

The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance Academic Requirements

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Residence Requirements

The four year Bachelor of Fine Arts and Certificate of Fine Arts programs and the Master of Fine Arts and Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts programs require a minimum of two years full-time study with the final semester being in residence.

Bachelor of Fine Arts Curriculum Requirements

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is conferred when a student successfully completes a minimum of 120 units and fulfills all curriculum, performance, choreographic, and production requirements of The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance, and those of the School of Critical Studies. Certificate of Fine Arts candidates do not complete Critical Studies requirements; the remainder of their program is identical to that of BFA candidates. Critical Studies requirements are detailed and course descriptions are provided in the Critical Studies section of this Course Catalog. All judgments about eligibility for a degree or certificate are made by the entire faculty of The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance.

The curriculum is designed to ensure that all students gain mastery in four primary areas: technique/performance, composition/choreography, dance production, and contextual studies. Every student is required to enroll in Contemporary Technique, Ballet Technique, and Composition or Choreography each semester. All choreographic work to be performed at CalArts must be shown to the faculty and student body for critique and guidance during the regularly scheduled Choreo/Performance Lab prior to performance. The School of Dance maintains an active production schedule and students are consistently involved in rehearsal processes leading to performance. Concerts throughout the year present work by students, faculty, and guest artists. Auditions are held regularly and all students in good standing are eligible to audition throughout the school year. The BFA experience culminates in participation in the Next Dance Company in the spring semester of the fourth year. All BFA IV students participate as performers. Each year, work for the Next Dance Company is commissioned from faculty, guest artists, graduate, and undergraduate students.

Each undergraduate student is required to complete a year-long course in the fundamental skills of theatrical production, such as basic principles of lighting design, sound design, costume construction, and video recording. Students are also required to take advanced courses in concepts of lighting and dance for the camera. In addition to the required coursework in design and technology, each student must complete at least two crewing positions each year.

Within the *métier*, all dance students take courses in dance history, cultural studies and anatomy of movement. Additionally, students take courses within the School of Critical Studies and other *métiers* in a broad range of courses designed to provide breadth of exposure, critical thinking skills, and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Beyond required courses, students' select elective courses in Jazz, Balinese, African dance techniques, dance improvisation, pointe, partnering, Pilates Method (Mat and Reformer), interdisciplinary collaborations, and contemporary dance criticism. Students may also elect to design independent projects with faculty supervision at any time during the four years of undergraduate study.

Students accepted as transfer students are evaluated at the time of acceptance to ensure appropriate placement in the

program. All decisions regarding leaves of absence, must be approved by the full faculty. Each student works closely with his or her mentor who provides individualized support and guidance in maximizing the opportunities for personal and professional development through the four years of study. All students participate in annual reviews with the full faculty. Students must successfully pass the mid-residency review in the spring of the BFA II year to continue within the program. Students must successfully pass the graduation review in the final semester to be eligible for conference of the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts. The BFA program is accredited by the National Association of the School of Dance and requires successful completion of a minimum of 120 units.

Learning Outcomes

Over the course of study, the Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate will acquire:

- A strong, dexterous, versatile facility in contemporary dance techniques.
- Knowledge of the choreographic process and a broad view of dance as an art form relevant to today's art practices.
- Practical experience and understanding of all aspects of dance concert production.
- Skill sets for creative problem solving including initiating collaborative dialogue with other artists and art forms.
- Preparation to enter the dance world with a variety of professional tools and the ability to create options for career advancement, including skills to communicate their own artistic vision and needs through spoken and written word.

Bachelor of Fine Arts Course Requirements

The following courses are required but do not constitute a student's entire program.

FIRST YEAR

- [D030A](#)&B Contemporary Dance Technique
- [D031A](#)&B Ballet Technique
- [D038A](#)&B Choreo/Performance Lab
- [D039A](#)&B Production Crewing
- [D113A](#)&B Composition I
- [D105A Music For Dancers I](#)
- [D120 Dance Improvisation](#)
- [D126 Pilates Mat I](#)
- [CS174A](#)&B Dance and World Cultures
- [D207A](#)&B Production Technology for Dance

SECOND YEAR

- [D030A](#)&B Contemporary Dance Technique
- [D031A](#)&B Ballet Technique
- [D038A](#)&B Choreo/Performance Lab
- [D039A](#)&B Production Crewing
- [D105B Music for Dancers II](#)
- [D223A](#)&B Composition II
- [CS273A](#)&B Modern Dance History
- [CS361A](#)&B The Anatomy of Movement
- [D405 Concepts in Lighting Design for Dance](#)

THIRD YEAR

- [D030A](#)&B Contemporary Dance Technique
- [D031A](#)&B Ballet Technique
- [D038A](#)&B Choreo/Performance Lab
- [D039A](#)&B Production Crewing
- [D333A](#)&B Choreography I
- [D459A](#)&B Dance for Camera

FOURTH YEAR

- [D030A](#)&B Contemporary Dance Technique
- [D031A](#)&B Ballet Technique
- [D038A](#)&B Choreo/Performance Lab
- [D039A](#)&B Production Crewing
- [D433A](#)&B Choreography II
- [D435 Company Repertory](#)
- [D450 NEXT! Preparing for My Future in Dance](#)

ELECTIVE COURSES FOR BFAL, 2, 3 & 4

- [D029A&B Jazz](#)
- [D042A&B Partnering](#)
- [D043A&B Ballet Men's Class](#)
- [D044A&B Pointe](#)
- [D045A&B Pilates Reformer I](#)
- [D046A&B Pilates Reformer II \(not for 1st yr. students\)](#)
- [D226 Pilates Mat II](#)
- [D632 Advanced Improvisation](#)
- [D415 Choreographer/Composer Seminar](#)
- [D465 Laban Movement Studies](#)
- [D474 Contemporary Dance Artists](#)
- [D800 Independent Project: Dance](#)
- [MP220 African Dance](#)
- [ME220 Balinese Gamelan](#)
- [MP230 Balinese Dance](#)
- [MP240 Javanese Dance](#)

Master of Fine Arts Curriculum Requirements

The MFA Program at CalArts is designed to serve as a laboratory for artistic development in the art of choreography.

MFA students come to the program with a track record of professional experience and a desire to use the creative environment and rich resources to deepen and extend their choreographic vision and practice. The program challenges and supports dance artists in creating work, from conception to full production in various contexts. MFA students produce three original works in the first year and a Thesis Concert in the second year. There are also opportunities to cultivate their expertise in the art of teaching, with particular emphasis on preparation for being effective contributors to dance education in college and university contexts. Seminars focus on preparation for sustainability as working professional artists, and professional development in higher education. Curriculum is provided for the development of media literacy and competency, in audio, video, digital media technologies. An optional supplemental concentration in Integrated Media is available.

The program is a two-year, 60 credit terminal degree, and includes teaching opportunities and a variety of Assistantships. Proximity to the schools of visual art, music, theater and film/video provide rich opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary projects. The high technical and artistic standard of the BFA students enrich the choreographic processes for the MFA students, bringing their talent and generative enthusiasm to the creative process. MFA students regularly audition BFA students to cast their work. The curriculum complies with NASD standards and best practices for masters level programs, and is accredited by both the National Association of Schools of Dance and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance MFA Program at the California Institute of the Arts is designed to support advanced choreographic development and individual cultivation as artists and artist/educators.

Learning Outcomes

Over the course of study, the Master of Fine Art candidate will:

- Hone choreographic craft in service of her or his artistic vision.
- Produce a thesis concert in the second year of residency that reflects her or his personal aesthetic incorporating collaborations with other artists in the Institute.
- Acquire knowledge and practical experience necessary to provide leadership in all areas of dance production and promotion.
- Build a skill set to effectively represent their choreography for career advancement.
- Acquire knowledge of contemporary art practices in the field of dance, locating her or his own artistic interests within the aesthetic landscape of contemporary dance.

Master of Fine Arts Course Requirements

The following courses are required but do not constitute a student's entire program.

FIRST YEAR

- [D630A&B Graduate Contemporary Dance Technique](#)
- [D638A&B Graduate Choreo/Performance Lab](#)
- [D633A&B Graduate Choreography I](#)
- [D550A&B MFA-1 Project](#)
- [D605A&B MFA Music Seminar](#)
- [D610A&B MFA Theory, Practice, and Thesis Workshop](#)
- [D659A&B Final Cut Pro Editing](#)

SECOND YEAR

- [D630A&B Graduate Contemporary Dance Technique](#)
- [D638A&B Graduate Choreo/Performance Lab](#)
- [D643A&B Graduate Choreography II](#)
- [D610A&B MFA Theory, Practice and Thesis Workshop](#)
- [D650A&B MFA-2 Thesis Project](#)
- [D660A&B Digital Portfolio](#)
- [D669 Advanced Final Cut Pro Editing](#)

ELECTIVE COURSES FOR MFA 1 & 2

- [D600 Graduate Concepts/Lighting Design for Dance](#)
- [D615 Graduate Choreographer/Composer Seminar](#)
- [D632 Graduate Advanced Improvisation](#)
- [D665 Graduate Laban Movement Studies](#)
- [D900 Graduate Independent Project: Dance](#)

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The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts

[The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#) offers a diverse range of courses that deepen perspective on dance as an art form and enable students to become critically aware thinkers and artists.

Course Code	Course Name	Semesters Offered
CS174A	Dance and World Cultures	I, II
CS273A	Modern Dance History	I, II
CS361A\$	The Anatomy of Movement	I, II
D 001A	Institute Dance A	I, II
D 002A	Institute Dance B	I, II
D 005A	Institute Dance Composition	I, II
D 029A	Contemporary Jazz	I, II
D 030A	Contemporary Dance Technique	I, II
D 031A	Ballet Technique	I, II
D 035A	Contemporary Repertory	I, II
D 038A	Choreo/Performance Lab	I, II
D 039A	Production Crewing	I, II
D 042A	Partnering	I, II
D 043A	Ballet Men's Class	I, II
D 044A	Pointe	I, II
D 045A	Pilates Reformer I	I, II
D 046A	Pilates Reformer II	I, II
D 105A01	Music for Dancers I	II
D 105B01	Music for Dancers II	I

Course Code	Course Name	Semesters Offered
D 113A	Composition I	I, II
D 120	Dance Improvisation	I
D 126	Pilates Mat I	I
D 207A	Production Technology for Dance	I, II
D 223A	Composition II	I, II
D 226	Pilates Mat II	II
D 330	Advanced Improvisation	II
D 333A	Choreography I	I, II
D 405	Concepts in Lighting Design for Dance	II
D 415	Choreographer/Composer Seminar	I
D 433A	Choreography II	I, II
D 435	Company Repertory	II
D 450	Next! Preparing for My Future in Dance	II
D 459A01	Dance for Camera	I, II
D 465	Laban Movement Studies BFA	Not planned for this academic year
D 474	Contemporary Dance Artists	II
D 550A	MFA-1 Project	I, II
D 600	Graduate Concepts in Lighting Design for Dance (formerly D 405)	II
D 605A	MFA Music Seminar	I, II
D 610A	MFA Theory, Practice and Thesis Workshop	I, II
D 610A01	MFA Theory, Practice & Thesis Workshop: Dance Education	I
D 610A02	MFA Theory, Practice & Thesis Workshop: Critical Perspectives	II

Course Code	Course Name	Semesters Offered
D 610A03	MFA Theory, Practice, and Thesis Workshop: Artist Identity and Representation	Not planned for this academic year
D 610A04	MFA Theory, Practice, and Thesis Workshop: Dance Education II	Not planned for this academic year
D 610B01	MFA Theory, Practice & Thesis Workshop: Collaborative Arts Practices	I
D 610B02	MFA Theory, Practice & Thesis Workshop: Dance Program Design and Administration	II
D 610B03	MFA Theory, Practice, and Thesis Workshop: Artists at Work	Not planned for this academic year
D 610B04	MFA Theory, Practice, and Thesis Workshop: Choreography Teaching	Not planned for this academic year
D 615	Graduate Choreographer/Composer Seminar (formerly D 415)	I
D 630A	Graduate Contemporary Dance Technique (formerly D 030A&B)	I, II
D 632	Graduate Advanced Improvisation (formerly D 330)	II
D 633A	Graduate Choreography I (formerly D 333A&B)	I, II
D 638A	Graduate Choreo/Performance Lab (formerly D 038A&B)	I, II
D 643A	Graduate Choreography II (formerly D 433A&B)	I, II
D 650A	MFA-2 Thesis Project	I, II
D 659A	Final Cut Pro Editing and Dance for Camera	I, II
D 660A	Digital Portfolio	I, II
D 665	Laban Movement Studies MFA	Not planned for this academic year
D 669	Advanced Final Cut Pro Editing	I
D 800	Undergraduate Independent Project: Dance	I, II
D 900	Graduate Independent Project: Dance	I, II

CS174A: Dance and World Cultures

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

This course examines the various roles that dance plays in human culture. Through video viewing, readings, writings

and discussions, students will gain a critical perspective on dance within religious, social and theatrical contexts. Examples are drawn from American culture as well as from selected countries around the world to provide a greater appreciation for the creative diversity of human expressivity through dance. Dance and World Cultures is a year-long course, though students may register for each semester independently. The first semester establishes a theoretical framework for dance observation within a cross-cultural context and then proceeds to examine examples of dance within religious contexts. The second semester examines examples of social dance and dance as art and entertainment.

- * Required of all BFA I students.
- * Permission of instructor required.
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#), [School of Critical Studies](#)

CS273A: Modern Dance History

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

This course will provide students with a unique opportunity to analyze dances from the 20th Century modern dance repertory. Within a broad historical perspective, modern dance artists will be examined. Through video viewing, readings, writings and discussion, students will gain a critical perspective on the aesthetic and philosophical contributions of the primary artists within this tradition. Attention to movement vocabulary, style and artistic interests and trends will provide perspective on the artistic landscape in which we as contemporary artists are working. This is a year-long course, though students may register for each semester independently. The fall semester focuses on the emergence of modern dance from ballet, through the 1940's. The spring semester begins with the primary choreographers of the 1950's and continues to the present.

- * Required of all BFA II students.
- * Permission of instructor required.
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#), [School of Critical Studies](#)

CS361A\$: The Anatomy of Movement

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

CS361A (Fall semester)

An understanding of anatomy can build a compassionate and informed relationship with your own body. This course will provide students with a detailed knowledge of how the body moves and functions. The first semester will cover the lower body and abdomen. Students will become familiar with anatomical terminology, the skeletal system, and the function and actions of the major muscle groups of the body. The class will take an in-depth approach to understanding the relationship between muscle groups that results in physical activity. In the second half of the semester, students will be asked to apply their knowledge of anatomy to investigate the causes for postural imbalances, common injuries, and more.

- * Critical Studies credit allowed for Dance Students.
- * It is strongly recommended that this course be followed by CS361B which covers upper body.

CS361B (Spring semester)

An understanding of anatomy can build a compassionate and informed relationship with your own body. This course will provide students with a detailed knowledge of how the body moves and functions. The spring semester will cover the arms, back, and upper torso. Students will become familiar with anatomical terminology, the skeletal system, and the function and actions of the major muscle groups of the body. The class will take an in-depth approach to understanding the relationship between muscle groups that result in physical activity. In the second half of the

semester, students will be asked to apply their knowledge of anatomy to investigate the causes for postural imbalances, common injuries, and more.

- * Permission of instructor required. dkrasnow@calarts.edu
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#), [School of Critical Studies](#)

D 001A: Institute Dance A

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

This course, taught by Graduate Teaching Assistants, provides an experiential introduction to techniques of Contemporary Dance. No prior experience in dance is required. Students will have the opportunity to explore the art of dance in which the body is the primary means of expression.

- * May be repeated for credit.
- * Cross disciplinary class.
- * One year course.
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 002A: Institute Dance B

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

This course, taught by Graduate Teaching Assistants, provides an experiential introduction to techniques of Contemporary Dance. No prior experience in dance is required. Students will have the opportunity to explore the art of dance in which the moving body is the primary means of expression.

- * May be repeated for credit.
- * Cross disciplinary class.
- * One year course.
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 005A: Institute Dance Composition

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

This course, taught by Graduate Teaching Assistants, provides an introduction to the art of dance composition. Through movement explorations and creative problem solving, students will investigate core concepts of dance composition. Students will also participate in informal critique and discussion of composition studies.

- * May be repeated for credit.
- * Cross disciplinary class.
- * One year course.
- * Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 029A: Contemporary Jazz

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Contemporary Jazz approaches movement through a jazz vernacular that is stylistically specific in its execution and delivery. An emphasis on refining articulations of the body, alignment, risk taking and critical thinking will supplement instruction. The course infuses syncopated, rhythmic and lyrical jazz dance exercises and movements that encompass strengthening and cardio-vascular properties. In addition, a focus on coordination, flexibility, phrasing, timing and presentation will help synthesize these acquired jazz dance elements. Contemporary Jazz will stylistically enhance one's expressions in the Jazz idiom.

- * May be repeated for credit.
- * One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 030A: Contemporary Dance Technique

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

Intensive training in at least three contemporary dance techniques aimed at the ongoing development of movement skills, kinetic perceptions, center strength, creativity, intellectual understanding and versatility.

- * Open to all BFA Dance students.
- * BFA students must enroll in 16 credit hours for Course D 030, accruing 4 credit hours of Course D 030 per year of enrollment.
- * May be repeated for credit.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 031A: Ballet Technique

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

A focused and realized approach to ballet technique and its training methods, geared toward the individual with the goal of discovering the unique physical potential of each student. Classes emphasize a particular focus on body alignment, coordination and an ability to apply ballet technique to all forms of dance.

- * Required of all BFA Dance Students.
- * Level to be determined by placement class.
- * BFA students must enroll in 16 credit hours for Course D 031, accruing 4 credit hours of Course D 031 per year of enrollment.
- * May be repeated for credit.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 035A: Contemporary Repertory

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

The development, rehearsal and performance of a new or repertory piece of Choreography. Students audition for casting in works by faculty, guest artists and MFAII students.

- * May be repeated for credit.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 038A: Choreo/Performance Lab

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Weekly gathering of all students and faculty of the School of Dance, as well as students from other metier within the Institute. Showing and critique of student works being prepared for performance. Students are expected to show choreography being prepared for School of Dance Concerts.

* Required of all Dance students.

* BFA students must enroll in 8 credit hours for Course D 038, accruing 2 credit hours of Course D 038 per year of enrollment.

* May be repeated for credit.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 039A: Production Crewing

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Analysis and application of technical production skills needed for individual projects.

* Required of all BFA Dance students.

* BFA students must enroll in 8 credit hours for Course D 039, accruing 2 credit hours of Course D 039 per year of enrollment.

* May be repeated for credit.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 042A: Partnering

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Selections from contemporary repertoire with emphasis on in-depth study of the basics of partner work.

* Open to all dance students.

* Permission of instructor required.

* May be repeated for credit.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 043A: Ballet Men's Class

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Advanced Ballet technique for men, with an emphasis on jumps, turns, beats, and other skills associated with classical male roles.

* Permission of instructor required.

* May be repeated for credit.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 044A: Pointe

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Advanced ballet technique.

- * Permission of instructor required.
- * May be repeated for credit.
- * One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 045A: Pilates Reformer I

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Basic Pilates mat work translated on to the universal reformer.

- * Open to Dance students who have completed the Pilates Mat I class.
- * Permission of instructor required.
- * May be repeated for credit.
- * One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 046A: Pilates Reformer II

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

A Pilates advanced exercise course using the Pilates equipment, specifically the Universal Reformer and the Trapeze Table.

- * Open to Dance students who have completed the Pilates Mat I Class and the Basic Reformer work.
- * Not for new students in 1st semester.
- * Permission of instructor required.
- * One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 105A01: Music for Dancers I

1.5 units / Semester: II

This course offers an introduction to the fundamentals of music and their relationship to the dancer/choreographer. Music for Dancers I focuses on audio editing, processing, and recording techniques for use in dance performance. Areas studied will include stereo and multi-track editing, basic mastering techniques, digital manipulation of sound files, and recording of acoustic sources. Course will additionally include listening-based activities for comprehension and identification of standard music genres, as well as rhythm skill development through study of meter and specific

rhythmic units.

Required for all BFA-1 Dance students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 105B01: Music for Dancers II

1.5 units / Semester: I

This course is a continuation of Music for Dancers A. Students will be engaged in listening-based activities and readings investigating a broad music repertoire, with particular emphasis upon intersections in the aesthetics of contemporary music and current choreographic practices. Course will additionally include advanced rhythm skill development through study of meter and specific rhythmic units.

*Required of all BFAII students

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 113A: Composition I

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

A two semester course consisting of a series of activities, exercises, and assignments. Designed to stimulate the discovery and development of the creative impulse in movement in the individual student. A significant component of the course is dedicated to the peer review and critique, and the founding of a solid communication base within the peer group.

* Laboratory hours are required

* Required of BFA I Dance students.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 120: Dance Improvisation

1.0 unit / Semester: I

This course is designed as an introduction to the creative process. Improvisation is used by artists of all disciplines both as an art and as a tool in the choreographic process. In this class we will focus on improvisation as a tool for discovering unique vocabulary and as a means of encouraging development of our creative voices. We will look at dance as 'play', as ephemeral art, and as philosophy. Students will be asked to keep a journal of their experiences throughout the quarter, and the class will culminate in final performance projects to be presented at the end of the semester.

* Required of all BFA I students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 126: Pilates Mat I

1.0 unit / Semester: I

Intensive weekly sessions in Pilates Method mat Technique.

* Required of all BFA I Dance students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 207A: Production Technology for Dance

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Introduction to the basics of dance costuming, management, lighting, sound, stage management, and other areas related to dance production.

* Laboratory hours are required.

* Required of BFA 1 students.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 223A: Composition II

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

Through assignments, observation, discussion and constructive critical assessment this course will continue the exploration of movement vocabulary and finding one's own choreographic voice. The ongoing exploration of quality and essence of movement will be investigated as we manipulate space, time dynamics and energy. How do we use these tools to make different statements and produce abstract movement studies? Sound both music and voice will be introduced to produce accompaniment and to enhance these differing qualities. Exploring the role of choreographer by transferring one's own movement vocabulary to others will take precedent second semester. We will investigate small group forms and the design possibilities that entails by working in both duets and trios.

* Laboratory hours are required.

* Required of all BFA II students.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 226: Pilates Mat II

1.0 unit / Semester: II

Intensive weekly sessions in Intermediate and Advanced Pilates Mat Technique.

* Open to all students who have completed Pilates Mat I or by permission of instructor.

* May be repeated for credit.

* Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 330: Advanced Improvisation

1.0 unit / Semester: II

Designed for performing artists and anyone with a background in physical practice, this course provides opportunities to cultivate advanced skills in movement improvisation in a cross-disciplinary environment. Content includes practice in solo, contact, and ensemble improvisation, with an emphasis on developing skills for safe, organic and virtuosic partner dance. Contact skills include jumping and catching, low and high flying, safe falling, deepening of sensory awareness and listening skills, as well as moving in and out of contact. Ensemble skills include deepening awareness of how and when to support the dance of another or take the spotlight. Specific attention will be placed on the development of the 'score' as a tool for creating focused, yet spontaneous performances.

*Open to students who have completed D 120 Dance Improvisation or by permission of instructor

* May be repeated for credit.

* Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 333A: Choreography I

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

This course is centered on the expressivity of movement, and challenges the student to make it visible. One focus is on skills: Building the abilities to manipulate movement, work fruitfully with others, use sound and music effectively, and create form that is content. The other, and equally important, focus is on uncovering and developing each student's individual taste.

* Laboratory hours are required.

* Required of all BFA III students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 405: Concepts in Lighting Design for Dance

1.5 units / Semester: II

This course examines development of concepts for lighting dance performances, including interpretation of choreography, mood and music. Students will gain experience in collaborating with choreographers in the rehearsal process.

* Required of BFA II Dance students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 415: Choreographer/Composer Seminar

2.0 units / Semester: I

This seminar focuses on investigating the possibilities in collaborative relationships between dance makers and music/sound makers. Dance students will experiment with how sound and movement interact, and with collaborating in different ways. Working with a range of composing students, they will have the opportunity to expand communication skills. In developing ways of supporting and challenging each others' creative processes, students will be able to develop the clarity, range and responsiveness of their own artistic voices.

*Elective for BFA IV students with permission of instructor.

* Permission of instructor required.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 433A: Choreography II

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

Choreography II provides the opportunity for students to delve deeply into the choreographic process. The first semester emphasizes an advanced tool based approach to generating movement material for choreographic development. The second semester addresses in-depth investigations of form, narrative and content. Topics include: William Forsythe Improvisational Technologies, Movement/Video Journals, Music Visualization, Use of Text, Site-Specific approaches among others. Over all emphasis is on dance making with an emphasis on developing each student's individual and unique voice and style. Attendance at LA area dance events and critical writing are also required.

* Required of BFA IV students.

* Laboratory hours are required.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 435: Company Repertory

1.0 unit / Semester: II

Company Repertory provides BFA IV students the opportunity to participate in a rehearsal process of contemporary repertory that culminates in a concert performance.

*Required of all BFA IV students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 450: Next! Preparing for My Future in Dance

2.0 units / Semester: II

A seminar course to help students prepare for their future after graduation addressing such subjects as: progressing as young artists, defining directions and objectives, researching possibilities and options, surviving financially, and building contacts and support systems. This course also assists students in learning how to set useful goals, conduct honest self-assessment, and present themselves effectively for employment.

* Required of all BFA IV students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 459A01: Dance for Camera

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

When dance is filmed it can explode off the stage and reach vast new audiences, going out to the spectator instead of demanding that the spectator come to it. But maintaining the special 'aliveness' of dance as it is translated into a two-dimensional medium requires a new way of thinking. This class is a laboratory for investigating these challenges. The course will be divided into two semester-long sections. One section emphasizes dance-video as a visually-based,

abstract form. The other section emphasizes the use of narrative and story structure. Class participants will explore film grammar, experimental narrative, and contemporary/historical context through hands-on creative work, classroom viewings and discussion, and readings. Participants will learn camera use, storyboarding, basic Final Cut Pro editing, and will work towards producing dance-videos that will receive a public screening.

Required of all BFA III students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 465: Laban Movement Studies BFA

1.0 unit / Semester: Not planned for this academic year

This course provides an introduction to the theoretical framework of Laban Movement Analysis. This studio based movement class will focus on the physical embodiment and theoretical understanding of Laban's concepts of space, dynamics, body architecture and shape/form. The course will also include introduction to the somatic approaches to movement integration articulated in the Bartenieff Fundamentals and the Developmental Movement Patterns. Application of these principles to dance and human movement behavior will also be addressed through movement exploration, observation and discussion.

Offered each alternative year

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 474: Contemporary Dance Artists

1.0 unit / Semester: II

This course provides the opportunity to investigate the diversity of contemporary choreography as it is currently being produced by artists in America and around the world. Recognizing that the 20th century tradition of Modern Dance has given rise to a wide array of dance practices and approaches to choreography, this course will examine individual artists and trends characteristic of the early years of the 21st century. Emphasis is on choreographers creating for live performance.

* Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 550A: MFA-1 Project

4.0 units / Semester: I, II

Creation, rehearsal, critique, development and concert preparation for MFA I choreography. Includes individual rehearsal and choreographic studio work as well as group critique of discussion. Culminates in three produced works throughout the year.

* Required of MFA I Dance students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 600: Graduate Concepts in Lighting Design for Dance (formerly D 405)

1.5 units / Semester: II

This course examines development of concepts for lighting dance performances, including interpretation of choreography, mood and music. Students will gain experience in collaborating with choreographers in the rehearsal process.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 605A: MFA Music Seminar

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

The advanced study of music as related to dance performance and choreography. Curricular areas will include: rhythmic and metrical comprehension, a historical survey of musical aesthetics, and study of common types of structural organization in music. Particular emphasis will be placed upon listening comprehension. Analytical papers and performance demonstration activities will also be required.

* Required of MFA I students.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 610A: MFA Theory, Practice and Thesis Workshop

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

D 610A&B01-04

MFA Theory, Practice, And Thesis Workshop

2 sections each 1 unit / Semester I, II

This course consists of eight seminars designed to provide support for MFA I and II students, as they progress through the graduate program. It serves as a collegial forum for the exchange of ideas related to developing artistry and professionalism within the field of dance. Content areas and discussion will offer support for meeting the demands of the graduate curriculum, including progress towards fulfilling choreographic requirements and Teaching Assistant responsibilities. Through discussion, readings, sharing of writings, in-class teaching activities, video observation and class observations, we will cultivate clarity, confidence and professionalism as artists and educators and our ability to represent our art and teaching through action and the written word. This will entail a dual approach of looking inward to identify core values that deepen our authenticity as artists and educators, and looking outward to see models of value within the professional fields of art making and dance education.

* Required of all MFA Students

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 610A01: MFA Theory, Practice & Thesis Workshop: Dance Education

1.0 unit / Semester: I

This seminar will focus on preparation for College and University level teaching. Primary attention will be given to issues and methodologies related to the teaching of contemporary dance techniques. Content areas will include:

clarification of values underlying a personal philosophy of education, implementation of teaching goals through effective methods, issues facing dance educators in college and university settings in today's global society. Concurrently with this course each student will be teaching, and this seminar will serve as a forum for addressing relationships between teaching philosophy, theory and practice. A schedule of class observation and discussion with each student will be an important part of this course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 610A02: MFA Theory, Practice & Thesis Workshop: Critical Perspectives

1.0 unit / Semester: II

This seminar is a course designed to broaden exposure and gain literacy in the body of contemporary dance criticism and scholarship. Through readings, viewings of contemporary dance and class discussion, we will focus on approaches to critical understanding of contemporary dance aesthetics and practices. Attention will be given to the critical strategies evident in a variety of contemporary approaches to dance writing

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 610A03: MFA Theory, Practice, and Thesis Workshop: Artist Identity and Representation

1.0 unit / Semester: Not planned for this academic year

In this seminar attention will specifically be given to cultivating writing skills relevant for professional presentation of oneself as an artist. Students will develop artist statements, CV, cover letters and promotional copy. The course will also provide a forum for addressing issues of creative process and the role of the artist in society.

* Required of all MFA Students

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 610A04: MFA Theory, Practice, and Thesis Workshop: Dance Education II

1.0 unit / Semester: Not planned for this academic year

This seminar will focus on preparation for College and University level teaching. Course curriculum development in content areas of particular interest to each student will be explored. The course will address issues of effective pedagogy, assessing student outcomes relative to curricular goals and broader issues of higher education in today's global society. A schedule of class observation and discussion with each student will be an important part of this course.

* Required of all MFA Students

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 610B01: MFA Theory, Practice & Thesis Workshop: Collaborative Arts Practices

1.0 unit / Semester: I

In this seminar we will concentrate on production issues associated with making new work. Issues surrounding project management, collaboration and rehearsals will be a starting off point for presentations and discussions. A series of guest speakers representing a variety of production and disciplinary perspectives will visit our classes during the first month and a half of the semester. The aim is to more fully prepare each student for the requirements and pressures of collaborative work and to enhance the experience for each side of the collaboration.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 610B02:

MFA Theory, Practice & Thesis Workshop: Dance Program Design and Administration

1.0 unit / Semester: II

This Seminar provides an overview of dance and higher education, looking specifically at dance administration and program/curriculum design. It will give students the opportunity to design their own (original) model for a 21st century dance program in higher education. Through readings, discussion and interviews with visiting professionals in the field, the course will address issues related to design and implementation of a comprehensive dance program. Content will address the articulation of a program's vision, mission, structures and methods for implementation including: staffing, facilities, curriculum, budget, accreditation and assessment. Attention will also be given to professional organizations like NASD, Dance USA and NDEO, that provide advocacy and governance guidelines for dance programs in College and University settings as well as private studios.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 610B03: MFA Theory, Practice, and Thesis Workshop: Artists at Work

1.0 unit / Semester: Not planned for this academic year

This course involves lectures and discussions focusing on career preparation and transition. Writing assignments that support future grant writing (how to write a project description), press releases and choreographic contract negotiation are among the topics covered. A student's own graduate thesis work is often the basis from which writing assignments are based. Strategies involving how to get produced, future self production and issues around management, in addition to self marketing both in print and on the web (viral) are covered.

* Required of all MFA Students

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 610B04: MFA Theory, Practice, and Thesis Workshop: Choreography Teaching

1.0 unit / Semester: Not planned for this academic year

This seminar will focus on educational goals and methods in effective teaching of dance composition and choreography, particularly within college and university dance contexts with a brief look at some issues pertaining to K-12 instruction. Attention will be given to facilitating creative process for artists at different developmental stages in relationship to craft. Also techniques and processes for effective choreographic coaching will be explored. Students will devise both course and specific class plans pertaining to the teaching of dance choreography and composition. This class will involved in class participation and experimentation with the concepts introduced.

* Required of all MFA Students

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 615: Graduate Choreographer/Composer Seminar (formerly D 415)

2.0 units / Semester: I

This seminar focuses on investigating the possibilities in collaborative relationships between dance makers and music/sound makers. Dance students will experiment with how sound and movement interact, and with collaborating in different ways. Working with a range of composing students, they will have the opportunity to expand communication skills. In developing ways of supporting and challenging each others' creative processes, students will be able to develop the clarity, range and responsiveness of their own artistic voices.

*Required of all MFA I students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 630A: Graduate Contemporary Dance Technique (formerly D 030A&B)

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

Intensive training in at least three contemporary dance techniques aimed at the ongoing development of movement skills, kinetic perceptions, center strength, creativity, intellectual understanding and versatility.

* Open to all Dance students.

* MFA students must enroll in 8 credit hours for Course D 630, accruing 4 credit hours of course D 630 per year of enrollment.

* May be repeated for credit.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 632: Graduate Advanced Improvisation (formerly D 330)

1.0 unit / Semester: II

Designed for performing artists and anyone with a background in physical practice, this course provides opportunities to cultivate advanced skills in movement improvisation in a cross-disciplinary environment. Content includes practice in solo, contact, and ensemble improvisation, with an emphasis on developing skills for safe, organic and virtuosic partner dance. Contact skills include jumping and catching, low and high flying, safe falling, deepening of sensory awareness and listening skills, as well as moving in and out of contact. Ensemble skills include deepening awareness of how and when to support the dance of another or take the spotlight. Specific attention will be placed on the development of the 'score' as a tool for creating focused, yet spontaneous performances.

* May be repeated for credit.

* Open to the Institute.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 633A: Graduate Choreography I (formerly D 333A&B)

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

This course is centered on the expressivity of movement, and challenges the student to make it visible. One focus is on skills: Building the abilities to manipulate movement, work fruitfully with others, use sound and music effectively,

and create form that is content. The other, and equally important, focus is on uncovering and developing each student's individual taste.

* Laboratory hours are required.

* Required of all MFA I students who work in conjunction with BFA III students as well as independently.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 638A: Graduate Choreo/Performance Lab (formerly D 038A&B)

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

Weekly gathering of all students and faculty of the School of Dance as well as students from other metier within the Institute. Showing and critique of student works being prepared for performance. Students are expected to show choreography being prepared for School of Dance Concerts.

* MFA students must enroll in 4 credit hours for Course D 638, accruing 2 credit hours of Course D 638 per year of enrollment.

* May be repeated for credit.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 643A: Graduate Choreography II (formerly D 433A&B)

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

Choreography II provides the opportunity for students to delve deeply into the choreographic process. The first semester emphasizes an advanced tool based approach to generating movement material for choreographic development. The second semester addresses in-depth investigations of form, narrative and content. Topics include: William Forsythe Improvisational Technologies, Movement/Video Journals, Music Visualization, Use of Text, Site-Specific approaches among others. Over all emphasis is on dance making with an emphasis on developing each student's individual and unique voice and style. Attendance at LA area dance events and critical writing are also required.

* Laboratory hours are required.

* Required of all MFA II students who work in conjunction with BFA IV students and choreograph for NEXT Company performances in the Spring semester.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 650A: MFA-2 Thesis Project

4.0 units / Semester: I, II

Preparation and presentation of thesis concert. Students work closely with the thesis committee consisting of a Committee Chair and 2-3 additional faculty members.

* Required of all MFA II students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 659A: Final Cut Pro Editing and Dance for Camera

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

This course provides dancers and choreographers with essential skills in shooting and editing video. Students will learn basic editing grammar and craft using Apple's Final Cut Pro 7.0, while obtaining a more technical and aesthetic understanding of camerawork for dance. The dance film genre and how cinematic space presents new considerations for dance-making will guide our technical pursuits in the class. Students will complete 3 of their own dance films, while completing editing, camera and documentation exercises throughout the year.

*Required of all MFA I students

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 660A: Digital Portfolio

1.0 unit / Semester: I, II

This class provides the opportunity for students to develop a personal website and gain the necessary skills to sustain this website beyond graduation. A portion of this class will be devoted to integrating media such as videos and images, learning Photoshop, and working with social media as a marketing resource. Within the course, students will gain a general comfort and self-confidence working within this media genre, in order to be self-sustaining as the technologies evolve.

* Required of all MFA II students.

* One year course.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 665: Laban Movement Studies MFA

1.0 unit / Semester: Not planned for this academic year

This course provides an introduction to the theoretical framework of Laban Movement Analysis. This studio based movement class will focus on the physical embodiment and theoretical understanding of Laban's concepts of space, dynamics, body architecture and shape/form. The course will also include introduction to the somatic approaches to movement integration articulated in the Bartenieff Fundamentals and the Developmental Movement Patterns. Application of these principles to dance and human movement behavior will also be addressed through movement exploration, observation and discussion.

Offered each alternative year

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 669: Advanced Final Cut Pro Editing

1.0 unit / Semester: I

This class expands on the work of Dance 659A&B. It is a project based class in which students make more ambitious dance film work, bringing material to class throughout the semester for a deeper level of discussion. Based on the interests of the students additional software may be studied, including Photoshop (video functions), and After Effects.

* Required of all MFA II students.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 800: Undergraduate Independent Project: Dance

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

An independent project should be proposed by the student to any faculty member in the school of dance. It should address an opportunity of specific interest to the student that does not duplicate content offered within available courses. If a faculty member accepts the proposal she or he serves as the project supervisor and oversees and evaluates the work of the independent project. The written proposal, which describes the scope and content of the project, its rationale and the means for assessment and grading must be approved by the project supervisor and the dean of the school of dance. Forms for Independent Project proposal/contracts are available through the registrar's office.

*Independent Project: Dance is an elective and not a replacement for School of Dance curricular requirements.

* Permission of instructor required.

* May be repeated for credit.

* Variable credit.

* Contract required.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)

D 900: Graduate Independent Project: Dance

2.0 units / Semester: I, II

An independent project should be proposed by the student to any faculty member in the school of dance. It should address an opportunity of specific interest to the student that does not duplicate content offered within available courses. If a faculty member accepts the proposal she or he serves as the project supervisor and oversees and evaluates the work of the independent project. The written proposal, which describes the scope and content of the project, its rationale and the means for assessment and grading must be approved by the project supervisor and the dean of the school of dance. Forms for Independent Project proposal/contracts are available through the registrar's office.

*Independent Project: Dance is an elective and not a replacement for School of Dance curricular requirements.

* Permission of instructor required.

* May be repeated for credit.

* Variable credit.

* Contract required.

Discipline(s): [The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts](#)