

# DIVISION OF DANCE

**Web Site:** <http://www.twu.edu/dance/>

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## Graduate Degrees Offered

- M.A. in Dance (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/arts-sciences/arts/dance/dance-ma/>)
- M.F.A. in Dance (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/arts-sciences/arts/dance/dance-mfa/>)
- M.A.T. (Interdisciplinary) (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/professional-education/mat-graduate-interdisciplinary-degree/>)
- Ph.D. in Dance (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/arts-sciences/arts/dance/dance-phd/>)

The graduate degree programs in dance are designed to prepare liberally educated dance professionals for leadership opportunities as artists, educators, and scholars. Emphasizing the intersection of experiential and theoretical learning, the focus is on in-depth and rigorous study of dance in a variety of artistic and cultural contexts. Consistent with the values of a liberal arts education and aesthetic inquiry in both art-making and research and writing, the coursework seeks to develop competency and creativity in various modes of communication, including kinesthetic, written, verbal, and visual. Appropriate to the particular degree program, students develop innovative methodological and pedagogical strategies relative to their areas of dance-making and research interests.

The Master of Arts in Dance degree program develops a broad knowledge of the discipline and is concerned with the intersections of theory and practice in the context of artistic, cultural, and educational praxis in dance. Students interested in educational and arts leadership may elect to address issues related to the role and significance of dance in education, the place of dance in society, and the development of personal pedagogical philosophies. Students interested in research and writing may choose to emphasize coursework designed to develop the knowledge and research skills necessary to undertake independent research in specialized areas of interest.

The Master of Fine Arts in Dance program provides students with opportunities to acquire and develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate significantly in the field of contemporary dance. Through the development, implementation, and expansion of individual artistic vision and goals, the program prepares students to excel in critical engagement while exploring innovative formats, venues, and creative processes as choreographers, performers, researchers/writers, and arts leaders. The M.F.A. program is a 3-year program of study focused on developing an understanding of contemporary dance practices that values individual somatic engagement and diverse approaches to implementing artistic visions in shifting professional landscapes, including the ability to use and adapt a variety of technologies in ways that will expand notions of where and how to reach dance audiences.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Dance program is a low-residency cohort program designed for established professionals in the field of dance who are ready to pursue a broadly articulated research agenda. Focusing on theorizing artistic practice, the coursework provides a challenging

research-intensive program of study examining and questioning the nature of dance praxis in philosophical, cultural, and historical contexts. Emphasizing an array of mixed research methodologies, the program is designed to prepare doctoral candidates to engage in independent research that will lead to contributions of new knowledge to the field of dance. Students are accepted to the Ph.D. program every other year to begin study in the summers of even years. On-campus residencies consist of summer intensives, as well as one-week campus visits during the Fall and Spring semesters. Students will be continually engaged in their coursework throughout each semester and will work closely with faculty and their doctoral colleagues in the program. The residential intensives, interwoven with web-based interactions, will facilitate scholarly discourse intended to connect the exploration of artistic practice and pedagogy with students' professional and research interests.

Texas Woman's University Division of Dance is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Dance.