

DANCE, MFA

The Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Dance at the University of Alabama will develop students' creative, performance, and scholarly work and prepare them for multiple professional destinations as dance artists, administrators, scholars, and teachers. The Dance (MFA) degree program will support the development of diverse skills in classical and contemporary dance techniques, dance pedagogy, historical perspectives and critical theory, as well as technical and artistic integration of dance-specific technologies.

Admission Requirements

An audition and interview is required for all MFA applicants. Acceptance into the Department of Theatre and Dance (MFA) program requires admission to the UA Graduate School as well as admission to the department. The audition will include movement classes to demonstrate technical and performance proficiency. Each prospective MFA student will be scheduled for a 20-30 minute individual interview with members of the faculty during the audition process. Applicants will open the interview with a brief presentation that highlights their interests in graduate work at UA and outlines possible areas of emphasis.

Statement of Purpose: Compose a narrative, relating research and movement practice interests to pursuing a degree within the UA program. The essay should situate candidates within the field at the present time, gathering significant details of candidates' previous experience, clarifying their current involvement and interest in dance, and speculating about their future intentions within the field. Reviewers are interested in getting to know something about candidates as dance professionals through this writing: what have you done that has led you here, how do you articulate your aesthetic sensibility, what do you hope to accomplish in your studies?

Curriculum Vitae: This document should accurately reflect candidates' completed educational background and all of their professional and related experiences to date. The document should be thorough and comprehensive.

Work Sample(s): List Vimeo, YouTube or similar resources as hyperlinks in a Word or PDF attachment. These samples should demonstrate candidates' expertise and interests, such as excerpts of choreography, documentation of performances, samples of lighting plots, dance notation, or dance media projects. All materials must be accompanied by a clearly written legend identifying the contents, including title, order of materials, date and explicit identification of your contribution. Film clips may be edited or unedited and there is no time limit.

Writing Sample: The Dance Faculty will review writing samples to determine applicants' potential research and creative interests and to assess their competency as writers. Candidates will submit a substantive piece of writing, one that demonstrates their thoughtfulness and capacity to handle language with fluency. This writing submission must be at least 4 pages double-spaced but no more than 20 pages; this might take the form of a critical review, process paper, or scholarly essay.

At least three letters of recommendation must be submitted. Letters should speak to candidates' artistic and academic strengths. At least two letters should be from someone at an academic institution (past or present) who can speak to these strengths, even if previous academic work was not in Dance.

GRE scores are not required.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Course Requirements

Over the course of three years, students will complete a minimum of 60 credit hours in a range of dance studies courses. Students are expected to complete their coursework on the Tuscaloosa campus where faculty may nurture and support their progress through the curriculum. Students will also complete and present a substantial MFA Capstone Project demonstrating a synthesis of craft, artistic vision, and conceptual rigor, as well as professional competence in their selected research area. The Capstone Project is based on creative work, a choreographic/creative project usually presented in a concert, followed by a scholarly paper and an oral defense of the project and paper.

Code and Title	Hours
STUDIO/CREATIVE/PERFORMANCE (39 credits) Students will choose from the following options, up to 39 credit hours, 6 of which will include DN540 and DN541 during the first year, and 3 of which will include DN599 toward the final project.	39
Credit Hours Subtotal:	39
DN 511 Contemporary Tech I-A	
DN 512 Contemporary Tech I-B	
DN 521 Graduate Ballet Technique I-A	
DN 522 Graduate Ballet Technique I-B	
DN 551 Graduate Jazz Technique I-A	
DN 552 Graduate Jazz Technique I-B	
DN 611 Contemporary Tech II-A	
DN 612 Contemporary Tech II-B	
DN 621 Graduate Ballet Technique II-A	
DN 622 Graduate Ballet Technique II-B	
DN 651 Graduate Jazz Technique II-A	
DN 652 Graduate Jazz Technique II-B	
DN 631 Graduate Movement Practice II	
DN 540 Improv and Comp I	
DN 541 Improv and Comp II	
DN 505 Graduate Teaching Practicum	
DN 531 Graduate Movement Practice I	
DN 535 Rhythm, Music and Dance	
DN 640 Collaborative Practice	
DN 650 Creative Process in Dance I	
DN 670 Dance in the Digital Age	
DN 680 Laban/Bartenieff Studies	
DN 500 Performance Practicum I-A	
DN 501 Performance Practicum I-B	
DN 600 Performance Practicum II-A	
DN 601 Performance Practicum II-B	
DN 602 Staging Repertoire	
DN 655 Creative Process in Dance II	
DN 599 Final Project Research	
ACADEMIC (15 credits) Students will choose from the following options, up to 15 credit hours, 3 of which will include either DNCA503 OR DNCA565 during the first year, 3 of which will include DNCA570, and 3 of which will include DNCA599 toward the final project.	15

	Credit Hours Subtotal:	15
DNCA 503 Graduate Teaching Methods		
DNCA 565 Science of Dance Training		
DNCA 570 Research Methods in Dance		
DNCA 630 Professional Issues in Dance		
DNCA 660 Body Politics in Dance		
DNCA 599 Final Project Research		
ELECTIVES (6 credits) Students will choose 6 credits of electives based on their research focus. Courses may be within the dance degree or without.		6
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	6
Total Hours		60

Students must complete and present a substantial MFA project demonstrating a synthesis of craft, artistic vision and conceptual rigor, as well as professional competence in the selected research area.

The culmination of graduate study is the MFA Capstone Project. The Capstone Project is based on creative work: a choreographic/creative project usually presented in a concert, followed by a paper and an oral defense of the project and paper. Creative work can take any number of forms from proscenium performance, to site-specific or interdisciplinary work, etc. In the second year of the degree program, a written proposal for the creative project must be presented and approved. Students will receive considered advice from faculty, however, the responsibility of articulating an idea and completing the proposed work in a fashion acceptable to the faculty rests with the student. In addition, all students will complete the following:

- One digital copy of the project, including a film of the performance and written documentation, should be presented to the Department of Theatre and Dance for the Archival Library.
- Successful oral examination including a discussion and defense of the synthesis of craft, artistic vision, and conceptual rigor as demonstrated in the project.