Dance, MFA

The Master of Fine Arts program in dance offers two emphasis areas 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 program 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 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 emphasis before they are admitted.

The MFA with a major in dance requires the following coursework.

Dance Core

A total of 29 s.h. of core coursework is required for students in each emphasis area.

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 (8 s.h. required) 8

Movement Practices and Extended Techniques

Choreography emphasis students select 7 s.h. and performance emphasis students select 14 s.h. from the following. Performance emphasis 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
DANC:7550 Graduate Contemporary Movement Practicum 2-3
DANC:7560 Graduate Ballet Technique Practicum 2-3

Emphasis Courses

Students select courses from their chosen emphasis area.

Choreography Emphasis

Choreography emphasis students complete 12 s.h. from the following.

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

Performance Emphasis

Performance emphasis students complete 14 s.h. from the following.

Course # Title Hours
Both of these:
DANC:5055 Embodying Voice/Performing Persona 3
DANC:6990  Graduate Independent Projects (taken twice)  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  Undergraduate Concert  1-4
DANC:6883  Faculty Concert  1-4
DANC:6884  Undergraduate Event  1-4
DANC:6885  MFA Thesis Concert  1-4
DANC:6887  MFA Event  1-2
DANC:6888  Special Project Student Performance  arr.
DANC:6889  Graduate Performance Credit  1-3

Electives

Choreography emphasis students select 12 s.h. of electives; performance emphasis students select 3 s.h. of electives. Courses may be in dance or other departments and must be numbered 3000 or above. All students should consult their advisor for approval of elective coursework. Any courses in the lists above may count as electives if the requirements of the particular category are already satisfied. For example, choreography emphasis students may count additional courses from the Movement Practices and Extended Techniques curriculum as electives after they have completed their required 7 s.h. Additional dance courses that may count as electives are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DANC:3050</td>
<td>Body/Image: Dance and Media in Discourse and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:3060</td>
<td>Western Concert Dance History: Romantic to Contemporary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:3070</td>
<td>Dance Kinesiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:3600</td>
<td>Art, Feminist Practice, and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:3710/INTM:3700</td>
<td>Topics in Intermedia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:3875/THTR:3875</td>
<td>Topics in Digital Performing Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:4452</td>
<td>MFA Independent Project Research Lab</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:4454</td>
<td>Faculty Creative Research Lab</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:4535</td>
<td>Elementary Ballet Pedagogy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:4545</td>
<td>Teaching of Modern and Contemporary Dance Forms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:5890/THTR:5890</td>
<td>Producing and Directing Digital Video</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Plan of Study

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 Emphasis

Course  Title  Hours

Academic Career

Any Semester

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>0</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:5060</td>
<td>Theories of Dance and the Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:6050</td>
<td>Graduate Improvisation II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:6350</td>
<td>Graduate Choreography III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:6990</td>
<td>Graduate Independent Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:6060</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar in Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:6450</td>
<td>Graduate Choreography IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANC:6990</td>
<td>Graduate Independent Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Second Year

#### Fall
- **DANC:4060** The Contemporary Dance Scene\(^c\) 3
- **DANC:5545** Teaching Dance in Higher Education\(^c\) 3
- **DANC:6990** Graduate Independent Projects\(^d, e\) 3
- Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course\(^g\) 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Spring
- Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course\(^g\) 3
- Elective course\(^f\) 3
- Elective course\(^f\) 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Third Year

#### Fall
- **DANC:5880** Installations and Interactive Performance 3
- Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course\(^g\) 2
- Elective course\(^f\) 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Spring
- **DANC:7990** Thesis\(^h\) 8
- Movement Practices and Extended Techniques course\(^g\) 1
- Exam: Master's Final Exam\(^i\) 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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 Complete a total of 6 s.h. (2 s.h. for each choreography project).
e Choreography emphasis required course.
f Complete at least 12 s.h. of electives. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.
g Complete at least 7 s.h. of movement practices and extended techniques coursework. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
h A minimum total of at least 8 s.h. of thesis credit is required.
i Thesis defense.