

Dance PhD

Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts / BOYER COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Learn more about the Doctor of Philosophy in Dance.

About the Program

The Dance Department offers programs of study leading to the Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. All students are expected to develop a command of the discipline of dance, as a performing art and as both subject and medium of inquiry. The department's mission places high value on the role of dance in a pluralistic, multicultural society.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 7 years

Campus Location: Main. All department courses are offered on Main Campus, but students may take out-of-department credits on other campuses.

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: The degree program can be completed on a full- or part-time basis.

Interdisciplinary Study: The program encourages interdisciplinary coursework, research and interactions among faculty and students with interests in Africology and African American Studies, Anthropology, Education, History, Jewish Studies, Media Arts, Music, Philosophy, Sociology, Theater Arts, Women's Studies, and the like.

Accreditation: The PhD in Dance is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD).

Areas of Specialization: Individual doctoral faculty members conduct research studies on African and African American aesthetics; dance as a phenomenon in its own right; dance reconstruction; dance teaching and learning across the life span; feminism and dance; performance theory and practice; philosophical, historical and cultural perspectives of the body and dance, including issues of gender, race and class; and more. Research expertise of doctoral faculty is in aesthetic, artistic, educational, ethnographic, historical, phenomenological and sociological modes of inquiry in dance.

Job Prospects: Graduates perform and choreograph with companies throughout the world, teach at all levels of education, serve as arts administrators and policymakers for the arts, and publish extensively.

Non-Matriculated Student Policy: Non-matriculated students are able to take technique classes and some core coursework with the permission of the instructor and the department chair. If accepted into the program, those courses (up to a maximum of 9 credits) may be applied toward the degree program.

Financing Opportunities: Types of awards include Teaching Assistantships (TAs), Research Assistantships (RAs), and Academic Internships (AIs). Teaching responsibilities usually include teaching university general education courses. On occasion, TAs are assigned to teach BFA Dance repertory, technique or theory courses for which they are qualified. This award includes a monthly stipend and tuition remission. The TA/RA/AI application is part of the supplemental dance application for admission. Continuing students who have not held an assistantship also submit a written application in the term prior to commencement of the award.

All MFA/PhD applicants are considered for departmental nomination for a University fellowship. Recipients are selected by the Graduate School.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

Application Deadline:

Fall: November 7

All department and university application materials must be received by the Dance Department. After acceptance at the department level, final review of all application materials is made by the Boyer College of Music and Dance.

APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program.

Letters of Reference:

Number Required: 2

From Whom: Letters of recommendation should be obtained from qualified representatives of academic or professional communities in dance.

Coursework Required for Admission Consideration: Applicants should have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0, a graduate GPA of 3.4 or above, and transcripts that show a foundational knowledge of dance.

Master's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A master's degree in any discipline, in combination with substantial professional or recreational experience in dance, is required.

Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline: A baccalaureate degree is required, although it need not be in Dance.

Statement of Goals: Address your unique profile as a developing professional in the field of dance, as well as your ability to do original research. Reflect on why the Dance Department, i.e., the research foci of its doctoral faculty, its mission and its resources, is well matched to your career and educational goals.

Standardized Test Scores:

GRE/MAT: Not required. If submitted, scores are expected to be at the 50th percentile or above.

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master's degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

- TOEFL iBT: 100
- IELTS Academic: 7.0
- PTE Academic: 68

Any students admitted with a TOEFL score below the minimum must pass an English skills course during their first term at Temple University.

Graduate Interview Day: All applicants are expected to attend an online interview with graduate faculty.

On-Site Writing Activity: All applicants take part in an on-site writing activity. Results are considered in the admissions process. Remedial coursework may be required.

Resume: A resume that details experience in dance, art, education, scholarship and/or public leadership is required.

Writing Sample: A recent scholarly or academic research paper must be submitted as a writing sample.

Advanced Standing: The Dance PhD consists of credits taken beyond the master's degree. At the time of admission, the entire master's degree serves as the starting point of the doctoral degree and so these credits are not counted toward any requirement of the doctoral degree. However, students who completed graduate coursework beyond a master's degree may request to transfer up to 12 additional graduate credits in coursework graded "B" or higher. Typically, this coursework is reviewed after admission to the program and must be approved by the major advisor, the department chair and the dean or dean's designee before being sent to the Graduate School for final review.

Program Requirements

General Program Requirements:

Number of Credits Required Beyond the Master's: 46

Required Courses:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses		
DANC 8867	Educational Inquiry in Dance	3
DANC 9801	Research Methods in Dance	3
DANC 9873	Seminar in Dance Writing	5
DANC 9991	Directed Research-Dance	1
Electives		
Select courses totaling 28 credits from the following:		28
DANC 9800	Special Topics in Dance	
DANC 9831	Moving Across Genres	
DANC 9841	Experience, Engagement and Multi-Sensory Inquiry	
DANC 9851	Black Performance	
DANC 9852	Dancing the Popular	
DANC 9862	Bodies, Texts, History	
DANC 9889	Dance Field Experience	
Any Dance course numbered 8000-9991		
Any Temple graduate course outside the Department of Dance ¹		
Research Courses		
DANC 9994	Preliminary Examination Preparation	1
DANC 9998	Pre-Dissertation Research	1

DANC 9999	Doctoral Dissertation	4
Total Credit Hours		46

¹ Advisor approval required.

Culminating Events:
Preliminary Examination:

Upon completion of all required coursework for the degree, students registers for 1 credit of Preliminary Examination DANC 9994, typically in Fall semester of Year 3.

Through DANC 9994 Preliminary Examination Preparation, the student prepares a 6,000 word paper that demonstrates a critical discussion of how three reading areas relate to their dissertation topic. The Preliminary Exam is reviewed and approved by a committee composed of three Dance doctoral faculty.

Dissertation Proposal:

Through DANC 9998 Pre-Dissertation Research, the student prepares a dissertation proposal that evidences a strong body of work thus far and preparedness to complete the Dance PhD program. A primary advisor and Doctoral Advisory Committee are established upon the student's successful completion of the Preliminary Exam. In consultation with the primary advisor, the student prepares a proposal, that is reviewed and approved by their Doctoral Advisory Committee through a formal oral defense. Upon approval of the dissertation proposal, the student is elevated to candidacy in the PhD program. Written guidelines for the dissertation proposal are published in the Graduate Handbook.

Dissertation:

The dissertation is a substantial piece of original and independent research making a significant contribution to new knowledge in dance and possibly related fields. Typically, students complete the dissertation and DANC 9999 Doctoral Dissertation in Year 4 or 5, although candidates may submit beyond Year 5 in consultation with their primary advisor.

The original Doctoral Advisory Committee may be expanded with additional doctoral faculty from Temple University or other universities, or with doctoral-level experts who work outside a university setting. At least one member of the Dissertation Examining Committee must be an "outside examiner," defined as one who has not read the dissertation in progress.

The primary advisor and student confer with the Dissertation Examining Committee to establish a date for oral defense of the dissertation. A majority of the members of the Dissertation Examining Committee must approve the written dissertation and oral defense; once passed, the student has 30 days to complete final revisions. Detailed guidelines for the dissertation process and examination are published in the Graduate Handbook.

Contacts

Program Web Address:

<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/dance-phd-bc-danc-phd>

Department Information:

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 Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts/Boyer College of Music and Dance
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 Philadelphia, PA 19122-0843
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 215-204-8710

Submission Address for Application Materials:

<https://apply.temple.edu/Boyer/>

Department Contacts:

Admissions:

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Coordinator of Graduate Studies:

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