



# University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance

*Department of Dance  
Master of Fine Arts in Dance Student Handbook*

AY 2016-2017

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## **Department of Dance Mission Statement**

**The University of Michigan's Department of Dance is committed to excellence, innovation, learning in action, and interdisciplinary inquiry. We encourage students to explore the University's breadth of resources, bridging knowledge across disciplines and communities to gain an understanding of dance as a significant mode of inquiry. Our internationally renowned faculty provides a range of perspectives that integrate practice and theory, with the goal of preparing dance artists for resilient and multi-faceted careers in a rapidly evolving field. We are committed to an inclusive learning environment that encourages deep engagement through the transformative experiences of dancing and dance making. We celebrate risk taking, engaged learning, and entrepreneurship. Our aim is for students to forge their own creative voice, consolidate a range of technical skills, develop strong collaborative skills, participate in extensive performances opportunities, and gain an understanding of the relevance of dance within culture.**

## **Dance Student Assembly Mission Statement**

The Dance Student Assembly (DSA) is the official student government in the Department of Dance at the University of Michigan. In addition to its officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer), each year group in the BFA has at least one representative and the MFA cohort is represented by at least one student. The DSA is committed to building an environment that represents undergraduate and graduate student interests, concerns, and issues that relate to policies within the Department of Dance. Members report to and collaborate with the Chair of the Department on a regular basis, allowing the DSA to act as a liaison between students and the faculty. This relationship assists in shaping policy that responds to and reflects student needs. Moreover, the DSA organizes student activities, keeps students informed of Department events, provides an open forum for students to voice opinions, and strives to incorporate other departments in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance. The DSA encourages active participation in the Department of Dance, student and faculty projects, and provides a nourishing, learning environment for all.

For further information about serving on DSA please refer to page 44 of this handbook.

## **Graduate Advisor's & Graduate Director**

Each graduate student is appointed an individual advisor from among the full-time faculty. The individual advisor meets periodically with his or her advisee to provide guidance on the successful completion of the degree and professional development. Students are responsible for making appointments with his/her individual advisors to discuss aspects of the program and progress towards the degree.

The individual advisor should be a first point of contact and is a resource for curricular policies and procedures. The Graduate Director can provide an overview of the MFA program as a whole. The Graduate Director is the main point of contact with the Rackham Graduate School and will also meet regularly with all Graduate Students throughout the year as a component of the Dance Student Association to discuss interests, concerns and issues as they apply to graduate studies in Dance.

## **Department of Dance Code of Ethics**

The Department of Dance strives to sustain a lively community of artists and scholars who value self-expression, independent thinking, and a diversity of creative responses to their academic and professional endeavors. This dynamic environment brings with it the responsibilities for mutual respect and a code of ethics. Policies for attendance, dress code, grading, evaluation and student/faculty interaction are outlined herein. The Dance Student Assembly (DSA) acts as a liaison with faculty and the Chair to address issues and grievances, and as an important means of communication back to the student body.

The SMTD Rackham Handbook lists its Graduate student policies including: Academic Code of Conduct; Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy; Non-Academic Conduct; and Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedures. For information about resolving disputes, please visit the Rackham web site @ [rackham.umich.edu/policies/dispute\\_resolution](http://rackham.umich.edu/policies/dispute_resolution).

In congruence with these policies, the Department asks of its faculty and students that they participate actively in building and maintaining a community with equal opportunity and responsibility for all, celebrating difference and the particular demands of the artistic pursuit on uniquely individual human beings.

See SMTD Handbook for complete Code of Ethics.

The Department is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD). Student's may also want to access NASD's website @ [nasd.arts-accredit.org](http://nasd.arts-accredit.org).

The Department follows the University's Academic Conduct policies as articulated in the SMTD Student Handbook. Please pay particular attention to the section on plagiarism.

## **Dress Code for Studio Courses**

All students are expected to follow the directions of their individual instructor regarding appropriate and acceptable wear in class. In general, it is expected that students dress for technique classes so that the instructor is able to clearly see—without obstruction—the body at work: its articulations, alignment, points of movement initiation, and paths of completion.

## **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions within each course. It is also expected that students will take as much advantage as possible of master classes, guest lectures, Department forums, guest residencies, and other special events that may occur both within courses and outside the auspices of a particular course. Since courses in the Department have a variety of structures, instructors in the first week of class will indicate in writing the specific attendance/participation requirements for each course. When the instructor considers the number of late arrivals, early departures, and/or absences excessive, and when a student's absence from a course endangers his/her satisfactory academic progress and/or the work of other students, the instructor may submit a written report at mid-term to the student's advisor, the Department's Director of Undergraduate Studies, the Department chair, and the office of the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies. In no case can a student expect to earn a passing grade without consistent attendance and class participation.

Excused absences include absences on the part of pre-approved University or Departmental functions, absences due to illness or injury that are accompanied by a physician's note, and absences for religious holidays (see below for more details). Students are required to notify faculty in advance of these excused absences. Email the professor promptly, in as much advance of an absence as possible. If a student must be absent, it is his/her responsibility to be prepared to execute or discuss any material missed.

### ***School of Music, Theatre, & Dance Attendance and Absence Policy***

Students should account for their absences to their instructors and advisor when appropriate and may expect unexcused absences to be reflected in their final grade. Those who have been absent from any one course for more than **three consecutive weeks** will not receive credit for the course unless permission to continue is granted by the instructor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Students who are absent from all courses for more than three consecutive weeks may be required to withdraw from the School for the rest of the term. Application for permission to continue enrollment must be made to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

### ***Department of Dance Injury/Illness policy***

We are developing a detailed Injury/Illness policy that enables students to be proactive in their recovery and rehabilitation. We will distribute details of the policy in an addendum.



## ***Religious Holidays***

It is the policy of the University of Michigan to make every reasonable effort to allow members of the University community to observe their religious holidays without academic penalty. Absence from classes or examination for religious reasons does not relieve a student from responsibility for any course work required during the period of absence. If a student expects to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of religious observance, s/he will be provided a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the student's obligation to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates on which s/he will be absent. If a student is absent on days of examinations or class assignments, s/he shall be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty, unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute a disadvantage to other students or an unreasonable burden on the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any aspect of this policy, parties involved should contact the Department Chair, the Dean of the School, or the University Ombudsman.

## ***University-related Absence***

When absent from class on behalf of the University of Michigan, it is the expectation that the student will make alternative arrangements for fulfilling class assignments. The alternative arrangement should not unduly inconvenience either faculty members or other students. It is the student's obligation, if s/he expects to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of representing the University, to provide his/her individual advisor with reasonable notice for dates of anticipated absences and to work with course instructors to obtain assignments so as to prepare the necessary academic material. Additionally, it is the student's responsibility to know, be prepared to execute or discuss any material missed.

## ***Unexcused Absences Pertaining to Dance Technique Courses***

In a technique class that meets twice a week during the fall or winter terms, unexcused absences above two will result in an automatic 1/3 drop in your final grade with each additional absence. In a technique class that meets once a week during the fall or winter terms, unexcused absences above one will result in an automatic 1/3 drop in your final grade with each additional absence.

## Expectations

In addition to policies stated elsewhere in this handbook, Dance MFA's are expected to:

- Assist/lead in the late August/early September new MFA orientation.
- Assist as needed during all BFA and MFA auditions.
- Be an example to the undergrads (both BFA Dance and non-major students).
- Work closely with the individual advisor on program requirements, pathways and career plans.
- Assist/lead feedback sessions at the BFA WIPs.
- Regularly check and use the UMICH email for all Department communications and practice good email etiquette.
- Regularly check the Department's Google calendar to keep up to date with Department events.
- Attend Friends of Dance event(s).
- Attend all Department forums.
- Attend all BFA and MFA Works-in-Progress.
- Attend all Research in Action colloquiums.
- In the event that a student cannot attend an event, email the Dance faculty and Grads explaining the absence.

### ***Graduate Student Instructors***

Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) have a significant responsibility as teachers of non-major Dance courses within the Department. These courses provide graduate students with the opportunity to deepen their proficiency as teachers, develop their teaching philosophies, develop new courses, and convey their passion for the field to their students. GSI teaching will be assigned and mentored by Dance faculty. GSIs are also encouraged to draw upon the resources of the Center for Research in Learning and Teaching (CRLT), which provides workshops and guidance for a variety of teaching issues. For more information, please visit: [crlt.umich.edu/index.php](http://crlt.umich.edu/index.php).

**CRLT also produces a GSI guidebook that can be accessed online: [crlt.umich.edu/gsis/gsi\\_guide.php](http://crlt.umich.edu/gsis/gsi_guide.php).**

### ***GSI Canceled Class Policy***

In the event that a GSI is unable to teach a class due to illness they should report this ASAP to the Department Administrator and the Graduate Director (mcmegan@umich.edu, chavasse@umich.edu.) The Department will make every reasonable effort to hold the class – given the size of classes for non-Dance majors, a make-up session is hard to schedule – and may ask the student to help identify a substitute. If unable to identify a substitute or another non-major class that the students can join, the GSI should email the students immediately informing them of the cancellation and assign an outside assignment to make up for the loss of class time.

# Course Schedule & Registration

## Registration Process

1. **Advisor.** All students must see their individual advisor before registering for courses. S/he will help the student plan a class schedule based on degree requirements and personal goals. **It is the student's responsibility to initiate transfer of credits, to follow up on changes in the program, and to keep his/her advising record up-to-date by filling out the appropriate "Advisor/Advisee" form, thereby monitoring fulfillment of curriculum requirements.** Advisor/Advisee forms are available on the Department of Dance website and are included in your handbook (Appendix B). This is a critical tool to help the student and the individual advisor navigate course choices and enables the student to track his/her progress through the program as well as form part of the student's record.
2. **Schedule of Classes.** The schedule of classes is **online** and can be viewed through Wolverine Access. Additionally, it can be found @ [umich.edu/~regoff/schedule](http://umich.edu/~regoff/schedule). The schedule is divided by term, then by School, then by Department.
3. **Overrides.** An override slip (a.k.a., Drop/Add form) signed by the individual advisor is needed to elect courses that have entry restrictions (permission of instructor needed). The slips should be submitted to the Dance Office prior to the student's scheduled registration deadline. For most of the 500- and 600-level Dance courses, an override is also needed if the student chooses to drop a course. \* Note that the Dance Administrator can enter overrides for Dance courses only.
4. **Registration.** Once the overrides have been entered, students will receive an email indicating their ability to register via Wolverine Access @ [wolverineaccess.umich.edu](http://wolverineaccess.umich.edu).



If the student is registered for a course s/he does not intend to take the student should drop it. The student is not automatically dropped from a class roster for non-attendance. **Students may make changes to their class schedules freely through the end of the third week of classes. (See SMTD 2016-2017 Student Handbook)**

## Add/Drop

Students may drop or add courses until the end of the third week of classes in the Fall and Winter Terms and until the end of the first week of classes in a Half-Term. Between the third and sixth weeks (or second and fourth week of a half-term), students must have their requests approved by the instructor, their individual advisor and the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. After the sixth week (or fourth week of a half-term), no such changes will be permitted, except for medical reasons, provided that an incomplete is unacceptable to the instructor(s) of the course(s) and that a written statement is submitted to the appropriate Dean by a physician confirming that continued enrollment is not feasible (See SMTD 2016-2017 Student Handbook). Note: Any course for which a drop is registered after the third week in a full term (or the second week in a half term) will appear on the permanent record as "W" (withdrawn).

## **Late Add/Drop**

From the Rackham Graduate School Academic Policies:

*Through the third week of classes in a full term (or the first week of classes in a half-term), students may add or drop a course, change status from credit to visit (audit), or increase or decrease the hours for a course within the range listed in the Time Schedule via Wolverine Access. The Registrar's Office publishes each year's Drop/Add deadline on its website: [www.umich.edu/~regoff/](http://www.umich.edu/~regoff/). Departmental approval is necessary to change course elections. Departments and programs may have separate deadlines or procedures. A student who seeks to drop the only course for which he or she is registered must follow procedures for a term withdrawal as outlined on the Registrar's website.*

## **Auditing a Course**

From the Rackham Graduate School Academic Policies, Section 4 entitled, "Coursework, Grading and Academic Standing" @ [rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic\\_policies/section4/-43](http://rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic_policies/section4/-43)

*With permission of the advisor and the course instructor, a student may enroll in a course as a visitor (auditor) rather than for credit. A notation of "VI" appears on the transcript when the course is completed successfully (section 4.5). After a grade has been issued, a course may not be changed from letter grade to visit (audit) status, or vice versa. A visit (audit) will not be counted toward degree credit requirements.*

*Full fees will be assessed at the current rate of tuition. After registering for the course online via Wolverine Access, the student must submit a Drop/Add form in person or via email to the Registrar's Office and present the Drop/Add form with the signatures of both the instructor and the student's department graduate chair or advisor. Before enrolling, the student must confer with the instructor to reach an agreement on what will constitute satisfactory completion of the course. The student is expected to attend class regularly and may be asked to submit assignments and take examinations. Elections of visited (audited) courses must appear on the class schedule printout provided at registration. Students should check their class schedule printouts for accuracy and completeness.*

## **Faculty Indi Numbers**

Most faculty members have an 'indi number', which enables students to register for an Independent Study or Field Experience course under the direction of the faculty member. Please refer to the front of this handbook for a listing of faculty indi numbers or the Department Administrator for more information. (See *Independent Study in the Dance Curriculum Notes* section of this handbook for more information.)

## **Transfer Credit**

All non-UM schools or programs attended must send an **official transcript** to the Rackham Graduate School. It is **the student's** responsibility to find out which credits are transferable. **\*NOTE: In most cases, Dance curricular requirements cannot be substituted with coursework done at other institutions or summer workshops.**

### ***Variations in Credit/Course Planning***

- **The published requirements for graduation are minimum requirements for completion of the MFA program.** Additional credit may be taken in any area of interest. This credit is then counted towards graduation as elective credit.
- MFA students who wish to enroll for fewer than 9 credit hours or more than 18 credit hours for the full term (4-6 for the half-term) must obtain the permission of the individual advisor and the Dean of Graduate Studies at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.
- Under special circumstances, students may be able to use the Course Waiver or Substitution form to substitute one course for another required course, or to waive a course. Students must complete the form and give it to the individual advisor for approval and signature. The individual advisor will present it to the Chair for final approval. If approval is granted, the request will be forwarded to the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

### ***Degree Audits***

All students should meet with their individual advisor each term to ensure that credits are well distributed across the four terms of MFA study and that track, Dance elective, cognate, and required course choices meet program requirements. An audit should occur at the end of Year 1.

## Grading Policy

The Rackham Graduate School has established the following descriptions and criteria for grading at the graduate level:

**Excellent:** Markedly above average for graduate students

<b>A+</b>	(4.3 points)	The highest conceivable standard of work
<b>A</b>	(4.0 points)	Genuinely outstanding
<b>A-</b>	(3.7 points)	A very high standard in which strengths far exceed weaknesses

**Good:** Standard normally expected of graduate students

<b>B+</b>	(3.3 points)	Above average
<b>B</b>	(3.0 points)	Average
<b>B-</b>	(2.7 points)	Revealing certain weaknesses

**Fair:** Below average for graduate students

<b>C+</b>	(2.3 points)	Lacking essential qualities
<b>C</b>	(2.0 points)	Marginally acceptable
<b>C-</b>	(1.7 points)	Need for marked improvement to remain in program

**Poor:** Not acceptable at graduate level

<b>D+</b>	(1.3 points)
<b>D</b>	(1.0 points)
<b>D-</b>	(0.7 points)

Michigan Honor Points (abbreviated MHP on student transcripts) are calculated by multiplying the number of credit hours for which the course was elected by the number of points in the above scale. The grade-point average (GPA) is calculated by dividing the Michigan Honor Points earned in a given time period by the number of credit hours earned in the same time period. A cumulative GPA of B (3.0) or higher is required to remain in good standing or to receive a degree. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below B may be placed on academic probation for the following term (or half-term) of enrollment, or required to withdraw. A student whose cumulative grade-point average falls below B for two or more terms may be required to withdraw. No course in which a grade of D, E, I, W (Drop), VI (Visit), ED (Unofficial Drop), S (Satisfactory), U (Unsatisfactory) or Y (work still in progress in a multi-term course) is received may be counted to satisfy any requirement.

A grade of Incomplete ("I") may be assigned to a student only if the unfinished part of the student's work is small, the work is unfinished for reasons acceptable to the instructor, and the student's standing in the course is a B grade or higher. The student and the instructor should discuss the Incomplete prior to its conferral. ***A grade of I can be changed to a letter grade only if the incomplete work is made up by the end of the second full term following the term for which the I is given, counting the Spring-Summer term, regardless of whether or not the Rackham student is enrolled.*** If the grade of I has stood for two full terms, credit can be earned only by re-electing the course, attending classes, and completing all course work and examinations. The grade-point average will be based on hours of work completed. The grade of I is permanently retained on the

student's record. An Incomplete that has been made up according to the above procedures will appear on the student's transcript as an I with the letter grade next to it.

***Avoid incomplete grades.*** Even when made up, an incomplete remains on the transcript and becomes a significant negative factor when the student is under consideration for a fellowship or employment. An Incomplete that is not made up represents an even more serious blemish.

A student who submits work to make up an Incomplete when the deadline is imminent should point out the approaching deadline to the faculty member and stress the urgency of reporting the grade prior to the deadline. A student who waits until the last minute to make up an Incomplete may find that, for unanticipated reasons, the faculty member is simply unable to do so before the deadline. Sometimes illness intervenes. Sometimes s/he is unavailable, or has left the University. In some cases, an Incomplete ultimately means that the student must elect another course.

## Letters of Recommendation

If requesting a letter of recommendation from a faculty member, the student must provide the following information:

- Plan ahead. **Allow a month's notice if possible, at a minimum.** Send a polite reminder to the faculty member two weeks before the letter is due. Follow up to see if the letter has been sent and thank them for their time and willingness. If called for an interview, offered the position and/or accept/ reject, let the faculty member know. Faculty put a lot of time and energy into helping the student succeed.
- Complete address and contact information, including the name of the person to whom the letter will be addressed. If there is no name, specify that the letter can be addressed 'To Whom It May Concern'
- Date the recommendation is due and whether it must be **received** or **postmarked** by that date, and whether it is a physical copy or an online submission
- Copy or website link of the job description, summer program, internship, etc.
- Website links to the organization, school and/or person to whom applying. If one cannot have access to these, provide some context and background for the nature of the job, position or internship
- Reasons why applying and, if the student has a letter of interest or cover letter, please share with the faculty member. It is helpful in crafting a customized letter for the student. The more details faculty have the better. If there is a compelling reason this is the ideal course or position, articulate this clearly to the faculty member
- Current resume and, where appropriate, copies of a teaching and/or research statement
- Stamped and addressed envelope for the faculty member to use or details of electronic submission requirements. If asking for multiple letters, provide adequate stamped and addressed envelopes

## Course Listing

### **RESEARCH IN ACTION**

**10 credits**

This 10-credit sequence of courses is required for all MFA dance students.

### **TRACK**

**20 credits**

MFA students choose **ONE** of the following tracks:

*Performance/Repertory*

*Choreography*

*Screendance*

### **DANCE ELECTIVES**

**10-14 credits**

MFA students choose courses in one or more of the following areas as dance electives. Courses from either/both of their non-specialist tracks may also function as dance electives.

*Dance Science*

*Dance History*

*Dance Education*

### **COGNATES**

**6-10 credits**

Cognates to comprise at least **two** graduate-level courses of at least **three** credit hours each.

### **THESIS**

**10 credits**

This comprises three components: Thesis preparation, production and reflection.

This 10-credit sequence of courses is required for all MFA students.



## MFA Dance Program – Individual Courses

NOTE: Not all courses are offered all terms/years.

### **RESEARCH IN ACTION**

**10 credits**

501	RIA 1: Research Methods in Dance	3 credits
502	RIA 2: Problematizing Theory in Practice	3 credits
505	RIA 3: Self-Evaluation Report	1 credit
601	RIA 4: Dance History & Theory	3 credits

### **Dance Techniques**

511/611	Ballet	1 credit each
513/613	Modern Dance	1 credit each
515/615	Ann Arbor Dance Works Technique	1 credit each
516/616	Paul Taylor Summer Intensive Technique	1 credit each
518/618	Field Experience: Dance Technique	1-3 credits each
519/619	Independent Study: Dance Technique	1-3 credits each

### **TRACK**

**20 credits**

**NOTE: All three tracks will include core courses toward track credits consisting of Dance 534 Performance Improvisation I (3 credits); Dance 531/524 Solo Composition or Solo Performance (3 credits)\*; Dance 532 Choreography, Performance, Production & Design (3 credits); and Dance 631 Graduate Studio (2 credits).**

### **Performance/Repertory**

521	University Dance Company	1 credit
621	University Dance Company	1-2 credits
525/625	Ann Arbor Dance Works Repertory	1 credit each
526/626	Paul Taylor Summer Intensive Repertory	1 credit each
527/627	Special Topics: Performance/Repertory	1-3 credits each
528/628	Field Experience: Performance/Repertory	1-3 credits each
529/629	Independent Study: Performance/Repertory	1-3 credits each

### **Choreography**

534	Performance of Improvisation 1	3 credits
535	Mapping Movement & Place: Site Dance Composition	3 credits
536	Dramaturgy for Physical Performance	3 credits
634	Performance Improvisation 2	3 credits
538/638	Field Experience: Choreography	1-3 credits each
539/639	Independent Study: Choreography	1-3 credits each
583	Dance & Related Arts	2 credits

\*If Performance/Repertory track, enroll in Dance 524. If Choreography track, enroll in Dance 531.

**Screendance**

542	Screendance 1: Collaborations in New Media	3 credits
543/643	Screendance Portfolio	2-4 credits
642	Screendance 2: Advanced Projects & Productions	3 credits
548/648	Field Experience: Screendance	1-3 credits each
549/649	Independent Study: Screendance	1-3 credits each

\*\*In consultation with an individual advisor, Screendance track MFA's may choose additional courses from Penny Stamps School of Art and Design &/or Screen Arts and Culture.

**DANCE ELECTIVES****10-14 credits****Dance Science**

551	Experiential Anatomy	3 credits
558/658	Field Experience: Dance Science	1-3 credits each
559/659	Independent Study: Dance Science	1-3 credits each

**Dance History**

546	Dancing Women/Dancing Queer	3 credits
562	Reading & Writing Dance Criticism	3 credits
563	Dancing Diasporas	3 credits
564	George Balanchine & the Transformation of American Dance	3 credits
661	Reading & Writing Dance History	3 credits
567/667	Special Topics: Dance History	1-3 credits each
568/668	Field Experience: Dance History	1-3 credits each
569/669	Independent Study: Dance History	1-3 credits each

**Dance Education**

571	Pedagogy: Dance Technique	3 credits
572	Pedagogy: Dance Composition	3 credits
575	Pedagogy: Dance History	3 credits
578/678	Field Experience: Dance Education	1-3 credits each
579/679	Independent Study: Dance Education	1-3 credits each

### **Additional Electives**

586 Accompanying Movement 3 credits

### **PHYSICAL PRACTICE**

**Students are required to take a minimum of 8 credits of physical practice over the course of their degree. These credits can be applied either toward track credits or dance elective credit.**

Credits in physical practice can be taken in a variety of genres, including modern, ballet, some Friday labs, and performance of improvisation. There are also independent study options for physical practice. When enrolled in the 3-credit course Performance of Improvisation 1 (534), one of the three credits may be applied toward the 8-credit physical practice requirement; the same applies if a student elects to take Performance of Improvisation 2 (634): one of the three credits may be applied toward the 8-credit physical practice requirement.

### **COGNATES**

**6-10 credits**

Cognates to comprise at least **two** graduate-level courses of at least **two** credit hours each

### **THESIS**

**10 credits**

595	Thesis 1: Summer Research Project	2 credits
695	Thesis 2: Proposal	2 credits
699	Thesis 3: Project	6 credits
	<i>Note: Performative, Production and Documentation components</i>	(2 credits/ea)

## Curriculum Notes

### ***Credit for Paid Activities***

Students cannot receive credit for paid activities.

### ***Repertory Credit***

Repertory credit is earned for participation in the University Dance Company's annual Power Center concert, Ann Arbor Dance Works, the Paul Taylor Summer Intensive and independent faculty projects. Students earn one credit per repertory work.

### ***Ann Arbor Dance Works***

Formed in 1985, **Ann Arbor Dance Works** is the resident professional dance company of the University of Michigan Department of Dance. The company shares a wide-ranging repertory with audiences in an annual spring season and in community performances. In addition to producing works by resident faculty choreographers, the company hosts guest artists from the US and abroad. Designers, poets, videographers, visual artists, musicians and composers collaborate with company members, contributing to the creation of innovative and multi-layered works of resonance, depth, and beauty. Performers include faculty, guest artists, alumni, and current Dance students. Since its inception, Ann Arbor Dance Works has produced choreography to critical and popular acclaim in New York City, throughout the Midwest, and internationally. The company has also presented several large-scale site-specific dances with a variety of Ann Arbor community partners. Ann Arbor Dance Works holds Spring Term courses in technique and repertory. Students may participate in repertory works only by invitation/audition, and must sign a contract. For further information: [annarbordanceworks.com](http://annarbordanceworks.com).

### ***Paul Taylor Summer Intensive***

Students receive technique and repertory credit for the annual UM/Paul Taylor Summer intensive. Each year, the Paul Taylor Dance Company determines the Artistic Director(s) and repertory. **NOTE:** Applications for the UM intensive must be made directly via the PTDC website.

### ***Independent Study***

Independent Study courses enable students to engage in in-depth research in the following areas:

- Dance Technique
- Performance/Repertory
- Choreography
- Screendance
- Dance Science
- Dance History
- Dance Education

Independent Study forms, available at the Department of Dance, must be completed and accompanied by a one-page typed rationale detailing the proposed activity and justifying the credit hours requested (**42 hours of work equals one credit when computing the number of credit hours elected**). After the individual advisor has reviewed and signed-off the proposal, it must be presented

to the Chair for approval. The completed and approved Independent Study form serves as an override request and must be submitted to the Department Administrator.

### ***Field Experience***

Field Experience courses enable students to obtain credit for teaching, performing, choreographing, producing, directing, consulting or researching outside the university setting in the following areas:

- Dance Technique
- Performance/Repertory
- Choreography
- Screendance
- Dance Science
- Dance History
- Dance Education

**Students must complete a Field Experience form and follow the same procedures as detailed for Independent Study.**

### ***Cognates***

MFA Dance students meet this 6-10 credit requirement by enrolling in approved graduate level courses beyond the Department. Other School of Music, Theatre & Dance graduate courses (Theatre, Music Theory, Musicology, etc.) are acceptable. However, we strongly encourage students to seek out graduate-level courses in related areas in other Schools and Colleges and, thus, experience the wider expertise, resources and interactions that contribute to the University of Michigan's leading academic position and reputation.

For SMTD graduate courses, please refer to the Elections Across Fields document which can be found at [music.umich.edu/current\\_students/elec\\_across\\_fields.htm](http://music.umich.edu/current_students/elec_across_fields.htm).

## Course Descriptions

**NOTE: There may be some differences in the course descriptions between those found in this handbook and on Wolverine Access. Please see the individual advisor or the Department Administrator for any questions. Not all courses are offered all terms/years.**

### **501 – Research in Action 1: Research Methods in Dance**

This course equips students with the knowledge and skills to engage in dance research. It introduces them to the rich material resources of the University and the broader research community. A range of theoretical frameworks and methodologies will be addressed, as will strategies for designing a research project, determining a clear rationale and appropriate parameters, and articulating particular research questions. The aim is for students to understand current debates, the nature of evidence and argument, and the relationships between practice, theory and criticism.

### **502 – Research in Action 2: Problematizing Theory in Practice**

This course helps students consider how dancemaking is an act of theorizing and, too, how reading and writing theory might be a form of feeding one's artistic practice. The aim of the course is to interrogate key questions and issues currently shaping the dance field, and to consider how these questions inform students' practice, especially as they prepare for their summer fieldwork as a step toward their thesis project. Students will engage critically with selected readings, performances, and studio research in order to develop a sophisticated grasp of different approaches to dance-making and scholarship, and greater fluency in working across dance theory-practice areas. Assessment for the course will be by written, oral and embodied assignments—all explicitly shaped to deepen the students' artmaking and performance practices.

### **505 – Research in Action 3: Self-Evaluation Report**

This course requires students to reflect critically on their first year of Master's level study and to write a 3500 word report. Detailed reference should be made to their learning in the core Research in Action courses (RIA 1 and RIA 2) and connections made to other areas of the program, most particularly to the students' designated track. The aim is for students to demonstrate competence in working across theory-practice realms and to identify realistic next steps for further investigations.

### **511 – Ballet**

This course focuses on proper alignment, placement, body awareness, self-discovery, self-correction, execution, awareness of other dancers and teaching techniques. The vocabulary encompasses a logical development of more advanced barre and center work including advanced pirouettes, enchainment's, and grand allegro. Through repetition of material, students will be challenged to reverse combinations, recite terminology, and demonstrate combinations without the assistance of demonstration by the instructor.

### **513 – Modern Dance**

This course develops movement skills and concepts within contemporary dance genres towards effective performance. It stresses the development of musicality, versatility, and expressivity, sensitivity, range, control, and clarity of performance, with sound anatomical principles as well as a wide range of spatial, rhythmic and dynamic qualities.

**515 – Ann Arbor Dance Works: Technique**

This course will be an intermediate-advanced modern dance technique class taught by resident dance faculty and guest artists, offering techniques that reflect a variety of styles and trends in the field.

**516 – Paul Taylor Summer Intensive: Technique**

This course introduces students to Taylor technique, as taught by guest faculty from the Paul Taylor Dance Company in residence at UM. Daily technique classes are supported by Ballet and Somatic work. Enrollment for the intensive is required through the Paul Taylor School.

**518 – Field Experience: Dance Technique**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a dance technique project beyond the University of Michigan. The field of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**519 – Independent Study: Dance Technique**

This course is designed for students who wish to study one or more dance techniques in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**521 – University Dance Company**

This course requires a commitment to the creative and rehearsal process in preparation for performances of new or repertory work for the annual University Production concert. The cast of student dancers works with a choreographer to evolve a finished production - involving the integration of choreographic intention and style with musical score, sets, props, costuming, video, or other scenic components.

**524 – Solo Performance**

This course explores diverse choreographic materials from the repertory, spanning mid-20th century to the present. Students learn solo passages from various seminal works and practice the embodiment of style, musicality, intention and movement dynamics specific to that choreographer, her/his work and the cultural and aesthetic contexts of creations. The class develops the practical skills for reconstruction and criteria for verbal and written evaluation of each other's performances.

**525 – Ann Arbor Dance Works: Repertory**

In this course, dancers will learn modern dance repertory taught by resident faculty and guest artists, which will be performed for the public in a formal performance at the end of the course. Dancers will be cast in repertory works by audition. They may be cast in one work for 1 credit, or two works for 2 credits. The course will also include a residency in a community setting; the residency may entail the offering of master classes, lecture demonstrations, workshops and performances. Dancers will assist with designing and implementing community residencies, and will learn how to transfer repertory from one venue to another.

**526 – Paul Taylor Summer Intensive: Repertory**

Students will learn selected works from Paul Taylor's diverse choreographic oeuvre, as taught by company members and alumni in residence at the UM/Paul Taylor Summer Intensive. Students will learn between 2-3 repertory excerpts over the course of the two-week program. Studio learning is supported by lectures and readings on Taylor's style. Enrollment required in the UM/Paul Taylor Summer Intensive program coordinated through the School of the Paul Taylor Dance Company.

**527 – Special Topics: Performance/Repertory**

Special Topics courses in performance/repertory allow students the flexibility to pursue discipline-specific or interdisciplinary study in-depth, led by a specialist instructor/guest artist. The courses will differ thematically, dependent upon the teaching and research expertise of the instructor.

**528 – Field Experience: Performance/Repertory**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a performance or repertory project beyond the University of Michigan. The 'field' of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**529 – Independent Study: Performance/Repertory**

This course is designed for students who wish to study one or more dance performance or repertory experiences in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**531 – Solo Composition**

Students will deepen their compositional skills through a variety of studies. The class will primarily focus on the development of a significant solo that clearly demonstrates mastery of the student's choreography/performance skills. Students will be challenged to use their craft to communicate, with clarity and conviction, the expressive content that inspires and drives their creative impulse. They will revisit the concepts of space, shape, time, and motion; elements of direction, focus, density and overall design concepts. Students will also study current and innovative practitioners and their choreographic methods.

**532 – Choreography, Performance, Production & Design**

The primary focus of this course is specifically to develop a group work as well as an array of choreographic studies and works to be presented in a fully produced evening concert at the end of the Winter term. Students in the class will design the lighting, costumes, posters, and programs. Participants in the class will be asked to engage in an on-going process of analysis and discussion/feedback of their choreographic materials. Making dances, speaking and writing eloquently about the process will guide the work. The grading formula is as follows: 1/3 for performance, 1/3 for choreography and 1/3 for production participation. The department pays for publicity, programs and tickets up to \$200.



### **534 – Performance Improvisation 1**

This course introduces students to the practice of improvisation as a performing art. They will engage as artist, soloist, collaborator and, collectively, create a performance ensemble. Theory and practice will be combined through journaling, reading, writing a program note and a final paper.

### **535 – Mapping Movement and Place: Site Dance Composition**

Through readings, video viewings and performance projects, this course will examine the creative processes for a variety of contemporary site-specific dance performances. Dancers will conduct research about a chosen site, and will choreograph and perform in their own site-specific dance project. Emphasis will be placed upon investigating the social and cultural histories of the chosen site, and of its environmental and/or architectural features.

### **536 – Dramaturgy for Physical Practice**

This course exposes students to the field of dramaturgy, a creative and scholarly practice in which individuals assist a choreographer, director, and, in general, a creative team through a variety of research-based practices. To prepare students to engage in dramaturgy, this course surveys relevant literature in the field, including recently published articles and books on dramaturgy, which has exploded in North American research in the last decade, and theoretical texts that offer larger frames to consider the nature of dramaturgy in physical performance, particularly dance. Students also work on developing skills for specific tasks often associated with dramaturgy: leading feedback sessions, creating different formats for assessing a piece's overall structure, developing research packets and questions, and facilitating post-performance discussions, among others. Whenever possible, students enrolled in the course will be attached to ongoing performance projects.

### **538 – Field Experience: Choreography**

This course is designed for students seeking credit for creating and producing new choreography outside the university setting.

### **539 – Independent Study: Choreography**

This course is designed for students who wish to study one or more choreography experiences in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

### **542 – Screendance 1: Collaborations in New Media**

This course introduces the fusion of movement, camera work, and editing on Final Cut Pro. An interdisciplinary course that attracts students from Dance, Performing Arts Technology, Art and Design, and Screen Arts and Cultures, it challenges students from diverse disciplines to compose short works for the screen in a series of 5-6 assignments. Informed by class screenings of student assignments, professional works, and historically significant films and videos, the course develops confidence and skills in the making of screendance and criteria for evaluating this relatively new but increasingly visible art form. The course hosts an annual UM Dance on Camera Festival of works curated from that year's New York Dance on Camera Festival at Lincoln Center.

**543 – Screendance Portfolio**

Students will compile their portfolio by creating an appropriate range of screendance works, the number and duration of which will be determined in consultation with their Portfolio Advisor. They may choose solo and/or group works, and edit their material using non-linear video editing software. The Screendance Portfolio will be accompanied by a written justification.

**546 – Dancing Women/Dancing Queer**

Studying gender and sexuality through dance and performance foregrounds questions about embodiment that run across feminist and queer theory, as well as dance and performance studies. This graduate and upper-level undergraduate seminar will look at a representation of gender and sexuality across a variety of sites from ballet to modern dance, the concert stage to the music video, and Broadway to avant garde solo performance. No previous experience with dance required

**548 – Field Experience: Screendance**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a screendance project beyond the University of Michigan. The 'field' of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**549 – Independent Study: Screendance**

This course is designed for students who wish to study a screendance project in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**551 – Experiential Anatomy**

This course introduces students to the scientific principles underlying the complexities of dance movement. Utilizing visual stimuli, touch, writing and drawing, readings, and experiential modalities such as Ideokinesis, Feldenkrais, visualization, and Alexander technique, students will learn to apply the principles of anatomy and kinesiology, as they pertain to dance.

**558 – Field Experience: Dance Science**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a dance science project beyond the University of Michigan. The 'field' of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**559 – Independent Study: Dance Science**

This course is designed for students who wish to study a dance science topic in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**562 – Reading & Writing Dance Criticism**

This course focuses on writers who assess and describe dance from a variety of perspectives, for a variety of audiences, in a variety of formats. Study of major dance critics from the 19th century to the present day will also provide a springboard for students to experiment with the process of writing themselves.

**563 – Dancing Diasporas**

Using a chronological and geographical approach, this course examines Africanist performance trends in dance music and theater, tracing them from West Africa through the African Diaspora in the Americas. Movement and aesthetic commonalities of these forms will be studied, together with the socio-culture conditions that contributed to their creation and which continue to influence American dance and culture today. Issues of identity, ethnicity and stereotyping through the idiom of African-Americans vernacular and concert dance will also be addressed.

**564 – Balanchine & the Transformation of America Dance**

This course examines the life and works of dancer/choreographer George Balanchine and his influence on 20th-21st century dance. It complements and supplements the more general topic and broadly themed courses in the curriculum with an opportunity for students to focus in on an extensive and intensive examination of a key figure in the history of dance and his works. Students will gain experience in original historical research with archival material, concentrating on primary sources of all kinds in conjunction with intensive analysis of Balanchine's choreography.

**567 – Special Topics: Dance History**

Special Topics courses in dance history allow students the flexibility to pursue discipline-specific or interdisciplinary study in-depth, led by a specialist instructor/historian. The courses will differ thematically, dependent upon the teaching and research expertise of the instructor.

**568 – Field Experience: Dance History**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a dance history project beyond the University of Michigan. The 'field' of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**569 – Independent Study: Dance History**

This course is designed for students who wish to study a dance history topic in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**571 – Pedagogy: Dance Technique**

Exploration of theoretical concepts, principles, and methods of teaching dance technique through lectures, readings, videos, discussion and teaching practicum with the goal of developing a sound basis for continued growth and effectiveness as dance educators.

**572 – Pedagogy: Dance Composition**

This course addresses strategies for teaching undergraduate-level Dance Composition. Graduate students will participate in teaching a sophomore-level majors course, 232 Dance Composition IV: Mapping Movement and Sound. They will lead improvisational exercises and provide critical feedback sessions for students. They will also research the use of music/sound in the works of selected choreographers and present this research. They will be assessed through these and other assignments, including self-evaluation papers, teaching philosophy statements, and the creation of a syllabus for beginning-level dance composition students.

**575 – Pedagogy: Dance History**

This course provides supervision and mentoring of MFA Dance students in Dance History pedagogy and addresses strategies for teaching undergraduate courses in this area.

**578 – Field Experience: Dance Education**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a dance education project beyond the University of Michigan. The 'field' of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**579 – Independent Study: Dance Education**

This course is designed for students who wish to study a dance education project in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**583 – Dance & Related Arts**

Dance students collaborate with composers, visual artists, videographers, etc. to create an evening-length happening/collage/performance.

**586 – Accompanying Movement**

In this course, musicians will learn how to accompany for kinesthetic, movement-based art forms through the study and analysis of western dance technique classes. This will provide the musician with an entry into collaborating with movement-based art forms. Using both Modern Dance and Ballet Technique courses offered in the Department of Dance, musicians will observe and analyze the structure and content of the class, will research the specific genre of the class, and by observing the methods of communication used between instructor and dance student, instructor and musician, and dance student and musician, they will learn how to collaborate in a dance class. Through the course of the term, the student will accompany individual combinations for the class so that by the end of the term they will be able to provide appropriate music for an entire class session. This will provide the musician with an entry into collaboration with movement-based art forms.

### **595 – Thesis 1: Summer Research Project**

Between the first and second year of the Masters' program, students will undertake extensive research off-campus, conducting fieldwork and developing material for their Thesis. The Summer Research Project comprises three components: 1) a 1,000 word proposal articulating the aims, methodology, research context and questions of the project, and of their relevance to the students' subsequent Thesis and to the field (20%); 2) a minimum of 40 hours in the field' (50%); 3) a 15-minute presentation of results, to include audio-visual examples and/or a performative element, plus Q&A (30%).

### **601 – Research in Action 4: Dance History & Theory**

This course introduces students to historical concepts, theories and methodologies, and to the major dance historians of the 19th-20th centuries. The aim is to develop a critical awareness of the competing constructions of dance history and of the interplay between history and other disciplines within and beyond dance. Students will interrogate different approaches to reading and writing our dancing past through the use of selected case studies, spanning textual, visual, oral and performative histories.

### **611 – Ballet**

This advanced ballet course addresses core concepts of technique, alignment, anatomically sound movement, and artistry. Emphasis will be placed on more challenging combinations of movements so that students can explore transitions, musicality, increased mental acuity to remember new and complex sequences, and the ability to process information both in the brain and in the body. Students are encouraged to dance in three dimensions and to develop their individual sense of artistry through the class material. They should demonstrate a more advanced mastery of these concepts than in their first year of study.

### **613 – Modern Dance**

This course requires the advanced level student to research and integrate compositional and performance methods into a lively and productive practice of dance-making. Through daily practice in class and in written assignments, students will acquire a sophisticated comprehension of the ways in which the creative process is embedded in technique. This course will act as an experiential laboratory for improvisation, composition and performance, anchored by sound technical practice. The study and practice of improvisation will serve as tools for both creative work in composition and performance. Elements of personal history and philosophy will be examined and questioned as a means of distilling idiosyncratic material into formal, shapely, dynamic and coherent structures. Exploring individual movement vocabularies will serve to refine and expand our physical language as form and structure emerges.

### **615 – Ann Arbor Dance Works: Technique**

This is an advanced modern dance technique course taught by resident dance faculty and guest artists, offering a variety of styles and trends in the field.

### **616 – Paul Taylor Summer Intensive: Technique**

This course introduces students to Taylor technique, as taught by guest faculty from the Paul Taylor Dance Company in residence at UM. Daily technique classes are supported by Ballet and Somatic work. Enrollment for the intensive is required through the Paul Taylor School.

**618 – Field Experience: Dance Technique**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a dance technique project beyond the University of Michigan. The field of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**619 – Independent Study: Dance Technique**

This course is designed for students who wish to study one or more dance techniques in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**621 – University Dance Company**

This course requires a commitment to the creative and rehearsal process in preparation for performances of new or repertory work for the annual University Productions concert. Each cast works with a choreographer to evolve a finished production - involving the integration of choreographic intention and style with musical score, sets, props, costuming, video or other scenic components. The highest degree of professionalism is assumed and expected of second-year graduate students, who act as role models for their younger peers and may also serve as choreographic/rehearsal assistants.

**625 – Ann Arbor Dance Works: Repertory**

In this course, students will learn modern dance repertory taught by resident faculty and guest artists, to be performed for public performance at the end of the Spring term. Dancers will be cast in repertory works by audition. The course will also include a residency in a community setting; the residency may entail the offering of master classes, lecture demonstrations, workshops and performances. Dancers will assist with designing and implementing community residencies, and learning how to transfer repertory from one venue to another. Each repertory work will have 6 - 10 hours of rehearsal per week. 1 credit per repertory work is offered and students may be cast in up to three works.

**626 – Paul Taylor Summer Intensive: Repertory**

Students will learn selected works from Paul Taylor's diverse choreographic oeuvre, as taught by company members and alumni in residence at the UM/Paul Taylor Summer Intensive. Students will learn between 2-3 repertory excerpts over the course of the two-week program. Studio learning is supported by lectures and readings on Taylor's style. Enrollment required in the UM/Paul Taylor Summer Intensive program coordinated through the School of the Paul Taylor Dance Company.

**627 – Special Topics: Performance/Repertory**

Special Topics courses in performance/repertory allow students the flexibility to pursue discipline-specific or interdisciplinary study in-depth, led by a specialist instructor/guest artist. The courses will differ thematically, dependent upon the teaching and research expertise of the instructor.

**628 – Field Experience: Performance/Repertory**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a performance or repertory project beyond the University of Michigan. The 'field' of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**629 – Independent Study: Performance/Repertory**

This course is designed for students who wish to study one or more dance performance or repertory experiences in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**631 – Graduate Studio**

This course creates a forum for advanced graduate students to investigate and workshop ideas, movement studies, production elements and choreographic projects with their peers and instructor to further investigate the embodiment of their thesis project materials. The primary goal of this course is to learn how to formulate questions about the act and creation of new work. Incentive and critical feedback are provided in order to push expectations, foster creative risk-taking and to maximize students' talent as performers and dance makers. Studio practice is supported by video viewings, readings, and discussion. The course meets once a week for 2 hours with additional lab time for independent research and sketching of movement materials. Thesis chairs and committee members will be invited to periodic showings and discussions of the evolving materials.

**634 – Performance Improvisation 2**

This course is devoted to in-depth study and practice of improvisation as a performing art. In improvisation, insight, inspiration, composition and performance occur simultaneously. The constant flux and exchange of doing and reflecting heightens awareness of compositional choices. The improvising performer works without a net, where every choice and action is visible and audible. Recognizing the three strands of improvisational practice: bodily exploration, honing and cultivating aesthetic values and observational skills, and composing dances in the moment will influence and shape the learning process. Each student will be called upon to develop as an artist, a soloist, and as a collaborator as we build a movement and music ensemble that can co-create shapely, coherent, short and long pieces through improvisation. The course will culminate in a performance at the close of the semester. Two reading and writing assignments per week will support and encourage thoughtful analysis and practice. The final summary paper will connect experience in class, journal entries, discussions and the reading assignments into a meaningful anthology.

**638 – Field Experience: Choreography**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a choreography project beyond the University of Michigan. The 'field' of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**639 – Independent Study: Choreography**

This course is designed for students who wish to study one or more choreography experiences in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**642 – Screendance 2: Advanced Projects & Productions**

Building upon the editing and camera skills, and creative research acquired in 542 Screendance 1, (prerequisite), this course challenges the student to propose three projects ranging from work for the screen, work for gallery or installation, and work for integration into live performance. In collaboration with faculty advisors and chosen venue, the student will then select one proposed project for completion and final production. Students are strongly encouraged to submit work(s) to festivals and/or present finished work(s) to audiences in innovative formats.

**643 – Screendance Portfolio**

Assemble and analyze a collection of screen dance examples demonstrating a specific artistic perspective. The choice and number of the works in the portfolio will be determined by the student and her/his chosen advisor and can comprise solo and/or group works. A written justification of the portfolio will serve as the analysis of the portfolio. The portfolio should demonstrate the student's growth as a screen dance artist since his/her first year of graduate study.

**648 – Field Experience: Screendance**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a screendance project beyond the University of Michigan. The field of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**649 – Independent Study: Screendance**

This course is designed for students who wish to study a screendance project in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**658 – Field Experience: Dance Science**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a dance science project beyond the University of Michigan. The field of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**659 – Independent Study: Dance Science**

This course is designed for students who wish to study a dance science project in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.



**661 – Reading & Writing Dance History**

This course examines the nature and purposes of history by interrogating a range of theories, practices and issues both from within and outside dance. Case studies will be used to enable students to engage critically with notions and schools of history, different constructions of dance and performance histories, multiple and/or conflicting interpretations and current debates. Students will analyze a range of written, oral, visual and electronic source materials and will be encouraged to develop independent arguments and offer alternative readings.

**667 – Special Topics: Dance History**

Special Topics courses in dance history allow students the flexibility to pursue discipline-specific or interdisciplinary study in-depth, led by a specialist instructor/historian. The courses will differ thematically, dependent upon the teaching and research expertise of the instructor.

**668 – Field Experience: Dance History**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a dance history project beyond the University of Michigan. The field of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**669 – Independent Study: Dance History**

This course is designed for students who wish to study a dance history project in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**678 – Field Experience: Dance Education**

This course is designed for students who wish to undertake a dance education project beyond the University of Michigan. The field of study is determined by the student, as is the nature and scope of the project, in consultation with a designated advisor. Such a project can be undertaken locally, nationally or overseas, with the number of credit hours determined by the project's parameters, timescale and complexity.

**679 – Independent Study: Dance Education**

This course is designed for students who wish to study a dance education project in-depth. The nature of the investigation is student-designed and directed, in consultation with a designated advisor. Both methodology and outcomes can be either practice-based or follow more traditional scholarly forms, for example, a final research paper or conference presentation.

**695 – Thesis 2: Proposal**

Following the students' Summer Research Project presentation, their next steps are to scope the Thesis proper and to select their Committee. A thesis chair should be determined by October 1 and the student should then meet with his/her Chair to discuss the overall design of the project. A Thesis Committee, comprising an additional Dance faculty member and a relevant expert from beyond the Department, should be determined by November 1 and a full proposal submitted to the thesis chair by December 1. The 3,000 word Thesis Proposal should include the following:

- a working title which articulates the research focus;
- project parameters and objectives;
- theoretical/practical perspective and proposed methodology;
- key research questions and/or issues;
- a critical review of the literature and other sources which will inform the research;
- a proposed timetable for the execution of the project;
- a budget

**699 – Thesis 3: Project**

The thesis project comprises three components. The project must include a performative element (2 credits), production work (2 credits), and final written Documentation (2 credits).

## MFA Thesis Process & Guidelines

### ***Thesis Protocols & Timelines***

The purpose of this chart is to guide graduate students, thesis chairs and thesis committee members as to who is responsible for certain tasks and when they are due.

#### **Year 1– Fall Term**

Timeframe	Details
Sept-Dec	In DANCE 501, students develop initial ideas for summer research <b>and</b> create a draft grant proposal.

#### **Year 1 – Winter Term**

Timeframe	Details
Jan	In DANCE 595, students write a 1,000-word summer research proposal and accompanying budget and submit to the individual advisor for feedback.
Feb	Students revise summer research proposal and budget. <u>Note</u> : The Rackham deadline is early February.
Mar 1	Proposal for venue and dates for Thesis project due.
Apr 1	Determine venue and dates for Thesis performance.
April 21	Students submit summer research proposal (written portion of Dance 595 Thesis 1 Summer Research Project course) and budget to department chair.
Late Apr	Department chair notifies students re Department support for summer research.
May-Aug	As part of DANCE 595, students spend a minimum of 40 hours in the field where s/he maintains a digital journal of summer research, a weekly blog detailing evolving ideas and practice with feedback from a summer research advisor.

#### **Year 2– Fall Term**

Timeframe	Details
Sept	As part of DANCE 595, students present summer research findings to the full faculty (15 min + 5 min Q&A)
Oct 1	Students declare thesis chair via email to department chair, graduate director, and individual advisor, cc thesis chair and department administrator
Oct 14	MFA Thesis Project Timeline due to production assistant, Graduate Studio instructor, and thesis chair
Oct-Nov	As part of DANCE 695, students write 3,000-word thesis proposal; thesis chair oversees process
Nov 1	As part of DANCE 695, students declare thesis committee via email to department chair, graduate director, and individual advisor, cc thesis chair and department administrator
Dec 1	As part of DANCE 695, students submit thesis proposal and budget to thesis chair for review
Dec 22	As part of DANCE 695, students submit thesis proposal and budget to department chair
Dec	For DANCE 695, thesis chair submits grade to individual advisor

## Year 2, Winter Term and Deadlines FOR AUGUST GRADUATION

Timeframe	Details
Jan 4	Contact Rackham/Julia Thiel to ascertain that all credits for the MFA will be completed by the end of Winter term
Jan	Department chair notifies students re thesis project funding support
Feb/Mar	Apply for graduation (date on Rackham website) if student wants their name in the commencement book.
Mar/Apr	Perform, choreograph and produce final MFA Thesis Project
Apr	Must apply for graduation by the last day of classes! Begin Rackham audit process.
Mar-May	Within two weeks of completion of MFA Thesis Project, meet with full thesis committee for 1.5-2 hours
May 20	Submit 20-25-page draft of thesis documentation to thesis chair
June 1	Submit a revised draft of thesis documentation to other committee members
Jul 1	<b>Submit final version of Digital Thesis Project Portfolio to Department Administrator and Dance Technology Coordinator</b>
By Jul 15	Check in with thesis chair to remind them to submit final grade for DANCE 699 Thesis 3: Project
Aug	Apply for Summer graduation by last day of Summer term
Aug	Department chair submits Degree Checkout Status form to Rackham

### ***Applying for Graduation & Deadlines***

To receive the Master's degree, students must apply for graduation through Wolverine Access: [wolverineaccess.umich.edu/](http://wolverineaccess.umich.edu/). If the exact degree does not appear on Wolverine Access, contact the Department of Dance before applying. Students who have applied for degree by the Master's and Certificate deadline will have their names printed in the Commencement program. Applications for graduation will be accepted until the last day of classes of the term in which the students wish to receive the degree/diploma; however, the student's name will not appear in the Commencement program.

**Students may walk at graduation at the end of Winter term in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year but must apply for Summer graduation and submit thesis materials by the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.**

For more information refer to the Rackham website:  
[rackham.umich.edu/help/graduating/masters\\_degree\\_diploma\\_application\\_deadlines](http://rackham.umich.edu/help/graduating/masters_degree_diploma_application_deadlines)

**It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all requirements are met and recorded by the last day of classes in the term s/he has applied to graduate. If the student has questions about academic requirements please contact the individual advisor. For more information, please visit:**  
[rackham.umich.edu/masters\\_students](http://rackham.umich.edu/masters_students)

## **Production Policies & Performances**

### ***MFA Thesis Concert Protocols***

The Department of Dance is committed to providing the optimum support possible to MFA candidates for their thesis performance/presentation projects. A practice and movement-based degree, as opposed to an MA-Ph.D. or academic degree, the MFA Thesis will be modeled on current forms of live performance production or screening and consist of scheduled events open to the public. As the culmination of the two-year program, the thesis project should reflect the candidate's deepest engagement in his or her creative vision, research and craft. It should also reflect a working knowledge of the traditions and innovations of the field. These innovations often involve nonconventional concepts and applications of site, compositional structures and processes, media and positioning of performers to audience. The Department has limited space, technical resources and crew for all of its productions. Therefore, the Department must approve all proposals for thesis performances/presentations, whether or not those remain within the existing in-house production schedule. The dates for MFA concerts in the Betty Pease Studio Theater will be posted in September of each year. The faculty will meet to determine the MFA thesis performance/presentation dates at the end of the preceding winter term. **There will be a maximum of two performance/presentation dates, typically in late March-early April, for the 3-4 candidates to share.**

**Occasionally, candidates choose to craft their performances/presentations in alternative sites beyond our in-house Betty Pease Studio Theater. In order to present the thesis project in an alternative venue, the student must submit a proposal to the Dance faculty by March 1. Dates and venues for the thesis projects must be finalized by April 1. A written proposal for an alternative venue should include the following information, and will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:**

- Appropriateness to candidate's concentration, artistic vision and concept
- Scale of production fits available resources, both human (cast, crew, faculty and committee involvement) and technical (lighting, sound, seating, etc.)
- Production budget fits available financial resources (grants, etc.)
- Production locates and secures appropriate site, taking into account access, liability and all other permissions
- Production fits within existing Department schedule for access to students and faculty, without conflicts with other Departmental events

**It is the candidate's responsibility to be alert to guidelines and deadlines and be proactive in communicating with faculty advisor(s).**

### ***Thesis Performance Protocol***

MFA students are responsible for the audition process of BFA students for their thesis performance/presentation. Props may be stored in the Prop Room during rehearsals for the MFA thesis performance/presentation and must be removed one week after the performance/presentation ends. Costumes are the MFA student's dancers responsibility but some options may be available to rent from the Department's costume room.

## ***Required MFA Thesis Project Timeline***

MFA students must submit a MFA Thesis Project Timeline to the production assistant, Graduate Studio instructor, and thesis chair by October 14. Printed copies of the timeline should be provided to all collaborators. In addition, for your own personal prompting and deadline management, you can enter these deadlines into Google Calendar. These calendar events (deadlines) can then be shared with collaborators, thesis committee members, etc.

The timeline must include:

- A timeline for completion of production elements, including set, costumes, projections, props, lighting design, sound design, music composition, etc.
- Projected meetings with collaborators and production team members
- Rehearsals with cast members
- Dates for submission of requests for music, images, and/or text permissions
- Dates for timely submissions of all marketing materials
- Social media posting plan
- Projected meetings with thesis committee members pre- and post- production
- Thesis documentation deadlines


**Please refer to the Dance Resources section of the Department website for the MFA Thesis Project Timeline template.**

## Publicity Materials

All Department of Dance publicity materials must be approved by the Production Manager and Production Assistant and submitted to the Dance Administrator before being posted or printed. Graphic design is an iterative process that tends to require multiple drafts. Failure to adhere to the marketing timeline may result in losing the administrative and financial support of the Department.


### **Poster Design**

As students design the poster, keep in mind that it must contain the following:

- School of Music, Theatre & Dance logo 
- Full address, as follows:  
University of Michigan (*not* “U of M”)  
Department of Dance (**MUST** be listed)  
Dance Building, Betty Pease Studio Theater  
1310 N. University Court  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2217  
**\*\*If concert takes place at alternate site (e.g., Duderstadt or UMMA), ensure you have the complete address**
- For additional information: (734) 763-5461 or your personal contact information
- For directions: (734) 763-5461
- Concert title
- Times, month, dates, and year of concert
- Where appropriate, acknowledge any funding sources and/or in-kind support
- Ticket prices (ticket template available from Production Director)
- Box office opens at 7:00PM
- The statement, “This concert is being held in partial fulfillment of the Department of Dance Master of Fine Arts Degree Requirements”

### **Program Design**

As you design the program, keep in mind that it must contain:

- School of Music, Theatre & Dance logo 
- List the following:  
University of Michigan (*not* “U of M”)  
Department of Dance (MUST be listed)
- Concert title
- Times, month, dates, and year of concert
- Where appropriate, acknowledge any funding sources and/or in-kind support
- List graduate student names (i.e., choreographers)
- List the production staff (check with Production Director for list)
- Place a Friends of Dance announcement on the back (see Production Director for wording)
- The statement, “This concert is being held in partial fulfillment of the Department of Dance Master of Fine Arts Degree Requirements”

# Digital Thesis Portfolio Guidelines

## ***Digital Thesis Project Portfolio***

To complete the MFA, a Digital Thesis Project Portfolio (DTPP) must be submitted to the Dance Administrator and Dance Technology Coordinator. The portfolio will be an organized series of files and folders, include the following seven (7) components - with appropriate file names. The DTPP folder must be submitted on a flash drive, SD card, or sent through an appropriate file sharing method (M+Box, GoogleDrive, Dropbox, etc.). You will receive an email confirming receipt of your submission.

Please send the files by July 1 to Sean Hoskins: [hoskinss@umich.edu](mailto:hoskinss@umich.edu) and Megan McClure: [mcmegan@umich.edu](mailto:mcmegan@umich.edu). They will check for the completeness of your submission and share with the Dance Department chair and your thesis chair.

## ***Digital Thesis Project Portfolio Components***

1. **Contributor List**
2. **Thesis Paper**, including correctly formatted Cover Page, Abstract, Acknowledgements, and paper itself.
3. **Videos** – full length work(s)
  - Include title and credits for music, performance venue & date, etc.
4. **Photographs**
  - Costumes & Set Design – Photos or scans
  - Performance & Rehearsal – Photographer in file name
5. **Lighting and Stage Cues**
6. **Program and Marketing Materials**
  - Flyer, Poster, Advertisement, Press Article(s)
  - Press Release
  - Program
7. **Thesis Supporting Documents**
  - Thesis 1: Summer Research Proposal & Presentation
  - Thesis 2: Proposal & Budget
  - A representative grant application that was submitted for the thesis (e.g. to Rackham, International Institute, CWPS, IRWG)

## ***Thesis Hard Copy Component***

Additionally, the student must submit a hard copy of the thesis paper with appropriate cover page, abstract, acknowledgments, and narrative to Sean Hoskins by July 1.

## ***Archiving the Thesis Project Portfolio***

The submitted Digital Thesis Project Portfolio will be kept in the Dance Library, saved and backed-up in the Digital Dance Archive hard drive & server space. It will be made available to faculty and students.



## ***Details Regarding the Digital Thesis Project Portfolio Components***

### **1. Contributor List**

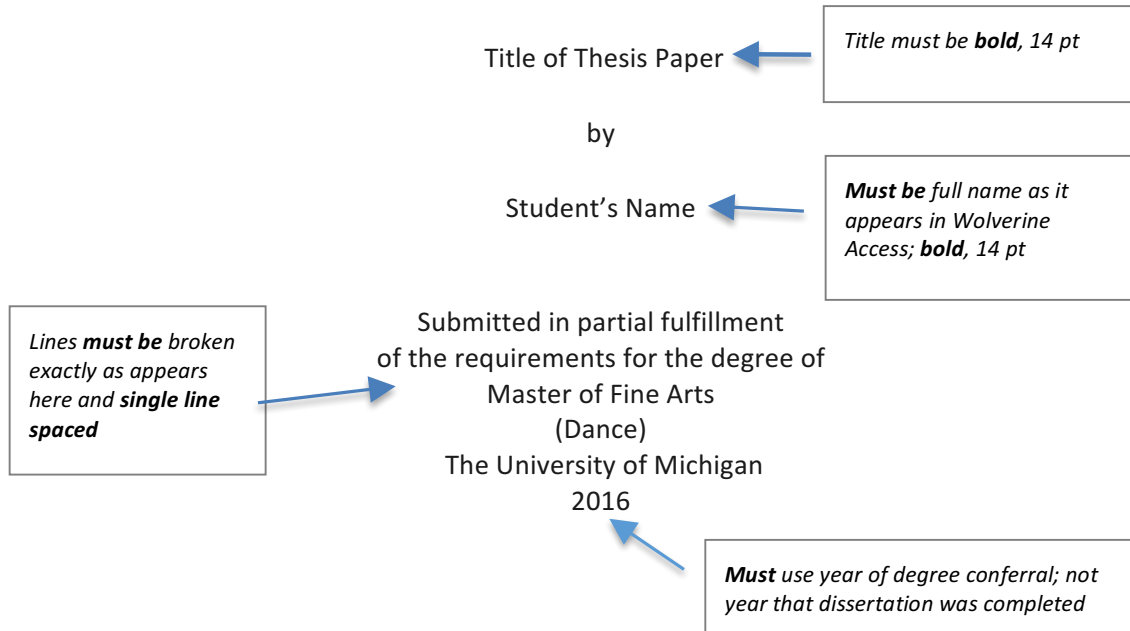
- Credit must be given to all contributors to your thesis project, in its multiple phases and areas. This is a document designed to credit these contributors and collaborators to the production aspects of your project in a single consolidated place.
- The people who should be credited in this document include (these list items made plural where applicable):
  - Sound designer/composer/engineer
  - Set designer
  - Costume designer
  - Projection designer
  - Lighting Designer
  - Photographer
  - Videographer
  - Graphic Designer
  - Etc.
- This document is in addition to the Acknowledgements section – explained below. It is fine if people appear in both, if applicable.

Note: Be very detailed and thoughtful about your individual thesis project and attribute credit to the people with whom you worked.

### **2. Thesis Paper**

- Assemble the following elements of the paper in this order:
  - Cover page
  - Abstract
  - Acknowledgements
  - Thesis paper

**Cover Page** The following is a detailed model of what the thesis cover page should contain. All text should be centered vertically and horizontally on the page. Save as PDF



MFA Thesis Committee:

- Title + first name + last name, Chair
- Title + first name + last name
- Title + first name + last name

**Notes on MFA Thesis Committee listing**

- Title (i.e. Professor) must be before the name. Must not include degree citation (i.e., Dr.)
- Must be Chair (or Co-Chair) after the name. The word Chair or Co-Chair must not be in parentheses.
- If a member is deceased, (Deceased) must be added to follow their name [e.g., Professor John Smith (Deceased)]
- For Academic members from outside UM, a comma and the full name of the academic institution must follow the member's name (e.g., Assistant Professor Jane Smith, University of Chicago)
- For members of the private sector, a comma and the full company/organization name must follow the member's name (e.g., Michael Smith, Ford Motor Co.)
- The committee must be listed as follows (in alphabetical order by last name):
  1. Chair or Co-Chairs  
Professor rank (including Emeritus)
  2. Associate Professors (including Emeritus)
  3. Assistant Professors (including Emeritus)
  4. Curators, research scientists, lecturers
  5. Academic members from outside U-M
  6. Those in the private sector

**Committee name listing must be single-line spaced**

## **Abstract**

- 350 Word
- First or third person perspective
- Include the primary research question that guided the project, an overview of the project's methodology, and a brief description of the resulting performance. Give the reader a sense of the larger stakes of the project:
  - Why is this a research question that needs to be asked?
  - Why does it need to be explored via performance?
- Anchored by its argument and by the key items of the project, literally, the words someone might search to find the project and/or website online
- Save as a PDF

## **Acknowledgements**

- Include funding support and any faculty, peer(s), family, or friends you care to acknowledge.

## **Thesis paper**

The paper is normally written in the first person, summarizing the creative process and including the following topics. Length is 20-25 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font. Save as a PDF.

- Describe the structure of dance(s) or screendance---the movement vocabulary, and the basic components: cast, production elements, and the site(s) of the performance/screendance.
- How were the production elements integrated in the work, and how did working with these elements shape your ideas? If relevant, discuss collaborations with designers (set, lighting, costume, video), writers, architects, scientists, other.
- Discuss your sound/music choices, scores and/or composer, sound engineer collaboration. Discuss the ways movement is mapped with sound/music in the work and the ways this extends the meanings of the work, creates moods, atmospheres, dialogues, ironic juxtapositions, counterpoint. Did you use live music? How did this influence the process and performance?
- If you created a screendance, how did your choices for internal and external editing shape the raw materials?
- Discuss the evolution of work from initial explorations to the final product. What did the dancers bring to the work and how did this contribute to your perspectives? How did things shift along the way? What were your initial questions or impulses, ideas, interests, and how did they change within the process? Discuss the finished work's relationship to initial summer research and thesis proposals. Once rehearsals began, how did they reveal their own distinct world? How did the rehearsal process shape new questions? What challenges did you face? How did casting and rehearsal methods shape the process?
- Discuss the critical feedback you received and the ways that shaped the process. How did you assimilate critical feedback? Did you work with a dramaturg? Who were your sounding boards?
- Discuss your work within the context of the larger field. What is the relationship of your thesis project to works of dance artists in a similar vein? Are you working against/resisting particular aesthetics or points of view? With what larger ideas and/or artists do you imagine your work to be in conversation?
- Reflecting on your two-year experience as an MFA candidate, what is your own understanding of practice as research, in terms of this thesis project?

- Discuss any plans for future showings or revisions of the work. Identify suitable venues or presenters you plan to contact to circulate this work for future presentation and/or to build relationships. Why are these suitable people for this work? Beyond logistical concerns, why or why not should this work be performed again?

***Citing your sources:***

There are several formats for citing your sources, and you may choose to cite them using the MLA, APA, or Chicago styles. There are reasons for choosing different styles, which you can determine in consultation with your thesis chair. Whichever style you choose, follow the guidelines carefully. Please refer to Purdue Owl for citation guidelines: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>

Another helpful resources is this: <http://easybib.com/>

A draft should be submitted to the thesis chair before being submitted to other committee members. Be sure to do careful editing of the written documentation before submitting it to your thesis chair. Valuable committee time should not be used for correcting grammar and syntax. If necessary, obtain editorial help from the Sweetland Writing Center or academic editing resources, and be sure to acknowledge contributions of an editor.

**3. Videos**

- Full-length work(s) must be included in the portfolio.
- Videos should be submitted in the following format: mp4 in full HD (1920x1080p).
- A title/credits screen at the beginning of the video itself is recommended – including the title of the work, choreographer, other credits (sound, projection, etc), dancer names, venue and date of performance.

**4. Photographs**

- **Costumes & Set Design**
  - JPG and/or PDF, including any sketches/scans designers have provided.
  - High resolution (300dpi) and color
  - Credit all designers within the costume & set design folder.
- **Rehearsal & Performance**
  - At least five photographs
  - JPG and/or PDF
  - High resolution (300dpi)
  - Credit all photographers in the file names.

**5. Lighting and Stage Cues**

- PDF format
- Cannot be the lighting plot
- Credit the lighting designer and stage manager within the lighting and stage cues folder.

**6. Program and Marketing Materials**

- This folder should contain your 1) press release; 2) flyer, poster, advertisement and press article(s), and 3) poster.
- PDF of press articles; PDF or JPEG of flyer, poster, ads.

- Give full credit by noting all authors of press articles, dates, copyright holders, where applicable. Also credit any graphic designers for flyers, program, poster.

### 7. **Thesis Supporting Documents**

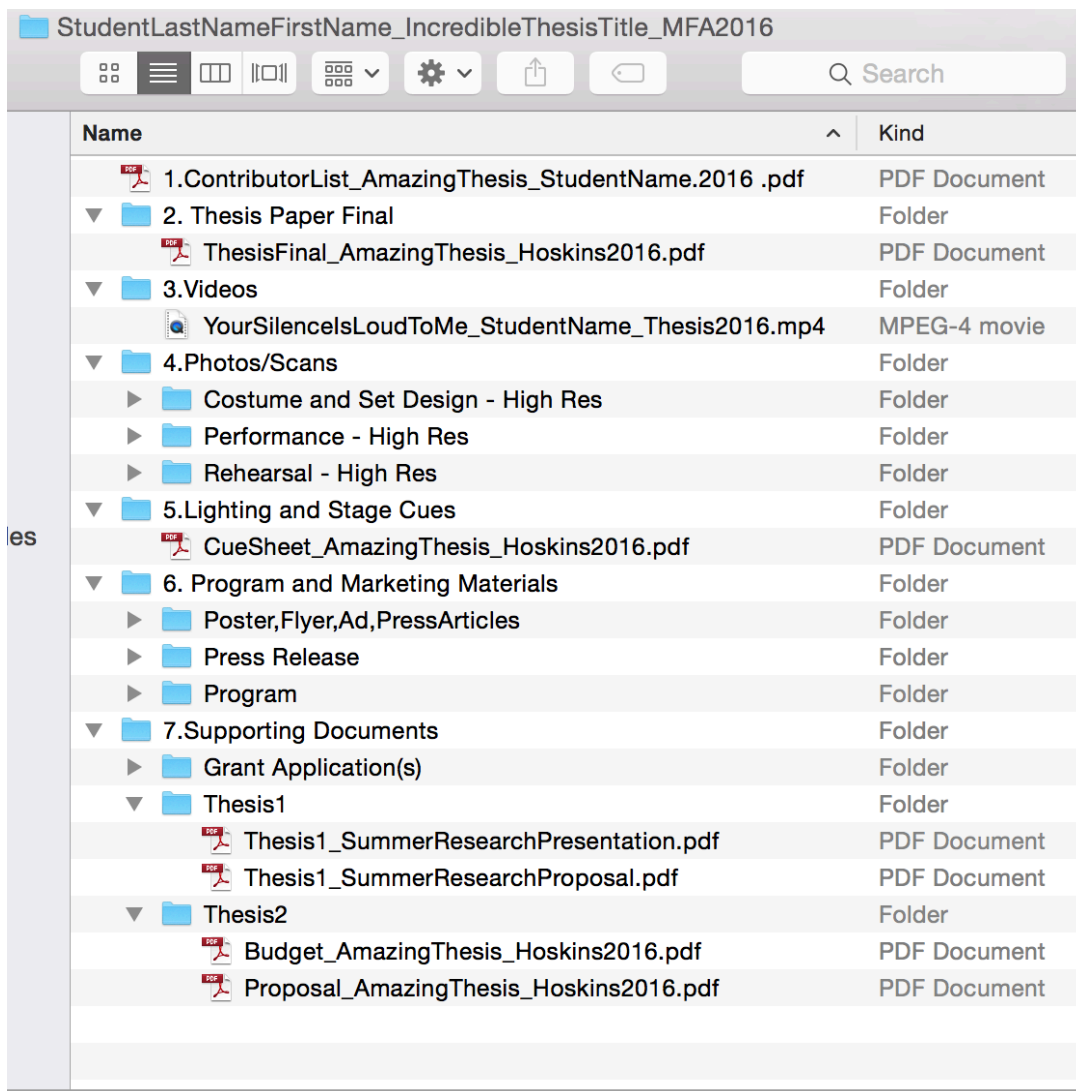
- Thesis 1: Summer Research Proposal & Presentation
- Thesis 2: Proposal and Budget
- A representative grant application that you submitted for the thesis (e.g., to Rackham, the International Institute, CWPS, IRWG)

### **Communicating with your Thesis Chair**

It is your responsibility to ensure your thesis committee members--especially those outside the Department of Dance--are aware of their responsibilities. You will do this by sharing the information below with them. See Appendix D for handout/guidelines.

### **MFA Thesis Project Portfolio**

Here's an example of the folder structure organizational scheme for the MFA digital thesis portfolio:



# Additional Curriculum Notes

## *Career Portfolio*

**Note: The Career Portfolio is different from the Digital Thesis Project Portfolio.**

In preparation for securing post-graduate work or continued education, students are required to develop, build, and hone a career development (a.k.a., exit) portfolio over the course of the two-year MFA. It will be reviewed periodically by the Dance faculty. Students can choose to design this as a public or private website or as a folder of digital documents.

The goal for creating this portfolio is to assist students in marketing themselves for academic and/or professional jobs. Components of the portfolio are created as required assignments within various MFA core courses. See Digital Career Portfolio Timeline for details. (following page)

The career portfolio should include the following components:

- CV
- Headshot
- Videos
- Biography
- Artist statement
- Chronology of performances and/or choreography
- Upcoming projects (optional)
- Teaching portfolio that includes but is not limited to:
  - teaching philosophy
  - teaching resume
  - course syllabi including course descriptions
  - videos
  - photographs

## ***Career Portfolio Timeline***

### **Year 1 – Fall Term**

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Details</b>
Sept-Dec	Within DANCE 571 Dance Pedagogy, students begin developing a Career Portfolio and create a first draft of their teaching philosophy statement and teaching resume. Other teaching portfolio materials, such as current syllabi, photographs and videos/DVDs of their teaching are to be included. Additional materials may include samples of student work and student evaluations.
Sept-Dec	Within courses 524/531, students develop and compile an artist statement, updated biography, and compile a chronology of creative/professional activities (i.e., a list of their performances and choreography to-date).

### **Year 2– Fall Term**

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Details</b>
Sept-Dec	Students attend career development workshops at CRLT (Center for Research on Learning and Teaching) and The Career Center for assistance with cover letters, interviewing techniques, CVs, and to finalize the Career Portfolio. Individual advisor reviews completed Career Portfolio with advisee.

## ***Crew Work for Department of Dance Productions***

Production crew work is required for all students and is vital to the success of our concerts. **MFA students must complete one in-house crew assignment.** Such work will amount to no more than 32 hours per term. The Production Manager posts the assignments each term. Production crews are vital to the success of our concerts.

## ***Rehearsal Space***

If reserving rehearsal space for a choreographic project or for teaching preparation, students must submit a request in writing to the Production Manager, providing date, time and location. Reservation forms are available on the Production Schedule bulletin board and due by noon each Friday for the following week (Mon thru Sun). Students should post a rehearsal cancellation immediately.

NOTE: Rehearsal space is at a premium in our Department. If none of our studios are available for rehearsal students might try going next door to the CCRB where students can reserve a squash court with their student ID.

## ***Outside Performances***

Performances are encouraged beyond Department-sponsored events as long as the student's schedule permits. In keeping with other departments in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, if involved in projects outside the Department the student must:

1. Notify his/her individual advisor in writing of the engagement within the first two weeks of the semester so that any conflicting issues with the Department (e.g., resources, scheduling) may be addressed.
2. Make every effort not to miss regularly scheduled classes and rehearsals. When organizing or producing an outside event, it is the student's responsibility as the choreographer to be respectful of dancers' schedules and prior commitments. Please adapt schedules accordingly.
3. Follow Department guidelines as stated earlier in this handbook and the SMTD Student Handbook regarding the procedures for getting approval for absences incurred for outside performance.



## **Student Activities & Awards**

### ***DSA Representative***

One MFA Dance student will represent the graduate students in DSA. It is this student's responsibility to communicate with the MFA cohort and report back to DSA with any issues or suggestions. Grad students should plan to make time to meet as a year group a couple of times during each term to discuss progress and any concerns as well as promote communication within the year group. The entire cohort of first and second year Dance MFAs will meet monthly with the Graduate Director.

### ***American College Dance Association (ACDA)***

Each year, two to three outstanding students are sponsored to present their choreography at the Regional conference. The faculty choose which works will attend the festival based on a department wide audition each fall. (*Refer to the SMTD absence policy stated earlier in this handbook regarding off-campus travel*)

### ***Emerging Dance Artists Concert***

The Emerging Dance Artist (EDA) concert is a student choreographed and produced performance that takes place at the end of the Winter term. All students may participate. Refer to the bulletin boards in the Dance Building or see the Production Manager for more information and/or sign-up sheet.

### ***SMTD Collage Concert***

Each fall, SMTD puts out a call for applications for student performances to be included in the Collage Concert, produced at Hill Auditorium in mid-January. The much-anticipated annual Collage Concert never fails to amaze, with its distinctive format featuring the incredible range of SMTD ensembles and programs, with students performing one riveting work after another without pause. It's a non-stop and exhilarating evening of virtuoso performances. It is a distinct honor to be chosen to participate in this significant performance. Students are chosen by a committee of faculty members composed from across SMTD. Collaborative works that feature live dance and live music are encouraged.

## General Information & Resources

### ***Graduate Student Affairs Office***

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/content/student-services-offices>

### ***Dean of Students Office***

<http://deanofstudents.umich.edu/>

### ***CRLT – Center for Research on Learning and Teaching***

<http://www.crlt.umich.edu/>

### ***Rackham Emergency Funds***

The Rackham Graduate Student Emergency Fund is intended to help meet the financial needs of Rackham graduate students who encounter an emergency situation or one-time, unusual, or unforeseen expenses during their degree program. Situations eligible for funding include such events as:

- Medical, dental or mental health emergencies for the student or, in some circumstances, for immediate family members\* who live with the student
- Major accidents and events such as fire and natural disasters
- Expenses related to the death of an immediate family member\*

Normal living expenses such as rent, car repairs, child care, utilities, taxes, insurance, and pet-related expenses are generally not covered by this fund.

\* The immediate family consists of a student's spouse or other qualified adult; the son, daughter, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister (or the spouse of any of them), of either the student, the student's spouse, the other qualified adult or any other related person living in the student's household. The definition of other qualified adult may be found at <http://www.umich.edu/~benefits/eligibility/oqa.html>

Please visit: <https://www.rackham.umich.edu/prospective-students/funding/student-application/graduate-student-emergency-funds>

### ***Graduate Student Funding***

There are several sources of funding through the Rackham Graduate School including the Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant. For information go to [rackham.umich.edu](http://rackham.umich.edu) and select the link for Funding. Also consult the website for the International Institute @ [ii.umich.edu](http://ii.umich.edu) and the various research centers, for example, DAAS (formerly CAAS) @ [www.lsa.umich.edu/daas](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/daas), CWPS @ [www.ii.umich.edu/cwps/](http://www.ii.umich.edu/cwps/), IRWG @ [irwg.research.umich.edu](http://irwg.research.umich.edu), and Arts of Citizenship @ [artsofcitizenship.umich.edu](http://artsofcitizenship.umich.edu).

Depending on the field of research, individual departments across campus may have additional funding sources

## **Grant Sources at the University of Michigan**

<b>Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG)</b>
Rackham Graduate Student Research Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://irwg.research.umich.edu/funding/awards.html">http://irwg.research.umich.edu/funding/awards.html</a></li> </ul>
IRWG/Community of Scholars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://irwg.research.umich.edu/funding/community.html">http://irwg.research.umich.edu/funding/community.html</a></li> </ul>
<b>Rackham</b>
Conference Travel Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.rackham.umich.edu/funding/from_rackham/student_application/rackham_conference_travel_grant/">http://www.rackham.umich.edu/funding/from_rackham/student_application/rackham_conference_travel_grant/</a></li> </ul>
Graduate Research Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.rackham.umich.edu/funding/from_rackham/student_application/graduate_student_research_grant/">http://www.rackham.umich.edu/funding/from_rackham/student_application/graduate_student_research_grant/</a></li> </ul>
International Research Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.rackham.umich.edu/funding/from_rackham/student_application/international_research_awards/">http://www.rackham.umich.edu/funding/from_rackham/student_application/international_research_awards/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Rackham Program in Public Scholarship</b>
Graduate Student Grants in Public Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.rackham.umich.edu/publicscholarship/grants-program/">http://www.rackham.umich.edu/publicscholarship/grants-program/</a></li> </ul>
<b>International Institute</b>
Individual Fellowships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.ii.umich.edu/ii/fellowshipsandgrants/graduate">http://www.ii.umich.edu/ii/fellowshipsandgrants/graduate</a></li> </ul>
International Institute Conference Travel Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.ii.umich.edu/ii/fellowshipsandgrants/graduate">http://www.ii.umich.edu/ii/fellowshipsandgrants/graduate</a></li> </ul>
International Institute Fund for Conferences and Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.ii.umich.edu/ii/fellowshipsandgrants/graduate">http://www.ii.umich.edu/ii/fellowshipsandgrants/graduate</a></li> </ul>
International Institute Fund for Performances, Films, and Exhibitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://www.ii.umich.edu/ii/fellowshipsandgrants/graduate">http://www.ii.umich.edu/ii/fellowshipsandgrants/graduate</a></li> </ul>
<b>Center for World Performance Studies (CWPS)</b>
Center for World Performance Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="http://lsa.umich.edu/world-performance">http://lsa.umich.edu/world-performance</a></li> </ul>
<b>Arts at Michigan</b>
Arts at Michigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://artsatmichigan.umich.edu/">http://artsatmichigan.umich.edu/</a></li> </ul>

### **Complimentary Ticket Policy**

Department of Dance students are eligible for complimentary ticket(s) for select ticketed performances during in the SMTD season. Please reference the current season's complimentary ticket policy emailed at the beginning of the school year. Copies of the policies are also available at the Department office.

## **GEO**

The Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO) is the labor union representing Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) and Graduate Student Staff Assistants (GSSAs) at the University of Michigan. GEO was founded in 1970 and won their first contract in 1975, making GEO one of the oldest graduate employee unions in the United States.

GEO is an activist, democratic and volunteer-run organization where graduate employees come together to improve our wages and working conditions. The collective action of GEO members, organized as a union, is responsible for many of the concrete benefits that graduate employees now enjoy. Over the last 40 years, victories have included tuition waivers, health benefits, and child care waivers as well as a powerful grievance procedure to protect our rights, transparent hiring processes, and standard setting non-discrimination language. Graduate employees across the country look to GEO as an example of what can be accomplished when we work together.

Please visit: <http://www.geo3550.org/>

## **Department of Dance Office**

Office hours for the main office are approximately 8:30AM – 5:00PM. The office is closed for lunch on days when administrative support is not available.

## **Security**

Building security is an important concern for Dance students, faculty and staff. Valuables, backpacks, clothing and jewelry, iPods/MP3 players, cell phones, books, etc. are all subject to theft. **Keep valuables within eyesight, store them in the lockers or locked in the graduate student offices at the Geddes Building.** It is also unsafe to be in the Dance Building alone in the evening and on weekends. **The Department of Public Safety (DPS) should be called (734-763-1131) in every case of theft or suspicious activity in the building.**

For added security, the Department of Dance has a card reader system located at the main entrance to the Dance Building. This means that unless the door is unlocked during regular class times (Mon-Fri) the building can be accessed only by using a MCard. The locking schedule for the card reader may vary throughout the year, so be sure to check with the Department Administrator for details. Additionally, there are several punch code locks throughout the Dance Building. This is typically a three-digit code that changes each term. **Do not share this code with anyone outside the Department nor prop open a code locked door to bypass this security measure.**

The **Geddes Building** has three points of entry, two of which are located on the rear side of the house and should be locked and bolted at all times. The fire escape is located via office #3103 on the third floor.



**For Emergencies call the Department of Public Safety (DPS) at 911!**

## ***Locker Space***

Lockers are available for Dance majors and MFA students. Because graduate students have an office at the Geddes Building, undergraduate students will be given priority on choosing their lockers. Students **must sign up** for a locker number (lists are posted on the outside bathroom door). Students are responsible for providing their own lock, maintaining a record of the combination, and arranging for any services required to either unlock or cut off the lock.

## ***Basic Building Information***

### **Dance Building**

- **Outside Doors are not to be propped open at any time**
- **No smoking** anywhere in the building
- **No alcoholic beverages** in the building
- **No eating or drinking** in the studios
- **Street shoes** of any kind are **not** to be worn or taken into the studios
- **No items of any kind should be placed on pianos**
- **No roller blades** are to be worn in the building
- **Bicycles are not allowed in the building.** Please lock your bikes on the racks provided outside.
- There are **Lost and Found** bins throughout in the Department located in each studio and in the student lounge. Non-clothing items (cell phones, IDs, jewelry, etc.) are held in the Dance Office
- **Performance Lab** blinds and windows should stay closed at all times. The door should always remain locked and closed and the door code should never be shared with non-Dance Majors.

### **1327 Geddes**

- **Outside Doors are not to be propped open at any time**
- **No smoking** anywhere in the building
- **No alcoholic beverages** in the building
- **No roller blades** are to be worn in the building
- **Bicycles are not allowed in the building.** Please park and lock your bikes where provided outside.
- **Parking is reserved for the Department Chair, Administrator and guests only**
- Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves, especially in the kitchen

## ***Student Lounge at Dance Building***

The Student Lounge is for relaxation, eating, student meetings, audition guests and as a waiting area for visitors to the Department. Students are expected to clean up after themselves. There is a campus phone (for on-campus calls), a computer with Internet access, and a monitor, DVD and VHS machines. **Students** are responsible for items left in the refrigerator; dirty utensils and empty/dirty containers must not be left in the fridge. There are cleaning supplies and storage bins available to maintain kitchen items. On frequent occasions facilities will deep clean the refrigerator and sink. On this day (which will be posted in the student lounge), all personal items must be removed or are subject to being trashed.

## ***Performance Lab***

The Performance Lab is a specialized dance space for Department use only. There are cardio machines, TRX, portable ballet barre, Bosu balls and other equipment to help support student's dance pursuits. Students must complete the following three tasks BEFORE being granted access to the Performance Lab:

1. Watch the following four orientation videos:
  - #1 Introduction to the Space
  - #2 Cardio Equipment
  - #3 Exercise Mats, Balls & Other Accessories
  - #4 TRX Suspension Trainer
2. Read Requirements document
3. Read, sign and turn in Access & Liability Form

## ***Kitchen at Geddes***

Graduate students also have access to the kitchen at the Geddes Building. The same rules apply regarding use and cleanliness as at the Dance Building. Students are expected to clean up after themselves. There is a campus phone for on-campus calls only. **Students** are responsible for items left in the refrigerator; dirty utensils and empty/dirty containers must not be left in the fridge. There are cleaning supplies and cupboards available to maintain kitchen items. **The dishwasher will be used for special events only and should NOT be used without permission.** Graduate students have access to their own coffee machine and are responsible for purchasing coffee and cleaning up and maintaining all aspects of its use. The Department will provide creamer, sugar and disposable cups.

## ***Resource Room at Geddes***

The Resource Room, located on the third floor at the Geddes building, is for faculty and graduate students use only. In some instances, it is possible an upperclassman in the BFA Dance program will have permission as well. Occasionally the Resource Room may be used as an office for a guest artist upon approval of the Department. The room contains important materials such as the Department Archive, MFA theses and dance-specific books and journals. Students are permitted to use this room for research related to the thesis and MFA program coursework. **Nothing is permitted to leave the Resource Room.** Please contact the Department Administrator for more information.

## ***Health & Wellness***

Please check the Department bulletin boards and Appendix F for more information.

## Campus Services

### ***Central Campus Recreation Building Facilities***

The recreational facilities of the CCRB (adjacent to the Dance Building) are available to all UM students. Students may use the track, saunas, weight equipment, gymnasium, and Olympic-size pool. Classes in aerobics, individual sports, swimming, lifesaving, and other activities are offered for a modest fee. As noted, squash courts can be reserved and can make for good rehearsal space in a bind, especially for small groups and class planning.

### ***Counseling & Psychological Services***

CAPS offers a variety of services aimed at helping students resolve personal difficulties and acquire the skills, attitudes, and knowledge that will enable them to take full advantage of their experiences at the University of Michigan. Emily Hyssong (emhyss@umich.edu) is the CAPS Counselor for SMTD located at 2223 Moore building on North Campus. Students may also request CAPS counseling on Central Campus on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Michigan Union. Access online @ [umich.edu/~caps](http://umich.edu/~caps) or call (734) 764-8312.

### ***Eating Disorders***

A counseling group is available to students at the Center for Eating Disorders @ [center4ed.org/](http://center4ed.org/) or call (734) 668-8585. You can also make an appointment with a registered dietician at the UHS's Nutrition Clinic at (734) 764-8325 or call the clinic for information at (734) 763-3760.

### ***MedRehab Center/Performance Arts Therapy***

M-Perform is a specialty program designed to address the unique needs and problems of the Performing Artist. Physician and Therapy Teams in PT, OT and Hand Therapy have many years of experience in Orthopedics, Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine. Whether a musician, dancer, conductor or pianist, therapy teams can help rehabilitate the artist and work to prevent future injuries. Call for an appointment at (734) 936-7175 or 998-7667 for physical therapy. Be sure to check on insurance coverage and specify that the call is an 'arts med' referral.

### ***MedSport***

University Medical Center Sports Medicine Program (MedSport) is located at Domino's Farms (4008 Ave Maria Drive, Lobby A, Suite 1000, Ann Arbor, MI 48106), which includes orthopedic doctors, physical therapists, and athletic trainers experienced in performing arts-related injuries. Please contact MedSport to request information regarding this clinic at **(734) 930-7400**. **Kristen Schuyten** is our main point of contact there: **Kbalfour@umich.edu**

### ***Transportation***

If rehearsing in the building or theatres after dark, it is not safe to travel alone. Students have several transportation options including:

- **Night Ride.** Shared-ride taxi service within Ann Arbor (when regularly scheduled AATA bus service is not available) seven days a week, Monday through Friday, 11:00PM to 6:00AM and Saturday and Sunday, 7:00PM to 7:30AM. Fee is \$5 per person. Also available on all major holidays. Phone (734) 528-5432.

- **Ride Home.** Free shared-ride taxi service for students, faculty, and staff to their residence halls, parked vehicles, or local residence. This service is available after University transit buses and shuttles have concluded daily service: from 2:00AM through 7:00AM, seven days a week. Please note you must show the driver your valid UM ID. Phone (734) 663-3355.
- **S.A.F.E. Walk.** A campus accompaniment service that functions as an alternative to walking alone on campus at night. Coordinated by staff at the Department of Public Safety (DPS), S.A.F.E.WALK escorts are free of charge and available to all members of the University community. During the Fall and Winter semesters, the service is provided daily from 10:00 p.m.-3:00 a.m. Just call (734) 763-WALK or (734) 763-9255 to request an escort. An employee from UM Transportation Services will come to the student's campus location and drive to the requested location (within a one-mile driving radius of Central and North campuses). During non-service hours, alternative service providers will be identified by DPS.

### ***UM Health Service***

Located on 207 Fletcher Ave, medical service is provided for all UM students and staff on a walk-in or appointment basis. It is open weekdays until 4:30 and Saturday mornings. Phone (734) 764-8325. Physical therapy is provided if deemed necessary by a Health Services doctor.

### ***U-Move Fitness***

Located in the CCRB, offers a wide variety of group exercise (Pilates, Yoga, Cardio) and wellness classes to faculty, staff, and students of the University of Michigan and residents of Ann Arbor and surrounding communities. Schedule and class descriptions may be found @ [umove.kines.umich.edu](http://umove.kines.umich.edu).



**Appendix A**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Dance**  
**Core Curriculum & Chronology for Choreography, Performance,**  
**and Screendance MFA Tracks**  
**Classes 2016 & 2017**

\*\*Students should expect to enroll in 15 credits per semester to equal the 60 credits required for MFA degree completion.

<b>Semester 1 – Fall Term</b>	
16-17 credits total, 13-14 credits of which are required core courses	
<b>Courses – Required</b>	<b>Credits</b>
501 – Research in Action 1: Research Methods in Dance	3
511 and/or 513 – Ballet and/or Modern Dance Technique (i.e., physical practice) <i>Note: This includes the Modern and Ballet Friday labs. Yoga lab can be taken as Independent Study Technique, Dance 519.</i>	1 total
524 or 531 – Advanced Solo Performance or Advanced Solo Composition <i>Note: The number chosen depends on track</i>	3
534 – Performance Improvisation 1 <i>Note: One of these credits can be applied toward the physical practice requirement</i>	3
571 – Pedagogy: Dance Technique	3

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**Core Curriculum & Chronology for Choreography, Performance,**  
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**Classes 2016 & 2017**

<b>Semester 2 – Winter Term</b>	
18 credits recommended, since 3 credits are not worked on during the term, but rather over the spring/summer	
<b>Courses – Required</b>	<b>Credits</b>
502 – Research in Action 2: Problematizing Theory in Practice	3
505 – Research in Action 3: Self-Evaluation Report <i>Note: Written over spring/summer but signed up for in WN term of first year. Assigned a 'Y' grade until RIA instructor has graded the report.</i>	1
511 and/or 513 – Ballet and/or Modern Dance Technique (i.e., physical practice) <i>Note: This includes the Modern and Ballet Friday labs. Yoga lab can be taken as Independent Study Technique, Dance 519.</i>	1-2/total
532 – CPP&D <i>** Counts as Track credit**</i>	3
543 – Screendance I: Collaborations in New Media <i>**Required for Screendance Track only. Other Tracks may take it as an elective**</i>	3
595 – Thesis 1: Summer Research Project <i>Notes: Y grade. Field work occurs over summer and presentation of research occurs in the Fall. Instructor listed in Wolverine is ADVISOR. Grades are divided into three parts: (1) Proposal (20%) – assessed by Advisor/Chair; (2) Fieldwork (50%) – assessed by the full faculty in Sep; (3) Presentation (30%) – assessed by the full faculty. Final grade is determined at Oct/Nov faculty meeting.</i>	2
<b>Courses – Elective +/-or Track</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Students are encouraged to take a cognate during semester 2 and/or may fill out their schedule with dance elective credits.	

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**Core Curriculum & Chronology for Choreography, Performance,**  
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**Classes 2016 & 2017**

<b>Spring Term</b>	
<b>Courses – Elective +/-or Track</b>	<b>Credits</b>
515 – Ann Arbor Dance Works: Technique	1
516 – Paul Taylor Summer Intensive: Technique	1
518-588 – Field Experience projects	1-3
519-589 – Independent Study projects	1-3
543 – Screendance Portfolio	2-4
525 – Ann Arbor Dance Works: Repertory	1-3
526 – Paul Taylor Summer Intensive: Repertory	1
** Cognates from non-Dance/SMTD department	--

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**and Screendance MFA Tracks**  
**Classes 2016 & 2017**

<b>Semester 3 – Fall Term</b>	
11-12 credits total	
<b>Courses – Required</b>	<b>Credits</b>
601 – Research in Action 4: Dance History & Theory	3
611 and/or 613 – Ballet and/or Modern Dance Technique (i.e., physical practice) <i>Note: This includes the Modern and Ballet Friday labs. Yoga lab can be taken as Independent Study Technique, Dance 619.</i>	1-2/total
631 – Graduate Studio <i>Note: Instructor of Graduate Studio will assign grade in consultation with thesis chair.</i> <b>** Counts as Track credit**</b>	2
695 – Thesis 2: Proposal <i>Note: Instructor listed in Wolverine is ADVISOR. Thesis Chair will subsequently assign grade and convey it to Advisor. Reason: Students do not officially declare a Thesis Chair until Oct 1 and this is after the SMTD add/drop deadline.</i>	2
<b>Course – Elective +/-or Track</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Students are encouraged to take a cognate during semester 3 and/or may fill out their schedule with dance elective credits.	

**Appendix A**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
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**Core Curriculum & Chronology for Choreography, Performance,**  
**and Screendance MFA Tracks**  
**Classes 2016 & 2017**

<b>Semester 4 – Winter Term</b>	
7-8 credits total	
Courses – Required	Credits
611 and/or 613 – Ballet and/or Modern Dance Technique (i.e., physical practice) <i>Note: This includes the Modern and Ballet Friday labs. Yoga lab can be taken as Independent Study Technique, Dance 619.</i>	1-2/total
642 – Screendance II: Advanced Projects & Productions <b>**Required for Screendance Track only. Other Tracks may take it as an elective**</b>	3
699 – Thesis 3: Project <i>Note: Instructor listed in Wolverine is THESIS CHAIR. A ‘Y’ grade is submitted until the documentation is complete.</i>	6
Course – Elective +/-or Track	Credits
Students fill out their schedule with dance elective credits, and, if necessary, a cognate.	

**Appendix B**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Dance**  
**Advising Checklist for Graduates Completing an MFA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester/Year began program: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Track/Concentration of study: \_\_\_\_\_

**Required areas of study & credit hours to complete your Masters Degree in two years:**

• Research in Action	10	• Cognates	6-10
• Track	20	• Thesis	10
• Dance Electives	10-14		
		<b>Total Hrs</b>	<b>60</b>

## Physical Practice

Students are required to take a minimum of 8 credits of physical practice over the course of their degree. **These credits can be applied either toward track credits or dance elective credit.** Credits in physical practice can be taken in a variety of genres, including modern, ballet, some Friday labs, and performance of improvisation. There are also independent study options for physical practice. When enrolled in the 3-credit course Performance of Improvisation 1 (534), one of the three credits may be applied toward the 8-credit physical practice requirement; the same applies if a student elects to take Performance of Improvisation 2 (634): one of the three credits may be applied toward the 8-credit physical practice requirement.

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**Advising Checklist for Graduates Completing an MFA**

The following courses can be taken at any time during your two-years of study; 500-level for Year 1 and 600-level for Year 2.

518/618 - Field Experience: Dance Technique	549/649 - Independent Study: Screendance
519/619 - Independent Study: Dance Technique	558/658 - Field Experience: Dance Science
527/627 - Special Topics: Performance/Repertory	559/659 - Independent Study: Dance Science
528/628 - Field Experience: Performance/Repertory	567/667 - Special Topics: Dance History
529/629 - Independent Study: Performance/Repertory	568/668 - Field Experience: Dance History
538/638 - Field Experience: Choreography	569/669 - Independent Study: Dance History
539/639 - Independent Study: Choreography	578/678 - Field Experience: Dance Education
548/648 - Field Experience: Screendance	579/679 - Independent Study: Dance Education

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**Advising Checklist for Graduates Completing an MFA**

<b>Year 1 – Fall Term</b>			
Course	Credits	Requirement Category	Taken (Y/N)
<i>Completed <b>Research in Action</b> credits – Fall Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Track</b> credits – Fall Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Elective</b> credits – Fall Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Cognate</b> credits – Fall Year 1</i>			
<b>Total credits completed – Fall Year 1</b>			

Advisor Signature _____	Date _____
Student Signature _____	Date _____



**Appendix B**  
**School of Music. Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Dance**  
**Advising Checklist for Graduates Completing an MFA**

<b>Year 1 – Winter Term</b>			
<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Requirement Category</b>	<b>Taken (Y/N)</b>
<i>Completed <b>Research in Action</b> credits – Winter Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Track</b> credits – Winter Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Elective</b> credits – Winter Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Cognate</b> credits – Winter Year 1</i>			
<b>Total credits completed – Winter Year 1</b>			
<b>CUMULATIVE credits Fall + Winter Year 1</b>			

Advisor Signature _____	Date _____
Student Signature _____	Date _____

**Appendix B**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Dance**  
**Advising Checklist for Graduates Completing an MFA**

<b>Year 1 – Spring Term</b>			
<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Requirement Category</b>	<b>Taken (Y/N)</b>
<i>Completed <b>Research in Action</b> credits – Spring Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Track</b> credits – Spring Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Elective</b> credits – Spring Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Cognate</b> credits – Spring Year 1</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Thesis</b> credits – Spring Year 1</i>			
<b>Total credits completed – Spring Year 1</b>			
<b>CUMULATIVE credits Fall + Winter + Spring Year 1</b>			

Advisor Signature _____	Date _____
Student Signature _____	Date _____

**Appendix B**

School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Department of Dance

Advising Checklist for Graduates Completing an MFA

<b>Year 2 – Fall Term</b>			
Course	Credits	Requirement Category	Taken (Y/N)
<i>Completed <b>Research in Action</b> credits – Fall Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Track</b> credits – Fall Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Elective</b> credits – Fall Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Cognate</b> credits – Fall Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Thesis</b> credits – Fall Year 2</i>			
<b>Total credits completed</b>			
<b>CUMULATIVE credits Year 1+ Fall Year 2</b>			

Advisor Signature <hr/>	Date <hr/>
Student Signature <hr/>	Date <hr/>

**Appendix B**  
 School of Music, Theatre & Dance  
 Department of Dance  
 Advising Checklist for Graduates Completing an MFA

<b>Year 2 – Winter Term</b>			
<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Requirement Category</b>	<b>Taken (Y/N)</b>
<i>Completed <b>Research in Action</b> credits – Winter Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Track</b> credits – Winter Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Elective</b> credits – Winter Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Cognate</b> credits – Winter Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Thesis</b> credits – Winter Year 2</i>			
<b>Total credits completed – Winter Year 2</b>			
<b>CUMULATIVE credits Year 1 + Fall + Winter Year 2</b>			

Advisor Signature _____	Date _____
Student Signature _____	Date _____

**Note: Check in with Rackham at the beginning of the Winter term to make sure you are on track to graduate. As of September 2016, Julia Thiel is the contact for this audit: juliat@umich.edu.**

**Appendix B**  
 School of Music, Theatre & Dance  
 Department of Dance  
 Advising Checklist for Graduates Completing an MFA

<b>Year 2 – Spring Term</b>			
<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Requirement Category</b>	<b>Taken (Y/N)</b>
<i>Completed <b>Research in Action</b> credits – Spring Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Track</b> credits – Spring Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Elective</b> credits – Spring Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Cognate</b> credits – Spring Year 2</i>			
<i>Completed <b>Thesis</b> credits – Spring Year 2</i>			
<b>Total credits completed</b>			
<b>CUMULATIVE credits Year 1 + Year 2</b>			

Advisor Signature _____	Date _____
Student Signature _____	Date _____

**Appendix C**  
**University of Michigan**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Dance**  
**MFA Graduation Checklist 2016-17**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

UMID # \_\_\_\_\_

Email & Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Date Thesis Concert Presented \_\_\_\_\_

Dance 699 Thesis Grade Awarded \_\_\_\_\_

MFA Thesis Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Committee Final Meeting Date \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Checklist**

1. Verify application for graduation to begin Rackham Audit Process \_\_\_\_\_

2. Verify completion and submission of all Digital Thesis Project Portfolio components as detailed in handbook\*. \_\_\_\_\_

Date received in Dance Office \_\_\_\_\_

3. Thesis Chair Check List Sign-off \_\_\_\_\_

4. Department of Dance Chair Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*(1)Contributor list; (2)Thesis paper, including correctly formatted cover page, abstract, acknowledgements, and narrative; (3)Full length video(s); (4)Photographs of costumes, set design, performance, rehearsal with photographer in file name; (5)Lighting and stage cues; (6)Program and marketing materials: flyer, poster, advertisement, press article(s), press release, program; (7)Thesis supporting documents (Thesis 1: Summer Research Proposal & Presentation, Thesis 2: Proposal & Budget, A representative grant application that was submitted for the thesis). **Please refer to handbook for formatting details.**

**Appendix D**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Dance**  
**Thesis Committee Guidelines**

## **Thesis Committee Handout/Guidelines**

Thank you for considering a request to be a thesis committee member for an MFA candidate in the Department of Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance. Dance MFA candidates are required to have three thesis committee members: two from the Department of Dance, one of whom is the Thesis Chair; and a third, non-Dance, full-time, UM faculty member or a member of the private sector.

**Thesis committee members** will serve for both the Fall and Winter terms of the student's second year. Committee members are asked to meet with the student twice during the Fall term and three times during the Winter term and to provide constructive feedback regarding the MFA candidate's overall progress. The Department recognizes that committee members may not be able to attend all of the recommended showings or sessions, in which case the MFA candidate will make other arrangements to meet with the committee member.

### **The recommended meetings include:**

#### **Fall Term**

- Attend one session of DANCE 631 *Graduate Studio* to provide ongoing feedback to developing ideas. Discuss the thought process and research the student used in developing the work and the connections between the creative work and the area of expertise of the committee member.
- Review a developed draft of the student's thesis proposal and provide feedback.

#### **Winter Term**

- Attend a thesis works-in-progress (WIP) showing and use this as an occasion to provide feedback on the process.
- Attend the formal performance of the Thesis Project as the second of the three meetings of the Winter term.
- In late-April or early-May, meet with the MFA candidate as a full committee to evaluate and discuss the Thesis Project. This meeting serves as the third and final meeting.

**It is the responsibility of the MFA candidate to set up these meetings with her/his committee members in a timely manner.**

### **Evaluation & Grading**

The Dance faculty member designated as Thesis Chair is responsible for supervising the thesis documentation and for submitting the final grade for the Thesis Project. The other two thesis committee members will receive a copy of the final thesis documentation in progress and may choose to provide comments and feedback. The Thesis Chair will sign off on the thesis when it is finalized and submitted to the Department.

**Appendix D**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Dance**  
**Thesis Committee Guidelines**

**Overview of the MFA Dance Thesis Process**

Dance MFA candidates specialize in one of three tracks during their two-year MFA: Choreography, Performance/Repertory, or Screendance. The MFA degree culminates in the creation of a Thesis Project, which may take the form of a performance or other public presentation. These projects are completed in March/April of the second year.

Over the course of the two years, the student prepares for her/his Thesis Project in a sequence of courses and research activities that blends practice and theory. These encourage an in-depth development of materials and ideas, as noted below:

- After taking a core curriculum of studio and theory courses in the first term of Year 1, candidates submit **grant proposals to funding sources** for summer research projects early in the second term of Year 1. These summer research projects feed directly into the student's thesis work during Year 2.
- Between the first and second years, students undertake extensive research off-campus, conducting fieldwork and developing material for their thesis in **DANCE 595 Thesis 1: Summer Research Project** (2 credits). DANCE 595 is comprised of the following three components:
  1. A 1,000-word proposal articulating the aims, methodology, research context and questions of the project, and of their relevance to the student's subsequent thesis and to the field;
  2. A minimum of 40 hours in the field;
  3. A 15-minute presentation of results, to include audio-visual examples and/or a performative element, plus Q&A. This 15-minute presentation takes place in September of the second year and, as noted above, it is recommended that the non-Dance thesis committee member attend this presentation as the first of the three Fall term meetings with the candidate.
- In the Fall term of the Year 2, MFA candidates enroll in a 2-credit course, **DANCE 631 Graduate Studio**. This course serves as a forum for second year MFA students to investigate and workshop ideas, movement materials and production elements for their thesis projects. As noted, it is recommended that the committee members attend one of these class sessions as one of the three Fall term meetings with the candidate.
- Also in the Fall term of the Year 2, MFA candidates enroll in the 2-credit course **DANCE 695 Thesis 2: Proposal**. In this course, the students determine a Thesis Chair by **October 1** and a Thesis Committee by **November 1**. A 3,000-word written proposal is submitted to the Thesis Chair by **December 1**.



**Appendix D**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Dance**  
**Thesis Committee Guidelines**

- During the Winter term of Year 2, MFA candidates are immersed in **pre-production and rehearsal/performance activities** for their Thesis Projects, enrolling in the 6-credit course **DANCE 699 Thesis 3: Project**. The Thesis Project must include a performative element (2 credits), production work (2 credits), and final documentation (2 credits). Showings of the works-in-progress are typically scheduled in February. It is recommended that committee members attend a works-in-progress showing if possible. If that is not possible, they can attend a rehearsal or review a video of a showing with the candidate.
- **Final Thesis performances and presentations** are typically scheduled in March/April. It is expected that committee members will attend this culminating performance, if at all possible. If not, they must review a video of the performance or project.
- Within approximately two weeks of the thesis project presentation, the full Thesis Committee meets with the MFA candidate to discuss and evaluate the thesis work and to launch the written documentation process. The MFA candidate then continues with the documentation of the thesis, which entails writing an 20-25 page thesis paper, and assembling a portfolio of digital documents that archive the project, including photos, videos, press releases, lighting plots, program, poster, grant proposals, and more. The student submits a first draft of the thesis paper to the Thesis Chair by **May 20<sup>th</sup>**. The student submits a subsequent draft to other committee members by **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. The committee members may choose to provide editorial feedback, but they are not required to do so. The student submits all required documents of the Thesis Portfolio to the Thesis Chair by **July 1<sup>st</sup>**.

MFA Candidates are required by the Department of Dance to complete their thesis documentation by the end of the Spring/Summer term immediately following their fourth term of graduate study.

**Appendix E**  
**School of Music, Theatre & Dance**  
**Department of Dance**  
**General Standards**

General standards for written work and presentations in academic courses.

Letter Grades	Conceptual Structure	Rhetorical Structure	Thesis	Evidence and Analysis	Paragraph/Section Structure	Sentence Mechanics
<b>A</b>	cogent analysis, shows command of interpretive and conceptual tasks required by assignment and course materials: original ideas often insightful, going beyond ideas discussed in lecture and class	contains a convincing argument with a compelling purpose; highly responsive to the demands of the specific writing situation; sophisticated use of conventions of academic discipline and genre; anticipates the reader's need for information, explanation, and context	essay controlled by clear, precise, well-defined thesis; is sophisticated in both statement and insight	well-chosen examples; uses persuasive reasoning to develop and support thesis consistently; uses specific quotations, aesthetic details, or citations of scholarly sources effectively; logical connections between ideas are evident	well-constructed paragraphs; appropriate, clear, and smooth transitions; apt arrangement of organizational elements	uses sophisticated sentences effectively; usually chooses words aptly; observes professional conventions of written English and manuscript format; makes very few minor or technical errors
<b>B</b>	shows a good understanding of the texts, ideas and methods of the assignment; goes beyond the obvious; may have one minor factual or conceptual inconsistency	addresses audience with a thoughtful argument with a clear purpose; responds directly to the demands of a specific writing situation; competent use of the conventions of academic discipline and genre; addresses the reader's need for information, explanation, context	clear, specific, arguable thesis central to the essay; may have left minor terms undefined	pursues explanation and proof of thesis consistently; develops a main argument with explicit major points, appropriate textual evidence, and supporting detail	distinct units of thought in paragraphs controlled by specific, detailed, and arguable topic sentences; clear transitions between developed, cohering, and logically arranged paragraphs	a few mechanical difficulties or stylistic problems; may make occasional problematic word choices or syntax errors; a few spelling or punctuation errors; usually presents quotations effectively, using appropriate format
<b>C</b>	shows an understanding of the basic ideas and information involved in the assignment; may have some factual, interpretive, or conceptual errors	presents adequate response to the essay prompt; pays attention to the basic elements of the writing situation; shows sufficient competence in the conventions of academic discipline and genre; signals the importance of the reader's need for information, explanation, and context	general thesis or controlling idea; may not define several central terms	only partially develops the argument; shallow analysis; some ideas and generalizations undeveloped or unsupported; makes limited use of textual evidence; fails to integrate quotations appropriately; warrants missing	some awkward transitions; some brief, weakly unified or undeveloped paragraphs; arrangement may not appear entirely natural; contains extraneous information	frequent wordiness; unclear or awkward sentences; imprecise use of words or over-reliance on passive voice; contains rudimentary grammatical errors; makes effort to present quotations accurately
<b>D</b>	shows inadequate command of materials or has significant factual and conceptual errors; confuses some significant ideas	shows serious weaknesses in addressing an audience; unresponsive to the specific writing situation; poor articulation of purpose in academic writing; often states the obvious or the inappropriate	thesis vague or not central to argument; central terms not defined	frequently only narrates; digresses from one topic to another without developing ideas or terms; makes insufficient or awkward use of textual evidence; relies on too few or the wrong type of sources	simplistic, tends to narrate or merely summarize; wanders from one topic to another; illogical arrangement of ideas	some major grammatical or proofreading errors (subject-verb agreement, sentence fragments, word form errors, etc.); repeated inexact word choices; incorrect quotation or citation format

**Appendix F**

**School of Music, Theatre & Dance  
Department of Dance  
MedSport FlowSheet**

<b>MedSport Sports Medicine Program</b>	<b>M-Perform Physical Medicine &amp; Rehabilitation</b>
<b>Located at Domino’s Farms, off Plymouth Road in northeast Ann Arbor (4008 Ave Maria Drive, Lobby A, Suite 1000, A2 48106)</b>	<b>Services Located at Multiple Sites including: The Spine Center, MedRehab-Briarwood, University Hospital</b>
<b>Contact:</b> Kristen Schuyten, Physical Therapy Clinical Specialist Coordinator of Performing Arts Injury and Rehabilitation  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:kbalfour@umich.edu">kbalfour@umich.edu</a> <b>Phone:</b> (734) 930-7400 Call Center <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.med.umich.edu/medsport">www.med.umich.edu/medsport</a>	<b>Contact:</b> Paula Kartje, Manager- OT & PT @ MedRehab Coordinator of M-Perform Program  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:kartje@umich.edu">kartje@umich.edu</a> <b>Phone:</b> (734) 998-7888 Call Center or (734) 998-7912 OT/PT <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/">www.med.umich.edu/pmr/</a>

\*\*When calling, identify yourself as a member of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance \*\*

<b>MedSport Services include:</b>	<b>M-Perform PM &amp; R Services include:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Acute Injury Clinic</b>—FREE; open when clinic is available -6:30am-7pm MWF, 7am-7pm Tues/Thurs</li> <li>• <b>Performing Arts Injury Clinic</b>—\$40 FEE -scheduled with one of the physical therapists or athletic trainers trained in Performing Arts Rehabilitation with home exercise program planning and progressions</li> <li>• <b>Physical Therapy Services for the Performing Artist and Athlete</b> -Including injury evaluation by a physical therapist trained in Performing Arts Rehabilitation and treatment by our clinical staff</li> <li>• <b>Sports Medicine Physician Clinics</b></li> <li>• <b>NeuroSport</b>—for concussion or post-concussive symptoms</li> <li>• <b>Orthotics</b>—Vahan Agbabian <a href="mailto:vahana@umich.edu">vahana@umich.edu</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Physical Medicine &amp; Rehab Physician Clinic</b> -diagnosis and treatment of acute/chronic injuries</li> <li>• <b>Performing Arts Therapy Evaluation &amp; Treatment</b> -scheduled by appointment with physical therapists and/or occupational therapists (if upper extremity involvement) trained in Performing Arts Rehabilitation</li> <li>• Services billed to medical insurance carrier</li> <li>• Therapy services require a physician prescription to provide treatment</li> </ul>