DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

DANCE PROGRAM

Master of Fine Arts

This degree is structured to meet two objectives: (1) to offer advanced preparation of the dance artist by providing intensive studio training, choreographic and performance opportunities and (2) to provide the developing artist with a philosophical, theoretical, and research orientation to dance as an art form.

Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to the Master of Fine Arts program offered by the Dance Program must submit the Graduate Studies Application for Admission with the onetime application fee to the Office of Graduate Studies, official transcripts of all college-level work (including the transcript that shows the date the undergraduate degree was conferred), and official GRE scores. Dance Program admissions requirements are as follows:

1. A bachelor’s degree in Dance, or a demonstrated equivalent level of achievement.
2. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in undergraduate Dance courses.
3. Submission of a videotaped portfolio of choreographed works for evaluation by the graduate review committee.
4. Submission of official GRE scores.
5. Demonstrate through audition (to be undertaken no more than one year prior to the commencement of study) quality performance and understanding which is acceptable to the graduate review committee.
6. A final admissions decision is based upon an aggregate evaluation of all application components. No specific weight is assigned to any one factor.

Specific Requirements

MFA Graduate Committee. A Master of Fine Arts Graduate Committee in Dance is composed of three members of the Department of Theatre and Dance graduate faculty and is selected by the student before he/she completes 12 hours. This selection will be done in consultation and with the approval of the graduate advisor.

Transfer Credit. Up to 6 hours of graduate credit may be transferred toward the Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance. However, the MFA Graduate Committee reserves the right to refuse graduate credit from another institution or from Sam Houston State University for any courses not done specifically under the direction of the Dance MFA Graduate Committee.

Period of Study Required. The Master of Fine Arts degree requires a minimum of 48 semester credit hours. A minimum GPA of 3.0 must be maintained. The MFA candidate is expected to maintain continuous physical training in ballet and modern technique classes during the time he/she is enrolled. Requirements of the degree must be completed within six years of the beginning of study.

Minimum MFA Course Requirements

36 hours core curriculum in Dance
6 hours thesis
9 hours electives in Dance
9 hours electives in related fields
60 hours total

All candidates must achieve advanced placement in dance technique classes to be recommended for the Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance. No more than six hours of graduate credit in dance technique may be