

## **MFA THEATRE AND DANCE: MFA in Dance**

### **Requirements for Admission**

- To be considered for admission to any of our graduate programs, you must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.\*
- For the MFA in Dance, you should have a completed BA, BFA, BS, or MA degree in Dance, Movement Science, or a closely related field, or have equivalent professional dance experience.

\* Students may apply during their final year of undergraduate study; however, any offer of admission is contingent upon successful completion of the bachelor's degree.

\* In rare, extraordinary cases, students who have completed more than 100 hours of undergraduate coursework but do not have a degree may be considered for graduate admission based on a strong professional record.

### **Requirements for Admission (continued)**

- Professional experience may compensate for uneven academic preparation. If you believe that your life experiences make up for gaps in your undergraduate training, you should make this clear in your letter of intent.
- Please note, however, that professional experience in the performing arts is not by itself a substitute for a completed bachelor's degree. All our Graduate Programs are academically rigorous, and require solid preparation in reading, writing, and research skills.
- Computer literacy: We expect all graduate students to be computer literate to the minimum extent that they can use basic word-processing and e-mail programs. Many of our courses require students to use e-mail, and virtually all our courses require assignments to be typed/word-processed.
- For students who do not own their own computers, the University maintains a number of free labs or computer pods where students can use Windows or Mac computers to write papers, access e-mail, etc.

### **How to Apply**

Log on to the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) website at [www.unm.edu/grad](http://www.unm.edu/grad) and apply on line or print off an application form. You can also pick up a form from the Academic Department Office or the Office of Admissions. Please follow all the directions provided by OGS. Because of recent transitions to computer programs, there may be revisions. Changes will be updated on the OGS website.

Be sure to include all the required materials:

## How to Apply (continued)

Materials listed below and should be clearly marked with your name, and the name and major code of the program to which you are applying and sent to:

**Office of Admissions  
Attn: Graduate Studies  
P.O. Box 4849  
Albuquerque, NM 87196-4849**

- Completed Graduate Application
- Residency Form
- \$50.00 non-refundable application fee
- One official transcript from each college you have attended. (Exception: UNM transcript)

The additional required materials are to be sent to:

**Christina Squire  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
MSCO4 2570  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-0001**

- Letter of Intent
- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- \* One **UNOFFICIAL** transcript from each college you have attended. (Exception: UNM transcript)
- An **UNBOUND** Academic Writing Sample (10-20 pages)
- Applicants to the MFA in Dance must submit
  - A resume of educational and professional dance experience
  - A 15 minute VHS videotape or DVD of their recent work in choreography and/or dance performance

There are additional requirements for **Applicants who are not U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents**. Please contact:

- Office of International Admissions  
(505) 277-5829, goglobal@unm.edu

**Please note that application materials will not be returned.**

*Don't send us your only copy of anything.*

## How to Apply (continued)

Codes: on the Application for Admission or Readmission Form, please indicate which degree you are seeking, and complete lines 15, 16, & 17 as shown:

- For the Master of Arts in Dance or Theatre Education:
  - 15. Degree Sought: **MA**
  - 16. **Theatre and Dance**
  - 17. Major Code: **354**

- For the MFA in **Dramatic Writing**
  - 15. Degree Sought: **MFA**
  - 16. **Dramatic Writing**
  - 17. Major Code: **417**
- For the MFA in Dance
  - 15. Degree Sought: **MFA**
  - 16. **Dance**
  - 17. Major Code: **178**

Deadlines for Applications:

For Fall Term: **FEBRUARY 1** (Because of recent transitions in our programs, we will accept a few admissions up to April 15.)

Please note:

- The MFA Programs do not admit students at mid-year.
- Applicants from outside the U.S. are especially advised to submit their applications early, as processing of these applications usually takes longer than for domestic applicants.

## **How to Apply (continued)**

For further information on UNM's admissions policies and procedures, please consult the UNM Catalog, pp. 55-58 or online at: <http://www.unm.edu/~unmreg/catalog.htm>

Submission and Review of Applications:

Applications should be submitted to **the UNM Admissions Office**, NOT to the Department of Theatre and Dance. *International Applicants should submit their applications to the Office of International Admissions.* The **UNM Admissions Office** will review your application for completeness and minimum eligibility. Upon approval by The Admissions Office, your application packet will be sent to the Theatre and Dance Department where it will be reviewed by faculty members in your area of intended emphasis.

In certain cases, the faculty may contact you to arrange an interview (by telephone for out-of-state candidates).

Notification of admission or rejection will normally be sent in late March (notification may be earlier or later depending on the volume of applications in a given year).

If, at any point in the process, you wish to inquire as to the status of your application, you may e-mail Christina Squire at [csquire@unm.edu](mailto:csquire@unm.edu).

We will respond only regarding the status of your application. We cannot provide information about admission or rejection via phone or e-mail.

## Other Options for Graduate Study

### Graduate Non-Degree Option:

Students who have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university are welcome to enroll in some of our graduate courses on a space-available basis, by registering as a non-degree student. For details on non-degree graduate registration, contact the Office of Graduate Studies at (505) 277-2711.

If you later decide to apply for admission to the Graduate Program, up to twelve (12) credit hours of non-degree coursework may be counted toward your degree. **Please note, however, that enrolling as a graduate non-degree student does not guarantee admission into the Program.**

### Transfer Option:

Students transferring from graduate programs outside of UNM must complete the same application process and meet the same deadlines as all other applicants.

The Department has the option of accepting up to six (6) credit hours of graduate-level work completed at another institution, and routinely does so provided that the credit is from an accredited graduate program and applies to the proposed area of emphasis at UNM. Students hoping to transfer credits from another institution should make this clear in their Letter of Intent, and (if admitted) should work with OGS and the Graduate Faculty Advisor from their area to determine exactly how many credit hours UNM will accept before making the transfer.

The policies regarding transfer of credits also apply to students transferring from graduate programs within UNM.

## Entering the Program

### Undergraduate Deficiencies

Because the Department allows itself some latitude in its acceptance standards, we reserve the right to determine the actual level of preparedness of each student entering the program. Typically, this is done through transcript evaluation and a meeting with your area Graduate Faculty Advisor, at which point your advisor will notify you if any remedial coursework will be required.

### Advising

All students in the graduate program are required to meet with their area Graduate Faculty Advisor at least once each semester. The Graduate Faculty Advisor's job is to help you select courses, solve problems related to your work in the program, and graduate on time. Your Graduate Faculty Advisor may or may not turn out to be your Thesis or Master's Essay Advisor. The Graduate Coordinator will help you meet deadlines.

#### Graduate Faculty Advisors by area of emphasis, 2006-2007

- Dance  
**Donna Jewell**  
[djewell@unm.edu](mailto:djewell@unm.edu) (505) 277-6711
- Theatre Education and Outreach  
**Susan Pearson**  
speardav@unm.edu, (505) 277-4332
- Dramatic Writing  
**Jim Linnell**  
jlinnell@unm.edu, (505) 277-2416

### Requirements: MFA in Dance

<u>Required Courses</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Core: 500, 503, 506	9
504 -- Theories of Movement	3
510 -- Creative Investigations I	3
515 -- Creative Investigations II	3
516 -- Dance Pedagogy	3
549-- Graduate Dance Technique	24
500-level Dance Courses (Determined in consultation with Dance Advisor)	3
Electives (graduate level)	6
699 -- MFA Dissertation	6
Total	60

#### Requirements & Qualifying Review

During their first two years in the program, **Performance Students** will be expected to perform in at least two works per year created by second and third year MFA students, or by faculty and guest choreographers. Each student will receive a written evaluation of his or her performances from at least two members of the Graduate Faculty. These written evaluations will be considered by the Graduate Faculty as part of the **Qualifying Review for Advancement to Candidacy at the end of the student's first year.**

During their first two years in the program, **Choreography Students** will be expected to present informal dance works in Carlisle Performance Space at least twice a year. Each student will receive a written evaluation of his or her work from at least two members of the Graduate Faculty. These written evaluations will be considered by the Graduate Faculty as part of **the Qualifying Review for Advancement to Candidacy at the end of the student's first year.**

#### Advancement to Candidacy / Comprehensive Examination

After successfully completing 40 hours (i.e. at the end of the second year) of graduate work, all MFA students must pass a **Comprehensive Examination**. Students who pass

the Comprehensive Examination will be allowed to petition the Graduate Faculty for **Advancement to Candidacy** (the final stage of the program). *Students are strongly encouraged to meet with Professor Jennifer Predock-Linnell early in their 3rd semester to determine the parameters and schedule of their Exam.*

Students who fail the Comprehensive Examination may petition to retake the Exam, but the decision to allow this is at the sole discretion of the Graduate Faculty.

Each petition for **Advancement to Candidacy** will be reviewed by the Graduate Faculty, who will review the candidate's work to date, and assess the potential of each candidate for continued success in the program. This review has three possible results:

- **Advancement to Candidacy** -- the student is permitted to enroll in Dissertation hours, and to complete the MFA degree
- **Conditional Advancement** -- the student is permitted to enroll in Dissertation hours, but will not be permitted to complete the degree unless they take specific steps, prescribed by the Graduate Faculty, to address problems or concerns about the quality and/or quantity of their work
- **Dismissal from the MFA Program:** a student whom the faculty votes to dismiss will receive a letter from the Head of Dance detailing the reason(s) for dismissal. The student will then have one month in which to file an appeal with the Graduate Faculty. This appeal will be considered by the Department's Graduate Committee, who will review the student's file and either confirm the Dismissal or prescribe other action (such as Conditional Advancement). *The decision of the Graduate Committee is final and binding.*

#### MFA Project and Dissertation

In their third and final year of the program, all MFA candidates are required to complete to the satisfaction of the Dance Faculty a final performance or choreographic project with accompanying written dissertation.

- **Performance Projects** must consist of at least two dances in at least two different styles, totaling no less than 20 minutes.
- In addition, Performance students must write a **Performance Dissertation** (30-50 pages), in which they identify and analyze specific aesthetic, performance, and dance-technical issues of particular concern to them, and of particular relevance to their Project.
- **Choreographic Projects** consist of the creation and presentation of a full evening's work which demonstrate the candidate's highest achievement of artistry and craft. This work may be an extension or revision of a project undertaken earlier in the candidate's program of study, but if so, *the work must gain a significantly new dimension to qualify as a final project.*
- Accompanying the Project, Choreography students must submit a **Choreographic Dissertation** (30-50 pages) in which they identify and analyze specific artistic and choreographic issues of particular concern to them, and of particular relevance to their Project.

*All Final Projects will be reviewed in writing by the entire Graduate Faculty in Dance.*

*All Dissertations must be written as formal research papers, including detailed citations, notes, and a substantive bibliography of no fewer than twenty (20) sources.*

For further information or questions regarding the MFA in Dance, please contact the Graduate Advisor for Dance:

- **Donna Jewell**  
[djewell@unm.edu](mailto:djewell@unm.edu)  
(505) 277-6711