The Department of Dance at Sam Houston State University delivers a dynamic, challenging experience that integrates creativity, performance, and scholarly pursuits designed to prepare each student for a 21st century career in dance. With exceptional facilities and a highly dedicated dance faculty that bring the expertise of their professional performing careers and choreographic portfolios to the classroom and studio, SHSU Dance is committed to guiding the next generation of dance artists towards excellence.
Department of Dance

The Bachelor in Fine Arts in Dance intensive study in modern, ballet, and jazz techniques and coursework ranging from history to pedagogy to technology. Students have opportunities in performance and choreographic exploration, including the integration of media into the creative process, as well as opportunities to work with exciting guest artists and choreographers. The Master of Fine Arts in Dance is a dynamic, challenging education that integrates creativity, performance, and scholarly pursuits. In addition to an intensive studio experience with substantive choreographic and performance opportunities, this program offers exposure to pedagogical, theoretical, and research orientations to dance as an art form. The Minor in Dance includes 18–21 credit hours and can be tailored to the student’s interests.

Highlights

The Department of Dance offers access to multiple rehearsal studios, a fully equipped conditioning studio, a dance technology lab, a full costume shop, and a state-of-the-art dance theater. The department has been consistently recognized for outstanding choreography and performance by the National Dance Festival at The Kennedy Center, and many alumni are working regionally, nationally, and internationally as successful performers, choreographers, artistic directors, dance technology practitioners, teachers, and administrators.

Requirements

Admission to the BFA and MFA is by audition only with multiple audition times scheduled throughout the year. There is no audition for the Minor in Dance.

Scan for a full list of program requirements.
# Model MFA in Dance Curriculum SHSU
## Fall Start – ODD Year

### Dance Graduate Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5333</td>
<td>Advanced Skills in Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>5360</td>
<td>Production Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5371</td>
<td>Theory of Dance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5376</td>
<td>Dance Composition I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5378</td>
<td>Dance Composition II</td>
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<tr>
<td>5380</td>
<td>Dance Composition III</td>
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<tr>
<td>5384</td>
<td>Dance Pedagogy in Higher Ed</td>
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<tr>
<td>5385</td>
<td>Research Methods in Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>5388</td>
<td>Dance and Integrated Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>5389</td>
<td>Professional Issues in Dance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5092</td>
<td>Special Topics (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5093</td>
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<td>Thesis I</td>
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<tr>
<td>6399</td>
<td>Thesis II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 1

#### Semester 1 (Fall – 2023) – 12 credits
- 5333 Advanced Skills in Dance
- 5371 Theory of Dance
- 5389 Professional Issues in Dance
- 5376 Dance Composition I

#### Semester 2 (Spring – 2024) – 12 credits
- 5333 Advanced Skills in Dance
- 5092 Special Topics – Somatic Principles
- 5388 Dance and Integrated Technologies
- 5378 Dance Composition II

### Year 2

#### Semester 3 (Fall – 2024) – 9 credits
- 5380 Dance Composition III
- 5092 Special Topics - Collaboration
- 5385 Research Methods in Dance

#### Semester 4 (Spring – 2025) – 9 credits
- 5333 Advanced Skills in Dance
- 5384 Dance Pedagogy in Higher Ed
- 5360 Production Methods

### Year 3

#### Semester 5 (Fall - 2025) – 9 credits
- 5333 Advanced Skills in Dance
- 5093 Independent Study
- 6398 Thesis I

#### Semester 6 (Spring – 2026) – 9 credits
- 5333 Advanced Skills in Dance
- 5093 Independent Study
- 6399 Thesis II

The graduate faculty in Dance will entertain petitions from the candidate to take courses from other disciplines pending appropriate justification within the overall course of study designed by the candidate in consultation with the graduate advisor.
DANCE @ SAM

CHECK IT OUT
SHSU DANCE PROMO VIDEO

Photo by Lynn Lane; "Tower" by Andy Noble, National Dance Festival Selection
MFA Auditions
2023 - 2024

Friday, October 20, 2023 | 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday, March 1, 2024 | 8:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Audition process includes technique audition in Ballet and Modern Dance Technique, interview with faculty, on-site writing sample, and presentation of a solo choreographed by candidate.

Sam Houston State University
Gaertner Performing Arts Center
Department of Dance

Register at:
www.shsu.edu/academics/dance

SIGN UP TODAY!