**DANCE**

http://www.dance.illinois.edu

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Major: Dance  
Degrees Offered: M.F.A.

**Graduate Degree Program**

The Department of Dance offers a graduate program leading to the Master of Fine Arts degree. The mission of the MFA Program is to foster substantive choreographic research that posits dance as a force in contemporary culture. The program embraces a wide spectrum of individual movement research and embodied practice to create a dynamic learning atmosphere for critical engagement with choreographic process.

The Dance Department expects MFA candidates to conduct a creative inquiry that leads to the development of a sophisticated sense of self-definition. Individual research and analysis should culminate in the development of a personal artistic process and mission and should be evident in the following contexts:

- **Choreographing:** Candidates will develop a distinctive choreographic research methodology and demonstrate its skillful application in a performative context. This ideology must establish solid foundation for ongoing research and engagement that contributes to the global dialogue about dance and contemporary culture.
- **Communicating:** Candidates will develop the ability to express their choreographic vision and process in verbal and written language that is clear, cogent, and convincing and demonstrates clear analytic skill, critical thinking, awareness of historical context, and knowledge of contemporary culture.
- **Moving:** Candidates will demonstrate a commitment to movement investigation and practice that defines, advances, and sustains their choreographic vision.
- **Teaching:** Candidates will apply their research vision in clear pedagogic principles while fostering a stimulating teaching/learning environment.
- **Career Planning:** Candidates are assessed on their ability to develop innovative career strategies in order to advance their artistic mission in the field and demonstrate the capacity to implement these plans with professionalism in all the above contexts.

**Admission Requirements**

Prerequisites for admission to the MFA program are:

1. An undergraduate degree and significant experience in dance is required.
2. Demonstrated choreographic achievement and potential to make innovative contributions to the field.
3. Demonstrated potential to engage in critical thinking and writing.
4. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4 point scale, computed from the last 60 hours of undergraduate work and any graduate work completed.

International students must have a minimum TOEFL score of 79 on the internet-based test, 213 on the computer-based tests, or 550 on the paper test for limited status admission. Students with these minimum scores must take the English as a Second Language Placement Test (EPT) upon entry to the University. International students who receive a score greater than 103 on the internet-based test, 257 on the computer-based test, or 613 on the paper test are eligible for full status admission. Students with these scores are exempt from the English as a Second Language Placement Test. The GRE is not required.

**Faculty Research Interests**

An extraordinary faculty of artists, researchers and scholars has gathered at Illinois, who are creating new paradigms for interactions between the professional arena and the academic training ground. Our group of professional artists includes Jan Erkert, Sara Hook, Philip Johnston, Linda Lehovec, Jennifer Monson, Rebecca Nettl-Fiol, Tere O’Connor, Cynthia Oliver, Kirstie Simson, Endalyn Taylor, John Toenjes, Renee Wadleigh, and Abby Zbikowski, all of whom share a commitment to teaching and preparing students for leadership roles in the field of dance.

**Financial Aid**

Two forms of financial aid are offered to graduate students by the Department of Dance:

- Teaching, video and administration assistantships are available to graduate students. Assistantships of 25% or greater qualify the student for a tuition waiver. All students are required to apply for Federal Work Study.
- A variety of Fellowships are available through The Graduate College each year, including: (A full listing of Fellowships can be found at: www.grad.illinois.edu/fellowships)  
  - The Creative and Performing Arts Fellowship, which may include stipends up to a maximum of $6,000 for a student demonstrating outstanding choreographic and performance talent.
  - The Graduate College Fellowship for Underrepresented Students provides fellowships in the amount of $8,000 and are available to outstanding minority students.

Graduate teaching assistantships are awarded to experienced teachers. A letter of recommendation from a dance professional who has observed the applicant’s teaching is required with the application.

Prospective MFA candidates are encouraged to apply for financial assistance through the Office of Student Financial Aid, 420 Student Services Bldg., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL 61820. (217) 333-0100.

**Master of Fine Arts in Dance**

The MFA Curriculum is designed to promote a candidate’s progress through our stated objectives: Choreography, Communication, Moving, Teaching, and Career Planning.

Included in these are courses in dance studies, somatics, pedagogy, and two semesters devoted to an innovative lab team taught by our faculty and designed in collaboration with students. The final year of study is devoted to synthesizing the above objectives evidenced by...
the production of the candidate's choreography, their written thesis document, oral presentation, and plans for propelling students' career into the professional sphere.

Physical Practice, at least 2 hours through DANC 560  
6

Historical and Theoretical Studies  
8
  DANC 510 Grad Seminar/Special Topics
  DANC 541 Contemporary Directions I
  DANC 542 Contemporary Directions II

Composition  
4
  DANC 462 Composition Workshop
  DANC 562 Graduate Composition II

Performance  
2
  DANC 420 Perf Pract Student Works II
  DANC 421 Performance in Grad Thesis II
  DANC 422 Perf Pract November II
  DANC 423 Perf Pract February II
  DANC 424 Collaborative Performance

Research/Project  
8
  DANC 598 Creative Thesis Project

Graduate Synthesis Laboratory  
8
  DANC 520 Synthesis Laboratory

Somatics in Dance Training  
3
  DANC 530 Somatics in Dance Training

400/500 level elective course outside the Department of Dance in related area of research  
4

Electives which may be taken in Dance or related areas of interest  
17

Total Hours  
60

Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap

Course work taken to completed undergraduate deficiencies will not receive graduate credit.

Residency requirement of three years (six semesters)

Minimum GPA: 2.75

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s MFA Handbook (http://dance.uic.edu/prospective-students/mfa) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

• Minor in Dance (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/dance/minor-in-dance)