three times for 3 s.h. each.
- e Complete at least 12 s.h. of electives. Electives may be selected from dance courses (prefix DANC) numbered 3000 or above, excluding DANC:4880-DANC:4980 and DANC:7990. Electives are chosen in consultation with the student's advisor; courses in other departments numbered 3000 or above may be approved.
- f Complete at least 7 s.h. of movement practices and extended techniques coursework. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- g Taken once for 8 s.h.
- h Thesis defense.

**Performance Subprogram**

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Academic Career</b>		
<b>Any Semester</b>		
60 s.h. must be graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. <sup>a, b</sup>		
<b>Hours</b>		<b>0</b>

**First Year****Fall**

DANC:5060	Theories of Dance and the Body <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:6050	Graduate Improvisation II <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:6350	Graduate Choreography III	3
DANC:6990	Graduate Independent Projects <sup>d</sup>	3
Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>e</sup>		1

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>13</b>
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**Spring**

DANC:5055	Embodying Voice/Performing Persona <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:6060	Graduate Seminar in Dance <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:6990	Graduate Independent Projects <sup>d</sup>	3
Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>e</sup>		2

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Performance course <sup>f</sup>		1
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<b>Hours</b>	<b>12</b>
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**Second Year****Fall**

DANC:4060	The Contemporary Dance Scene <sup>c</sup>	3
DANC:5545	Teaching Dance in Higher Education <sup>c</sup>	3
Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>e</sup>		3

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>9</b>
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**Spring**

Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>e</sup>		3
Performance course <sup>f</sup>		3
Elective course <sup>g</sup>		3

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>9</b>
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**Third Year****Fall**

DANC:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>e</sup>		4
Performance course <sup>f</sup>		1

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>8</b>
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**Spring**

Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course <sup>e</sup>		1
DANC:7990	Thesis <sup>h</sup>	8
Exam: Master's Final Exam <sup>i</sup>		

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<b>Hours</b>	<b>9</b>
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<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>60</b>
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- a The program is designed to be completed in four to six semesters in residence.
- b Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- c Typically this course is offered every other year. Check MyUI for course availability since offerings are subject to change.
- d Taken twice for 3 s.h. each.
- e Complete at least 14 s.h. of movement practices and extended techniques coursework. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

- f Complete at least 5 s.h. to satisfy the performance subprogram requirements. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- g Complete at least 3 s.h. of electives. Electives may be selected from dance courses (prefix DANC) numbered 3000 or above, excluding DANC:4880-DANC:4980 and DANC:7990. Electives are chosen in consultation with the student's advisor; courses in other departments numbered 3000 or above may be approved.
- h Taken once for 8 s.h.
- i Thesis defense.