

Performance

Performance Credits

Performance credits fulfill graduation requirements in Dance only if they meet the following criteria:

Minimum requirements:

- Experience must be a Dance Program -approved University of Minnesota course consistent with the pedagogical goals and mission of the Dance Program
- At least 30 contact hours of initial rehearsal/learning with faculty or professional choreographer/reconstructor
- At least 1 public performance/showing with some level of enhanced technical production values
- At least 1 combined spacing/technical/dress rehearsal
- Must be primarily a movement-based performance experience

Preferred requirements:

- Casting Audition
- Work maintained over time (time lapse between initial learning and performance)
- More than one performance
- A more-involved technical process
- Examples: University Dance Theatre, Dance Program Spring Concert (3700 or 5700)

Additional Information:

- Approved University of Minnesota Summer Repertory courses may only be used to fulfill one performance credit of total required performance credits
- Student work does not count toward performance credits to fulfill graduation requirements
- Professional experiences do not qualify for performance credit, but may be used as a senior project or directed study so long as the work is unpaid and necessary approvals sought; Dance Program commitments take precedence over external professional commitments
- Students cast in UDT or the Spring Concert receive one performance credit regardless of how pieces they perform
- Understudies are expected to fulfill the same requirements as those cast in the work, and therefore receive performance credit for the work

Important:

- Graduation requirements in performance for BFA Dance students are 4 credits (4 approved opportunities/courses); graduation requirements in performance for BA Dance students are 2 credits (2 approved opportunities/courses); There are no exceptions
- Dance major students are expected to audition regularly for credited performance opportunities for curricular preparation and to fulfill graduation requirements for the Dance degree

Casting Policies

- When possible, artists or reconstructors who are making or setting a work on students will audition student dancers and make casting decisions with the assistance of the University Dance Theatre Director, Spring Concert Director, and/or rehearsal assistants. Alternative arrangements will be made with rehearsal directors when an artist is not available to cast the work.
- The Dance Program faculty reserves the right to set the casting priorities for any given performance experience.
- Questions regarding casting decisions, understudy roles, scheduling conflicts, or any other concerns related to the rehearsal process should always be first directed to University Dance Theatre Director or Spring Concert Director and not to visiting artists.
- Students must keep up with their dance program core curriculum requirements (technique, composition, dance studies) in order to be a part of University Dance Theatre performance opportunities. The University Dance Theatre Director along with the Dance Faculty reserves the right to pull a student out of one or more works if a student is not passing their required courses according to their Dance Major graduation plan. If a student has not made in effort to inform the UDT Director or the Director of Dance of challenges they may be having could result in being removed completely from UDT for the remainder of the semester.

Performance Expectations

- Students cast in UDT or Spring Concert receive one performance credit regardless of how many pieces they rehearse and perform.
- Understudies are expected to fulfill the same requirements as those cast in the work during the rehearsal process.
- Students must be registered for a Modern technique class (FOR CREDIT) during the semester in which they are participating in and registered for DNCE 3700 or 5700.
- Dance Program commitments take precedence over external and/or professional commitments.
- Dancers must commit to all rehearsals applicable for the duration of the semester. Students must be available for maintenance and weekend rehearsals as needed as well as spacing, dress and technical rehearsals and final performances.
- Performers must attend every rehearsal session. Students who cannot or do not fulfill scheduled rehearsal and performance commitments in DNCE 3700 or 5700 may be removed from the cast. Consequences for a missed rehearsal may include removal from the cast.
- If there is an emergency and a student must miss a rehearsal, the student must contact the University Dance Theater Director or Spring Concert Director and the stage manager prior to the missed rehearsal.
- Dancers are responsible for being warmed up and ready to dance at the beginning of each rehearsal.
- Dancers are responsible for remembering and perfecting daily material and for being open and responsive to changes, revisions, and criticisms.
- All 3700 and 5700 students are expected to learn and emulate the high standards of professional practices.

Outside/Non-University Performance Work

- Dance Program students will not receive a performance credit for non-university performance work unless the performance opportunity receives specific approval from the Dance Program Director and core advisory committee under the criteria listed above for performance credits.
- If a Dance Major takes on a performance opportunity not approved by the Dance Program, any absences due to that opportunity will be unexcused and may impact a student's final grade in a course.
- Dance Program commitments take precedence over external professional commitments. Students who cannot or do not fulfill scheduled rehearsal and performance commitments in Dnce 3700 or Dnce 5700 may be removed from the cast.

Outside Performance Opportunities with Faculty/Affiliate Instructors

Because timely graduation is an underlying foundational principle for undergraduate education at the University, the Dance Program reinforces timely course sequencing and planning for Dance Major students. For this reason, the Dance Program discourages activities, including outside performances, that may delay a Dance Major's progress toward graduation such as missed classes/coursework and conflicts with faculty/guest artist rehearsal times and performance opportunities.

University of Minnesota Dance Faculty members and affiliate teaching staff who would like to offer Dance Major student(s) a professional opportunity during the academic year outside of Dance Program/Department of Theatre Arts and Dance coursework must receive the Director's prior approval. Dance Faculty members/instructors who wish to work with a currently enrolled Dance Major student must submit a proposal to the Director of Dance prior to the start of the project; the project will be discussed by the Dance Core Advisory committee. The proposal should include the nature of the work, exact dates and times (rehearsals, performances, tech time, travel, etc.), and detailed description of how this opportunity will benefit both the faculty member's research and the student's educational or career goals.

Upon Director approval, students are responsible for communicating absences to instructors in the Dance Program. Absences will be considered unexcused unless specifically approved.

Performance Credit Callboard

The Dance Program Callboard is the primary location for information related to Dance Program performance credit opportunities. All cast members and understudies in a Dance Program performance opportunity should regularly check the callboard for information, updates and changes.

Photo/Video Policy

The Dance Program may photograph or film class or artistic Work in rehearsals, showings, or performances for archival and educational purposes. The Dance Program may use photographs or excerpted video of Work for communication/promotional purposes.

- The Dance Program will honor contractual agreements for licensed Work when duplication or public use of photography or video is prohibited.
- Students may request copies of excerpted video from University of Minnesota Dance performances for personal or portfolio purposes, except when prohibited by licensing or artist agreements. Student requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students may request a copy of up to 25% of a Work in which they performed. Photos or Video obtained by students cannot be publicly displayed, mass produced, posted in any electronic medium, or sold for profit.
- Students may request a full-length copy of their own choreographic Work performed in Dance Program showings or performances. Requests will be fulfilled as staffing and resources allow.
- Requests by students or outside organizations to photograph or video class, rehearsal, performances or other Dance Program sponsored events must receive prior approval by the appropriate teaching staff, Artistic Director and/or Director of Dance within reasonable timeframe for response. Purpose and use of photos or videos should be discussed and understood before photography or videography work commences.

Sensitive Subject Matter

The act of making art is inherently revealing and exposing. It often can touch on sensitive and potentially controversial subject matters such as violence, prejudice, sexuality and onstage nudity. When sensitive subject matter arises in a creative situation, the Dance Program is committed to providing a safe, respectful and supportive environment for participants to examine and discuss these subjects.

In an educational, research institution such as the University of Minnesota, each situation of this nature is unique and different and must be examined based on their artistic, research and educational purposes. The following is a non-inclusive list of questions that should be addressed when sensitive subject matter is raised:

1. How is the subject matter incorporated into the creative work?
2. Is the subject matter integral or peripheral to the core of the creative work?
3. Have necessary precautions been taken to responsibly protect all participants in the creative work including but not limited to performers, creators, designers, and observers?
4. Are all participants mature enough to responsibly handle the subject matter address and what steps have been taken to make sure of this?
5. Is the use of the subject matter essential to the work or is it exploitative?
6. Who is involved in the project and what are the individual and institutional power relationships involved in the project?
7. Has sufficient time been given to deliberate on the above questions and any others that are relevant to the specific case at hand?

The Director of Dance should be adequately informed in a timely manner when a work that represents the Dance Program may address sensitive subject matter and must be informed when nudity is to be

involved in a creative work that represents or could be perceived as representing the Dance Program in the public's eye.

ACDFA Selection and Policies

When selecting student and/or faculty and guest artist pieces to represent University of Minnesota Dance at the American College Dance Festival conference (ACDFA), the Dance faculty must weigh several factors and criteria in relationship to each other. Considerations include guidelines laid out by ACDFA such as time limit (under 12 minutes), adjudication policies regarding student status, permissions from choreographers, technical or design elements related to travel and/or extremely abbreviated technical rehearsals, cast size and the ability and/or budget to send a certain number of dancers, and how the work(s) represent the Dance Program's vision, curriculum, and community. Diversity is core to the Dance Program's mission and it is part of all of our decisions and is understood in a complex fashion: as difference in race, class, gender, sexuality, as well as movement and compositional aesthetic.

Dance students traveling to the American College Dance Festival conference with University of Minnesota Dance are representing the Dance Program and expected to act as positive ambassadors of the University of Minnesota. Students are required to follow the stated guidelines laid out by faculty and staff coordinating travel and participation, as well as the University of Minnesota Code of Conduct.

In general the Dance program subsidy for ACDFA of student participation is contingent upon available resources and funds any given year.