The Master's 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, 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.

Admissions

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.
The written project must be submitted to the committee at least two weeks before the oral defense date which should be scheduled no later than the first week of April. Students’ projects and papers must be submitted to their committee Chair in appropriate digital formats. The most preferred format for the final paper is a Portable Document File (PDF). The most preferred format for the creative project is .mov file or a weblink to the work on Vimeo or in UABox. The contents of the files should be appropriately organized as if for publication. The Capstone committee will review student materials and progress throughout the process to ensure that the final product submitted is acceptable. The Capstone committee will determine the grade assignment for DN 595 and DNCA 595, as well as whether the student passes the oral defense of their project and paper. The graduate advisor will store the work in a digital repository for Dance MFA Capstone Projects for Department archival purposes.

**Timelines for Degree Completion Requirements**

Graduate School Information on Time Limits.

**Student Progress Requirement**

The Dance Program will hold reviews at the end of the 1st-4th semesters for each MFA candidate. Students in their final year are reviewed through the Capstone Project process. The review is designed to give graduate students an idea of their progress toward the successful completion of their degree program, identify strengths and weaknesses, document areas of professional and personal development, and evaluate assistantship duties (as applicable).

Faculty will provide numerical scores from 1 (unacceptable) to 4 (exceeds expectations) on academic progress, work ethic, professional development, and assistantship duties (as applicable), as well as provide narrative commentary to support the scores. For scores of 2 or 1 in any given area, a student may be placed on probation and a specific plan for improvements will be included to implement in the following semester. Should students not be able to implement the necessary improvements by their next review, continuing to earn a score of 2 or 1, they may be dismissed from the program.

Two weeks before their review, students must complete a self-assessment of their skills and progress in response to the Department Self-Reflection instructions to submit to the Graduate Director. Before the review meeting, the faculty will submit the completed assessment to the student with the scores and written comments, so the conversation can be more focused during the meeting. In addition to the verbal conversation, students may add additional comments to the written review before signing. Signed and completed reviews will be stored digitally by the Department for archival purposes.

**Academic Misconduct Information**

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

**Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence Information**

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence.

**Academic Grievances Information**

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.
Grades and Academic Standing
Graduate School information on Grades and Academic Standing.

Graduate School Deadlines Information
Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

Application for Graduation Information
Information on the Application for Graduation.

Based on students' experience and expertise, select graduate candidates are eligible for assistantships which are applied toward tuition, course fees, and health insurance, and provide a stipend. Students may be considered for a .25 assistantship, which covers half of the tuition, course fees, and insurance costs with a stipend and requires an average of 10 hours per week of work for the program, or a .5 assistantship, which covers full tuition, course fees, and insurance costs and provides a larger stipend while requiring an average of 20 hours per week of work for the program. Assistantship work is above and beyond a student's normal academic load and assignments for their degree program. MFA candidates on assistantship typically serve as TAs for professors, assist with program needs, or teach courses for undergraduate students based on their areas of expertise.

Graduates with funding are evaluated on a semesterly basis. Faculty will provide numerical scores from 1 (unacceptable) to 4 (exceeds expectations) on a review of students' performance of assistantship duties, as well as provide narrative commentary to support the scores. For scores of 2 or 1 in any given area, a student may be placed on probation and a specific plan for improvements will be included to implement in the following semester. Should students not be able to implement the necessary improvements by their next review, continuing to earn a score of 2 or 1, they may lose their funding. Please note that a loss in funding does not equal dismissal from the MFA program for students in good academic standing and who have not been found to have committed misconduct worthy of dismissal.