



CalArts 07/08
**The Sharon Disney Lund
School of Dance**

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 last semester being in residence.

Curriculum Requirements

Students entering the program with prior training or experience will be placed at the appropriate level, and may be exempt from certain requirements depending upon level of ability. Coursework in addition to the specifics given here may be required of individual students as a means of accomplishing their particular goals. If assigned, these additional requirements will be discussed at the beginning of the academic year and at mentoring sessions.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is conferred when a student successfully completes the curriculum, performance, choreographic and production requirements of The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance, and all Critical Studies requirements. 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. The Master of Fine Arts degree or the Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts is conferred when a student completes with distinction all requirements including a thesis concert in the final year of study. The thesis concert is a fully produced dance concert, generally shared with a fellow MFA candidate, which is rigorously reviewed by the entire faculty. All judgments about eligibility for a degree or certificate are made by the entire faculty of The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance.

Every student is required to enroll in Contemporary Technique, Ballet Technique (elective for MFA) and Composition or Choreography each semester. All new undergraduate students are also required to enroll in the Body Conditioning Mat class and Music for Dancers. Fourth year undergraduate students complete independent projects under the supervision of their mentors.

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 Showings Class prior to performance. Showings Class is held weekly and attendance is required of all Dance students. Work is shown at every stage, from short, simple phrases to more complex and finished compositions.

Each undergraduate student is required to complete a year-long course in the fundamental skills of theatrical presentation, such as basic principles of lighting design, sound design, costume construction and makeup. Students are also required to take advanced courses in the development of concepts of lighting, costume design and video for dance. In addition to the required coursework in design and technology, each student must complete at least two crewing positions each year. First year graduate students are required to take Video for Dance. Second year graduate students are required to take Digital Dance.

Course Requirements

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

I. Bachelor of Fine Arts and Certificate of Fine Arts

First Year

D 030-01	Contemporary Dance Technique
D 031-01	Ballet Technique
D 038	Dance Showings
D 039	Production Crewing
D 105A&B	Music for Dancers
D 113A&B	Composition I
D 126A	Body Conditioning Mat Class
CS174A&B	Dance and World Cultures
D 207A&B	Production Technology Dance

Second Year

D 030-02	Contemporary Dance Technique
D 031-02	Ballet Technique
D 038	Dance Showings
D 039	Production Crewing
D 223A&B	Composition II
CS273A&B	Modern Dance History
CS361A&B	The Anatomy of Movement
D 405A&B	Concepts in Lighting Design for Dance

Third Year

D 030-03	Contemporary Dance Technique
D 031-03	Ballet Technique
D 038	Dance Showings
D 039	Production Crewing
D 333A&B	Choreography I
D 458A&B	Video for Dance
ME220	Balinese Gamelan

Four Year

D 030-04	Contemporary Dance Technique
D 031-04	Ballet Technique
D 035	Contemporary Repertory
D 038	Dance Showings
D 039	Production Crewing
D 433A7B	Choreography II
D 800	Independent Project

Elective Courses for BFA1, 2, 3 & 4

D 027	Yoga (not for BFA1)
D 042	Partnering (not for 1st yr., 1st semester students)
D 044	Pointe
D 046	Pilates Reformer (not for 1st yr. students)
MP220	African Dance
MP230	Balinese Dance
MP240	Javanese Dance

II. Master of Fine Arts and Advanced Certificate of Fine Arts

First Year

D 030-01	Contemporary Dance Technique
D 038	Dance Showings
D 333A&B	Choreography I
D 550	MFA-1 Project (Semester II)
D 551	Graduate Crewing (Semester II)
D 552A&B	Production Seminar
D 610	MFA Theory, Practice and Thesis Workshop I
D 405A&B	Concepts/Lighting Design for Dance
D 560	Costume Design for Dance
D 658A&B	Digital Dance I
ME220A&B	Balinese Gamelan
D 570	Dance Video Production

Second Year

D 030-02	Contemporary Dance Technique
D 038	Dance Showings
D 433A&B	Choreography II
D 551	Graduate Crewing (Semester II)
D 552A&B	Production Seminar
D 610	MFA Theory, Practice and Thesis Workshop II
D 650	Thesis Project (one semester)
D 658A&B	Digital Dance II
D 660	Digital Portfolio

Elective Courses for MFA 1 & 2

D 027	Yoga (not for BFA1)
D 031	Ballet
D 044	Pointe
MP220	African Dance
MP230	Balinese Dance
MP240	Javanese Dance

III. Integrated Media Curriculum (Graduate Only)

The core requirements in the curriculum will consist of (1) Integrated Media seminars and critiques and (2) specified courses in the student's program of entry. In addition to these core requirements, students will be expected to take electives chosen from a wide-ranging list of courses currently offered throughout the Institute. The normal length of the course of study is two to three years.

D 001 Institute Dance I

1 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.

* Open to the Institute.

D 002 Institute Dance II

1 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.

* Open to the Institute.

D 027 Yoga

1 unit / Semester I, II

This course will serve as an introduction to Yoga, specifically the physical practice known as Hatha Yoga consisting of Asanas (postures). Yoga can be a very useful part of dance training and we will focus on how the basic yoga postures can improve strength, flexibility, alignment and serve as preventative measures against injury. Yoga is also a wonderful form of stress reduction and we will examine how the way one works in a yoga class can benefit one's approach toward daily dance class, rehearsal and performance.

* Limited to 25 dance students with priority given to returning BFA2, 3, 4 and MFA students.

D 030 Contemporary Dance Technique

2 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.

* Must be repeated for credit.

D 031 Ballet Technique

2 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.

* Must be repeated for credit.

D 035 Contemporary Repertory

1 unit / Semester I, II

The study and performance of works in the specific repertory of the instructor.

* Required of all BFA4 students.

D 038 Dance Showings

1 unit / Semester I, II

Weekly critique of student works being prepared for performance.

* Required of all Dance students.

D 039 Production Crewing

1 unit / Semester I, II

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

* Required of all BFA Dance students.

D 042 Partnering

1 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

D 044 Pointe

1 unit / Semester I, II

Advanced ballet technique.

* Permission of Instructor Required

D 046 Pilates Reformer

1 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 Mat Class and the Basic Reformer work.

* By permission of the instructor.

D 105A&B Music For Dancers

1.5 unit / Semester I, II

Study of the fundamentals of music and their relationship to the dancer/choreographer.

* Required of all BFA1 students

D 126 Body Conditioning Mat Class

1 unit / Semester I

Intensive weekly sessions in Pilates Mat Technique.

* Required of all incoming undergraduate Dance students.

D 113A&B Composition I

2 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.

* Minimum of 3 hours per week outside preparation required.

D 223A&B Composition II

2 units / Semester I, II

This course, through assignments, observation, discussion and constructive critical assessment, 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.

* Minimum of 3 hours per week outside preparation required.

D 333A&B Choreography I

2 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, to 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.

* Minimum of 3 hours per week outside preparation required.

D 433A&B Choreography II

2 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.

* Minimum of 3 hours per week outside preparation required.

D 458A&B

2 units / Semester I, II

This is a two semester course. Semester I, emphasizes hands-on learning of basic equipment use. Semester II involves analysis & critique of video tapes and small group projects to create dance for the camera.

* Required of all BFA-3 students.

D 550 MFA1 Project

4 units / Semester I, II

Rehearsal, critique and concert preparation for MFA1 choreography. Includes individual rehearsal and choreographic studio work as well as group critique of discussion.

D 551 Graduate Crewing

1 unit / Semester II

Crewing work for designated concerts.

D 552A&B Production Seminar

1 unit / Semester I, II

Graduate seminar in production techniques necessary to fully mount and produce a complete concert: from basic production scheduling to planning a full dance season, including interdisciplinary projects, touring groups and in-house presentations.

D 560 Costume Design For Dance

2 units / Semester I, II

This course is designed for the student to understand the dance design process from initial impulse and communication to realization of performance. The student will develop an understanding of how to costume within the guidelines of the conceptual approach, to explore what types of textures, fabrics, color and shape work well with movement and to take a look at global dance costume from past to present. The above is done by class discussions, visuals, library research, attending concerts and museums exhibits, demonstration and hands-on work in the costume shop.

D 570A&B Dance Video Production

2 units / Semester I, II

D 570A

This course is required of MFA1 students and provides instruction in the technical and aesthetic elements of dance video production. In the first semester, emphasis is given to developing basic knowledge of camera equipment, its use and modalities of operation, including camera angles, use of lights and depth of field. Students will gain experience as camera operators, editors and directors and practice live editing techniques. In conjunction with preparation for the presentation of MFA choreography in concerts, students will prepare storyboards, camera position instructions and coordinate camera operators for a live edit of the concert. They will also plan for post-production editing of the concert in conjunction with the Digital Dance class. The course will also involve video viewings and critique of live performances from CalArts and Europe.

D 570B

This course is a continuation of D570A and is required for MFA I students. This course will concentrate on specific choreography for the camera, including creating, developing, and modifying choreography in relationship to the concept and storyboard for recording the work with camera. Students will investigate the relationship between the movement of the body and the movement of the camera. Approaches to editing will include investigating relationships between movement and sound and the possibility of combining live and prerecorded works. Field trips to performances/exhibitions in Los Angeles, and research of art and dance film festivals will also be part of the course. Students will produce and present video projects by the end of the year.

D 610 MFA Theory, Practice And Thesis Workshop

1 unit / Semester I, II

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, artistic statement), resume/vitae creation and design, 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. Peer to peer critiques of MFA2 thesis concerts are addressed, as are current production issues stemming from each thesis concert.

D 650 MFA-2 Thesis Project

8 units / Semester I, II

Preparation and presentation of required thesis concert.

D 660 Digital Portfolio

1 unit / Semester I, II

This course will emphasize creating graphics and manipulating photographs for use on a personal web page, providing online presence for the graduating student. This webpage will be posted on alum.calarts.edu and will include a resume, portfolio, and artist statement. Basic html and basic skills in Adobe Photoshop are learned and used and video clips are frequently incorporated into the design.

* Required of MFA2 students

D 800 Independent Project: Dance

2 units / Semester I, II

Under the direction of a specific faculty member, students complete projects defined in a contractual agreement made at the beginning of each semester.

CS174A&B Dance And World Cultures

2 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.

CS273A&B Modern Dance History

2 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 1940s. The spring semester begins with the primary choreographers of the 1950s and continues to the present.

CS361A&B The Anatomy Of Movement

2 units / Semester I, II

CS361A (Fall semester)

This course is an introductory discourse on the human body and how it achieves both stability and mobility. The class concentrates on the identification and cooperation of the structures and functions of the skeletal and muscular systems. We will refer to the interests of the class to add context, relevance, and theory to our foundational information. Students will be exposed to anatomical terminology, the principles of Kinesiology, and the laws of mobility as they pertain to the lower body: pelvis, legs, lower limbs and feet.

CS361B (Spring semester)

This course is an introductory discourse on the human body and how it achieves both stability and mobility. The class concentrates on the identification and cooperation of the structures and functions of the skeletal and muscular systems. We will refer to the interests of the class to add context, relevance, and theory to our foundational information. Students will be exposed to anatomical terminology, the principles of Kinesiology, and the laws of mobility as they pertain to the upper body: spine, torso, arms, and hands. There is no prerequisite for this course.

ME220 Balinese Gamelan: Semar Pelgulingan (“Burat Wangi”)

1 unit / Semester I, II

Instruction in the techniques of playing Balinese instruments, collectively called the Semar Pelgulingan.

* May be repeated for credit.

D 207A&B Production Technology For Dance

1 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.

D 405A&B Concepts In Lighting Design For Dance

1.5 unit / Semester I, 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 BFA2/Cert2 and MFA1 Dance students..