

California State University
Long Beach
Department of Dance

Master of Arts in Dance Handbook

2014–2016 Cohort

www.csulb.edu/dance

CCPE-MADance@csulb.edu

(562) 985-4747



CSULB Department of Dance

California State University, Long Beach was the first university within the California State University system to offer a BA degree in Dance. Today it is the only CSU campus to grant a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, a Master of Fine Arts degree, and a Master of Arts degree specifically designed for dance educators. The Department of Dance has enjoyed steady growth since its inception in 1970 and currently has approximately 150 undergraduate students, MA, and MFA candidates. The Department has been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance since 1982.

The physical centerpiece of the Department of Dance is the 90,000 square foot CSULB Dance Center. Designed specifically for dance instruction and production, the Dance Center includes seven large studios, an instructional classroom, a state-of-the-art dance clinic, a Pilates training facility, a computer and video lab, a large costume design shop, a sound production studio, and the intimate Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater. Nowhere in the United States will you find a larger or more all-embracing facility dedicated to the study of dance.



Mission Statement

The Department of Dance at California State University, Long Beach is a rigorous program that provides training in dance with a strong foundation in modern and ballet technique and choreography. Physical practice interfaces with theoretical study, placing dance in a historical, pedagogical, scientific, and cultural context. The varied degrees offered in the Department of Dance (BA, BFA, BA with Option in Dance Science, MA, and MFA) challenge students to grow and contribute to society as artists and individuals.

January 2009



Master of Arts in Dance

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Dance program was created to serve dance educators who are currently teaching in elementary, secondary, and community college venues. The curriculum is designed to broaden dance knowledge and skills, ranging from technique and composition to dance history, theory, and dance production. This

degree elevates an undergraduate teaching credential to a graduate status, usually commanding a pay increase for dance educators. Because the students in the MA program are teaching during the academic year, coursework is completed in three intensive summer sessions of study, in which 9-12 units are earned each

summer. Practical application of learning is expected during each candidate's academic school year. No other institution of higher education in the state of California offers such an emphasis at the MA level.



Program Objectives

- Increases breadth and depth of knowledge in dance
- Enhances the methodology and pedagogy of dance teachers in secondary and higher education
- Hones skills needed for choreographing, organizing, and producing dance concerts
- Prepares graduates for leadership roles in dance education at the local and national levels
- Prepares graduates to be arts advocates in a contemporary society

Both theory and studio courses are designed to introduce new concepts and to trigger deeper thought and analysis in the field of dance. All courses in the MA degree are graduate-level and are offered only to eligible graduate students.

Student Learning Outcomes

These learning outcomes will enable students to enhance their careers as educators:

- Refine proficiency in modern dance movement vocabularies
- Engage in theoretical inquiry and study of dance: related areas of history, dance science, music, and pedagogy
- Acquire practical skills in the design areas of costuming and lighting
- Explore, practice, and actualize the craft of using dance to communicate a declared intention

Process to Complete the MA Degree

1. Admission to University and the CSULB Master of Arts in Dance program

2. Completion of prerequisites

- Dance Composition (2 courses)
- Dance History (1 course)
- Anatomy/Kinesiology (1 course, taken within the past five years)

3. Successful completion of required course curriculum

(31 units total)

DANC 510A	Dance Technique Laboratory (1-3)
DANC 510B	Dance Technique Laboratory (1-3)
DANC 510C	Dance Technique Laboratory (1-3)
DANC 521	Composition III (3)
DANC 522	Composition IV (3)
DANC 565	Dance Science as Related to Teaching Technique (3)
DANC 585A	Dance Performance (1)
DANC 591A	Design for Dance Lighting (3)
DANC 591B	Design for Dance Costuming (3)
DANC 592	Special Topics (1-3)
DANC 642	Seminar in Dance History (3)
DANC 605	Seminar in Dance (3)
GS 700	Graduate Studies

Students enroll in GS 700 when they have been advanced to candidacy and have completed all coursework for the MA program. Students must enroll in GS 700 during the semester they are preparing for and taking their Comprehensive Exams.

4. Advancement to candidacy

Successful progression within the program, and upon evaluation, you are deemed capable of attaining the graduate degree.

- Completion of all prerequisites
- Completion of the required curriculum with a 3.0 GPA or higher
- Completion of Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement
 - Graduate students who earned a bachelor's degree from a U.S. college or university are considered to have met the GWAR, and are not required to take the Writing Proficiency Examination (WPE)
 - Graduate students who earned a degree from an accredited English speaking non-U.S. college or university are considered to have met the GWAR, and are not required to take the WPE. Students from approved countries must file a petition and submit it to Testing, Evaluation & Assessment to have their records updated
 - Visit website <http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/students/testing/wpe/> for additional information
- Evaluation and consultation by Graduate Advisor and/or Department Chair of satisfactory progression towards degree and the completion of a Master of Arts degree program planner prior to the end of the second summer semester



5. Submission of Request to Graduate

- Deadline to submit “Request to Graduate” to Enrollment Services for Fall 2016: March 1, 2015
- “Request to Graduate” form is provided on the CSULB website: <http://www.csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/forms/index.html#reqgradmaster>
 - Fees will be collected at time of filing

6. Successful completion of Comprehensive Exam

Each MA candidate will be required to successfully pass the Comprehensive Exam in order to complete the Master of Arts in Dance degree program. The examination will be given during the fall semester following the final summer session. A practical portion of the exam may be given during the final summer session.

Students are allowed two attempts to pass the exam. Each question is graded by two faculty members and is reviewed by the Department Chair. Students must receive a total of 80 points out of a possible 100 in order to successfully pass the exam. Specific requirements and a study guide will be provided prior to the exam.

The Comprehensive Examination will consist of practical applications of theories and skills, and questions emphasizing a synthesis of knowledge learned in the MA curriculum. The overall exam will be structured as follows:

- Part I: Dance Composition Practicum
- Part II: Lighting Practicum
- Part III: Costuming Practicum
- Parts IV and V: Written exam questions linking areas of theoretical and/or practical study, which may include Dance History, Dance Science, Composition, Technique, and Music for Dance
- Additional details on exam structure will be distributed by the MA program director

7. Commencement/Graduation

Upon successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam, students will be invited to participate in the commencement ceremony. Further information on commencement is provided on the CSULB website: <http://www.csulb.edu/projects/commencement/>

MA Faculty Advisor

For academic advisement, please contact Dr. Colleen Dunagan at Colleen.Dunagan@csulb.edu or at (562) 985-7040.



Phone Directory

The following phone numbers may be of assistance when seeking further information:

Dance Department:

MA Dance Office (CCPE)
(562) 985-7980

Department of Dance Office
(562) 985-4747

Computer and Media Lab
(562) 985-4879

Recording Studio
(562) 985-7079

University Offices:

Admissions
(562) 985-5471

General Information
(562) 985-5518

Arts Ticket Office
(562) 985-7000

Health Center
(562) 985-4771

Cashier
(562) 985-1752

ID (Photo)
(562) 985-7388

Counseling Center
(562) 985-4001

Library (General)
(562) 985-4047

Registrar
(562) 985-5471

CSULB Records
(562) 985-5471

Library (Hours)
(562) 985-4012

Student Accounts
(562) 985-8280

CSO Night Escorts
(562) 985-4101

Parking Services
(562) 985-4146

Stud't Life & Development
(562) 985-4181

Financial Aid
(562) 985-4641

University Police
(562) 985-4101

Registration Website
My.CSULB.edu

Area Interests:

Barclay Theater
(949) 854-4646

OC Performing Arts Center
(714) 692-1559

UCLA Royce Hall
(310) 825-2101

Los Angeles Music Center
(213) 972-7211

REDCAT
(213) 237-2800



Independent Study

Students must present a written proposal describing the project for which they seek Independent Study credit to the Dance Faculty. If approved, the faculty will assign the appropriate number of credits for the suggested project and complete the required University form, and the student may then register for the course under DANC 599 Independent Study. A faculty member, usually selected by the student, serves as mentor to the independent study project.

Mailboxes and Lockers

Mailboxes are located in the east end of the Dance Center, next to Studio 3 on the first floor. Please notify the Department Office staff if a box needs to be labeled for you. Please check your mailboxes daily, because important information is distributed through the mailbox system within the Department. Lockers may be assigned to all students enrolled in CSULB Dance courses. Students can receive their locker assignments in the Dance Office.

Use of Studio Space

Dance majors and minors are encouraged to use studio space in the CSULB Dance Center to fulfill choreography assignments for composition class, to create individual artistic projects for eventual production within the Dance Department, and to foster better technical growth. Reservations for studio space can be made in the Space Reservation Book in the Department Office. It is understood that each person requesting use of a studio space will use it appropriately by taking care of the space, the floor, and any equipment. It is also expected that when a student is unable to use reserved studio space, he/she will be responsible for removing the reservation from the Space Reservation Book.

Note: During the summer program, the MA Program Director and Dance office will distribute Dance Center hours and policies.



Student Responsibilities

Preparation for Class

Students will be punctual and ready to begin class when the professor walks into the room. Dress codes will be strictly enforced and established by each professor.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offenses. In accordance with University policy, the consequence for cheating and/or plagiarism is a decision of the faculty member. The faculty member's decision may include a failing final grade for the course or a referral to the University's Office of Judicial Affairs for possible probation, suspension, or expulsion. See the CSULB catalog for a complete description of the process and its consequences.

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic_information/cheating_plagiarism.html

Responsibility for Physical Health

Because the nature of dance activity is physically demanding, each student is responsible to notify dance instructors if/when any physical condition or previous injury prohibits full participation in a dance activity class.

For University guidelines on graduate student conduct, responsibilities, and other information, please visit <http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/projects/grad>.

University Perspectives on Graduate Education

Excerpt from the CSULB Graduate Handbook

One of the purposes of graduate education is to instill in each student an understanding of and capacity for scholarship, independent judgment, academic rigor, and intellectual honesty. It is the joint responsibility of faculty and graduate students to work together to meet these ends through relationships that encourage freedom of inquiry, demonstrate personal and professional integrity, and foster mutual respect.

High-quality graduate education depends upon the professional and ethical conduct of the participants. Faculty and graduate students have complementary responsibilities in the maintenance of academic standards and the creation of high-quality graduate programs. Excellence in graduate education is achieved when both faculty and students are highly motivated, possess the academic and professional backgrounds necessary to perform at the highest level, and are sincere in their desire to see others succeed.



Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement

Graduate students are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 both in their program and in all other University coursework.

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/graduate_information/university_regulations_masters.html

Grade Appeals

Students have the right to formally appeal only the final course grade. Information about grade appeals is available from the College of the Arts Dean's office and online (Policy 94-07). Grade appeals are limited to situations in which the student believes the course grade was "prejudicially," "capriciously, or "arbitrarily" assigned. The appeal

must be initiated during the first regular semester following assignment of the course grade. The appeal must first be directed to the course's instructor, orally or in writing. If further action is necessary, the student should appeal in writing to the department chair. If the matter remains unresolved, the written appeal can be directed

to the Grade Appeals Committee in the department (in which the course was offered), the college, and if needed, to the University Grade Appeals Committee.

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic_regulations/grade_appeals.html

Graduate Student Grievances

A graduate student may only file a grievance (Policy 95-06) on an alleged violation of specific University regulations, policies, or accepted principles of due process, and only if another specified remedy (such as the University Grade Appeals Policy in the case of all course grades) does not exist. The grievance may not be on the basis of a graduate student's judgment of an instructor's or administrator's competence. Such judgments are solely the province of the academic department involved or of the administrator's supervisor, and must be initiated within one calendar year of the alleged violation.

A copy of the Policies and Procedures for Resolving Graduate Student Grievances may be obtained from your college dean's office.

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/general_policies/student_grievance_policy.html

Educational Leave

If it is necessary for you to take a leave from the University, it is strongly advised that you complete and file a Request for Educational Leave before leaving the University. This will exempt you from an application fee when you apply for readmission. The completed form must be approved by the program's graduate advisor and filed with the Office of Enrollment Services.

Upon returning after an approved one-semester educational leave, you will not be required to submit an application form. If you are on leave longer than one semester, you must apply for readmission to the University, but an application fee will not be required.

Continued



If you return from an absence without filing an approved educational leave, you must reapply for admission and pay the reapplication fee.

If you plan to enroll for credit at another university during the leave period, you must obtain prior approval from the program's graduate advisor, the department chair, and the college dean or designee for the course credit to apply to your graduate program. http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/academic_regulations/educational_leave.html

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This handbook is designed to guide candidates seeking a Master of Arts in dance at California State University, Long Beach. Its contents include policies and procedures within the Department of Dance, as well as information dictated by CSULB, which pertains to all graduate students. A complete description of University policies can be found in the 2014–2015 University Catalog and is available online at <http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/>. The information in this document is current as of the printing data shown on the cover; changes made after this date that affect currently enrolled student will be distributed as needed.