The Graduate Program in the Department of Theatre and Dance

The Department of Theatre and Dance offers three graduate degrees: a MFA in Dramatic Art, a MA in Performance Studies and a PhD in Performance Studies. The MFA in Dramatic Arts is designed to provide advanced training and practice that enables early-to-mid-career artists to develop artistically and professionally. The MA and PhD in Performance Studies have an academic focus on the history, theory, and literature of performance and its relation to twentieth and twenty-first century cultures.

Aims of the PhD

The department offers a PhD in studies of contemporary performance and culture. The program focuses on the history, theory, and literature of performance and its relation to twentieth and twenty-first century cultures. Training students for scholarly research, academic work and a wide range of career choices, the program's definition of performance is not limited to stage productions, but embraces a variety of human activity. In keeping with the most recent changes in advanced studies of theatre and dance, the rigorous, strongly interdisciplinary program encourages students to develop original dissertation research that explores and questions the artistic, social and political ramifications of performance and the performative.

The Program

The PhD in Performance Studies is nominally a four-year program.

In the first two years of study, students develop an understanding of twentieth and twenty-first century performance by drawing from a range of regular course offerings in the field to identify, explore, and define a field or fields of research. Students are required to complete four core courses out of five offered. Each individual program is then built from seminar and practice as research courses, as well as independent or group studies in the department, including those in acting, directing, design and choreography. Courses may also be taken in other departments (for example Comparative Literature, Technocultural Studies, English, Music), and designated emphases are available in Critical Theory, and Feminist Theory and Research.

Progression

In general progression takes the following path (Please see ‘Appendix’ for greater detail):

When students enter the program they are mentored by a First Year Advisor suggested by the PhD Program Faculty.

At the end of the first year students are reviewed by the PhD Program Faculty and decide, in consultation with Faculty, upon a major professor (who may be the same as their First Year Advisor). This review consists of:

- a take-home examination covering any required courses offered that year (this examination will be the same as that taken by MA students in that year)
- a statement of purpose
- performance in seminars.
Students holding a BA and admitted to the MA Program may apply to progress to the PhD degree program upon successful completion of the First Year Review. At the end of the second year, the PhD Program Faculty meet to carry out an advisory review. This review considers:

- the student’s performance in coursework
- a preliminary reading list for the qualifying examination
- an outline draft of the dissertation prospectus.

In the fall quarter of the third year, the student presents her/his dissertation prospectus to the PhD Program Faculty for approval, and takes the qualifying examination. Upon passing the qualifying examination, students are formally eligible for Advancement to Candidacy, and complete their dissertation.

Requirements

Students are required to complete a minimum of 60 units before taking the qualifying examination. No more than 12 units may be taken below the graduate level unless specifically approved by the PhD graduate program advisor (PGPA). Sixteen units must be taken from the core courses offered, and a further 12 units must be taken from courses offered by the PhD faculty. At least 4 units must consist of practice as research (either in an independent study or in a MFA course), working closely with a faculty member during the second year. Up to 12 units may be taken outside the Department of Theatre and Dance, unless the student has enrolled in a Designated Emphasis study, in which case up to 16 units may be taken outside the Department.

Courses

Students meet with the First Year Advisor to discuss course selection in the first year and with the major professor in the second year, at the start of, or prior to, each quarter, and the PGPA must approve course registration. All students are required to complete 6 quarters in residence, and agreement with the PGPA is necessary if fieldwork is to take the student away from regular contact with the major professor.

PhD core courses:
DRA200: Methods, Materials and Performance Research – given every year
DRA265 courses: at least three of these are given every two years
   DRA265a: Modes of Production
   DRA265b: Signification and the Body
   DRA265c: Technologies of Difference
   DRA265d: Theory of Dramatic Art

PhD option courses: at least three of these are given every two years
DRA250: Modern Theatre
DRA253: Approaches to Collaboration
DRA254: Performing Identities/Personae
DRA259: Topics in Contemporary Theatre and Performance

Additional PhD courses:
DRA298: Group Study (1-5)
DRA299: Individual Study (1-12)
DRA299d: Dissertation Research (1-12)
DRA396: Teaching Assistant Training Practicum (1-4)
MFA courses:
DRA211: Advanced Voice and Speech (2)
DRA212: Advanced Stage Movement (3)
DRA221: Special Problems in Advanced Acting (4)
DRA228: Seminar in Directing Theory: Non-Realism (4)
DRA229: Special Problems in Directing (5)
DRA251: Scoring and Scripting in Performance (4)
DRA253: Approaches to Collaboration (4)
DRA255: Composition in the Arts (4)
DRA280: Theatre Laboratory (1-12)
DRA413: Stage Make-up (1)

Independent and Group studies may be taken with any Faculty member of the Department subject to availability (patterns of leave, administrative responsibilities and so on).

First and Second Year

The First Year
Students complete DRA200 and usually one of 265 a,b,c or d courses in the first year of study. Depending on individual undergraduate training, students may also be required to take undergraduate coursework in “traditional” fields of performance studies not emphasized in the PhD program; in this case, work extending the undergraduate syllabus will be devised in consultation with the faculty member giving the course. In the first year, students normally take a majority of graduate seminars, an advanced undergraduate course, and one individual study course. At the end of the first year of study, all MA and first year PhD students write an examination covering any required courses offered that year (i.e. DRA200, and one of 265 a,b,c or d, or substituted courses). This examination is take-home, and students are given 24 hours in which to return the examination, submitting approximately 4000 to 5000 words (approximately 15-20 pages). All students taking the exam will take the exam on the same day. The exam is read by three members of the Program Faculty prior to the first-year review meeting and is graded pass/fail.

First Year Review
In the spring of each year, the PhD Program Faculty meet to assess the performance and progress of first-year students in the program. Three members of the Program Faculty will have read the first-year examination; and each reader will submit a written report and vote (pass/fail) on the examination in advance of the meeting. This examination forms an important component of the material discussed as part of each student's first-year review. Each student also submits a short statement of purpose (approximately 1500 words) which has two functions:

1) it indicates the area of practice as research the student would like to undertake during the second year
2) it identifies the potential field of dissertation research, and
   - outlines the steps (problems, course work, fields) to be taken in the second year toward writing the dissertation prospectus, and
   - considers progress toward that goal made in first-year course work.

These materials and the student's grades form the basis of the review, a meeting at which the PhD Program Faculty assess each student's overall performance in the program and make a recommendation for her/his continuation or disqualification. Normally, students continuing in the program must pass the first-year exam, maintain at least a 3.5 GPA in
graduate-level course work, and present a cogent account of future plans in the personal statement. Students who do not meet all of these standards may be considered to have made unsatisfactory progress. The Program Faculty will also take this opportunity to make specific recommendations to each student regarding his/her progress and objectives for the coming year. At this time, if it has not already been established, the student will agree upon a major professor.

The Second Year
In the second year, students complete the final two required courses within the department, continue to take formal seminars, group and individual study courses in their fields of research, and begin framing the dissertation. Students are not examined on the final two required courses, but will be expected to submit either an essay or other appropriate documentation for assessment.

Students also normally undertake one course in practice as research; this is taken either by attending an MFA course, or as an independent study working with an appropriate member of Faculty, in the latter case students are encouraged to ally the study to one of their on-going courses. The practice as research should consist of practical work related to performance, a journal of the process of the production, and a critical evaluation of work.

Students must submit preliminary reading lists for the qualifying examination (see below) by the end of the Spring quarter; these should consist of between 20-30 critical books and/or articles for each topic, and primary texts. Students should also prepare an outline draft of the dissertation prospectus, to submit to the review meeting at the end of the Spring quarter.

During the second year students also assemble a dissertation committee and a qualifying examination committee, in consultation with the major professor. The constitution of the dissertation and the qualifying examination committees should be recommended by the end of the third term of the second year, and must be selected no later than week three of the Fall quarter of the third year, in order to put the approvals process into motion (see ‘Appendix’).

Foreign Language Requirement
As a consequence of the intercultural and transcultural emphasis for study in the department, all students are required to have a reasonable reading knowledge of a language other than English. Students may satisfy this requirement either by passing an upper-division or graduate course in the language with a grade of B or better, by passing an intermediate-level course in the language and a reading and translation test in the language arranged by the Graduate Program Faculty, or by passing a fluency test in the language and a reading and translation test in the language arranged by the Graduate Program Faculty. Students submitting course work taken at another institution for passage of the language requirement must provide evidence of a useful working knowledge of the language for scholarly purposes, in the form of a critical essay (in English) reflecting on non-English language critical material, and translation of primary performance material (into English). Both pieces of submitted work should be accompanied by copies of the material in the language from which the translation is made.

Second Year Review
The Program Faculty meeting at the end of the Spring quarter receives the student’s grades, the preliminary reading list for the qualifying examination, and the outline draft of the dissertation proposal, and these form the basis of the review of the student’s second year work. The Program Faculty will take this opportunity to give general advice to each student regarding her/his progress and objectives for the coming year. The PGPA informs each
student in writing of her/his performance and of the Program Faculty's advice. The major professor then schedules a meeting with the student to discuss the review.

Third and Fourth Years (see ‘Appendix’ below for further detail)

During the first quarter of the third year of study the student submits the dissertation prospectus and takes the qualifying examination. The examination topics form the focal point of a 60 to 90 minute discussion of the research project that takes place immediately after passing the qualifying examination. The examination may be repeated once. The remainder of the third year and all of the fourth year the student pursues the dissertation. Students enroll for up to 12 units of 299d work with their major professor. They are encouraged to present the findings of their research to the faculty, to fellow students, and at professional meetings.

Students will typically meet with their major professor once a month, and with the PGPA once a quarter.

PRODUCTION

Students admitted to the PhD Program should not expect to receive significant new training in production practice or performance as part of their formal program of study in the first year. However, in the second year of study students must choose one course as performance as research, which will be primarily practical, and accompanied by a journal of the process of production (considerable emphasis is placed on this element), and a critical evaluation of work. Any element of performance as research as independent study, part of the qualifying examination, or part of the final dissertation, should consist of practice, journal of process, and critical evaluation. The areas of practice vary with the pattern of specific faculty being in residence or on leave of absence, and may include directing, acting, dance, movement, lighting, design, costume, set, voice, and so on. For many students, work at the dissertation level may be complemented by production and performance endeavor. Students with appropriate background, may in consultation with faculty apply to work on departmental productions; doctoral students are encouraged to work as dramaturgs on departmental productions and can receive individual-study credit. Students working in dance are especially encouraged to continue to develop choreographic and dancing experience. Students are strongly discouraged from engaging in production activities in the first year of study.

TEACHING

As part of a funded program of study, students may be required to accept a teaching appointment for at least one year. This requirement may be waived in individual cases by petitioning the Advisor (the PGPA). Students are not required to accept teaching appointments if they are not receiving commensurate support in the form of a teaching assistantship or other funding. The University offers several courses to train Teaching Assistants. All students have to take one of these courses during the first quarter of their first year, and are encouraged to take on further training sessions throughout their PhD program.
APPENDIX

Departmental Positions relevant to Graduate Students

Graduate Program Administrator
PhD graduate program advisor
PhD Program Faculty committee

PhD Program Faculty: All Faculty in the department of Theatre and Dance. First Year Advisors are normally people on the PhD Program Faculty committee. Second Year Practice as research Tutors may be any member of Faculty. Dissertation committee chairs are normally people on the PhD Program Faculty committee. However, if available to provide the expected PhD supervision, any member of Faculty may act as a dissertation committee chair. Any member of Faculty may serve on the qualifying examinations committee.

Schedule

Year One:
First Year Advisor is assigned to the student by PhD Graduate Program Advisor (PGPA).
Student takes 9 courses or 36 units, including DRA200 and one of 265 a,b,c or d and at least two other taught courses within the Department of Theatre and Dance, and a Teaching Assistant training course.
Student is reviewed at the end of the spring quarter, as per final exam schedule, by the Program Faculty on the basis of:
- 3 page statement to indicate area of practice as research in year two, and identification of the potential field of dissertation research
- Course work grades
- Examination on DRA200 and on any of 256 a,b,c or d courses given in that year

During the final review:
Program Faculty will assign the Faculty member who will work with the student on the practice as research element in the second year
Program Faculty will need to assign a major professor appropriate to the dissertation field
3 Program Faculty, one of whom should be the assigned major professor, will need to read and grade the examination.
Program Faculty will need to recommend or not that the student progress on the basis of all the material.
The PGPA informs the student in writing of the recommendations, and informs the assigned major professor and practice as research tutor, with a copy to Graduate Program Administrator
The PGPA schedules a meeting to review the recommendations, with the student and the major professor

Year Two:
Student takes 9 courses or 36 units, two of which must complete the two required courses of DRA265 a,b,c or d, one practice as research course, and at least one other taught course within the Department of Theatre and Dance.
Student completes foreign language requirement.
Student is reviewed at the end of the spring quarter by the Program Faculty on the basis of:
- Course work grades, including the student's practice as research
- The preliminary reading list for the qualifying examination submitted by the student
- The outline draft of the submitted dissertation proposal

**During the final review**
Suggestions are provided by the student and major professor concerning members of the dissertation and qualifying examination committees. These committees are recommended by the end of the spring term.
The qualifying examination committee is provided with the preliminary reading list from the student, and is expected to make any suggestions for further reading, or to advise of changes, to the major professor within one month. These suggestions are to be passed on to the student as soon as possible.
Program Faculty will need to advise the major professor of any points that should be made to the student at this stage, particularly in the areas of the reading list for the qualifying examination and the outline draft of the dissertation prospectus.
The major professor informs the student in writing of the advice of the Program Faculty, with a copy to the Graduate Program Administrator.

**Qualifying Examination committee**
The qualifying examination committee normally includes all three members of the prospective dissertation committee (below), and two additional members, one of whom must be from another department in the University; while the major professor serves on the qualifying examination committee, s/he may not chair that committee. The committee members should be chosen in consultation with the PGPA and major professor. The qualifying examination committee should reflect both the specific areas of dissertation research and the broader aims of the examination, which are to prepare the student for entry into the profession.

**Dissertation committee**
The dissertation committee consists of: a chair and two faculty members; one of the three will be the PGPA, another of the three may be the student's advisor for the practice as research independent study. But where the PGPA is advising on the student's work, another member of the PhD Program Faculty will take the chair. In rare cases, where the chair of the dissertation committee is not a member of the PhD Program Faculty, at least one and preferably both of the remaining committee members should be from the Program Faculty.

**Year Three:**
Student takes an independent study course of 4 units to prepare for the qualifying examination and the dissertation prospectus.
The dissertation and qualifying examination committees, if not already recommended, are so by the Program Faculty no later than the first week of the fall quarter, and are appointed in accordance with Graduate Council policies and Graduate Studies procedures.
The student submits the final reading lists for the qualifying examination in week three of the fall quarter (5 copies).
The qualifying examination committee meets and approves in principle (or advises changes to) the reading lists. These are then passed on to the Program Faculty for approval. When approved, the PGPA informs the student in writing of the approval, with a copy to the Graduate Program Administrator, and sends the application to take the qualifying examination forward to Graduate Studies.

Performance Studies Ph.D. degree requirements
Approved on May 13, 2005
The dissertation and qualifying examination committees are appointed in accordance with Graduate Council policies and Graduate Studies procedures. The student submits the dissertation prospectus (3 copies) in week five of the fall quarter. The dissertation committee approves the prospectus no later than week seven of the fall quarter and the documents are submitted to the PhD Program Faculty for review and approval (or revision and change) during week eight of the fall quarter. The PGPA informs the student in writing of the approval, with a copy to The Graduate Program Administrator. The student sits the qualifying examination in week nine of the Fall quarter, normally over three days. Any practice as research element must be completed by the beginning of week nine. The examination paper and/or any recording and associated documentation of practice as research element, is copied to members of the qualifying examination committee. The qualifying examination committee meets with the student in the tenth week of the Fall quarter to carry out the oral examination. At the end of the oral examination the committee decides on pass, not pass, or fail. The PGPA informs the student in writing of whether they have passed, not passed or failed the examination. In case of “not pass”, the major professor and student must decide on whether the student wishes to re-take the examination, and put this procedure into motion, with copy to the Graduate Program Administrator. Up to three months are allowed for a retake, and only one retake is permitted. If the primary reasons for retake are due to structural problems in examination lists, recommendations may be made prior to the retake.

Years Three and Four
The student researches and writes the dissertation in consultation with the dissertation committee chair, and other members of the dissertation committee where appropriate.

Year Four
The student submits the dissertation. If a practice as research element is included it must be made available to all members of the dissertation committee between 6 months before submission of the written material and the submission date. In any event, any performance must be recorded and copies of the record submitted with the written dissertation.

The members of the dissertation committee read the dissertation within four weeks of receipt, excepting the summer period for faculty who hold a 9 month academic appointment and in most cases arranges for an oral examination to be given before the dissertation is signed.

The oral examination is conducted and the dissertation committee decides whether to accept, accept with minor changes (one month), accept with revision (four months), refer for substantial revision and resubmission (10 months), or reject. The 10 month substantial revision will be given only in exceptional cases, on a case by case basis.

The dissertation committee chair informs the student of the committee’s decision in writing. With copy to the graduate program coordinator.

Third Year Fall Quarter Detail
Qualifying Examination

During the Fall quarter of the third year, students generally work toward their qualifying examination and produce the full prospectus for their dissertation by registering for independent study credits. The qualifying examination should be taken by the end of the first quarter of the third year of study; students who do not meet the deadline without the approval
of the PGPA will be regarded as making unsatisfactory progress. In compliance with the University's nine-quarter rule, students must take their qualifying examination by the end of the third quarter of their third year to remain eligible for academic appointments.

The examination fields should cover reading lists, submitted in preliminary form by the end of the third quarter of the second year, and in final form no later than the third week of the Fall quarter, for at least one major pedagogical area in the discipline apart from that covered by the dissertation, as well as reading lists in 2-4 fields that provide the critical, theoretical, performance and/or historical contexts of the dissertation. A student may choose to prepare an area of practice as research as one field, relevant to the dissertation, for examination; this will consist of practice, documentation of the process of production and a critical evaluation. The material on the examination ranges considerably beyond the focus of the dissertation and positions the student's research interests in relation to the larger field of twentieth and twenty-first century performance and performance studies.

Dissertation Prospectus

The dissertation prospectus, which must be submitted by week five of the Fall quarter, is generally a short document that frames the purpose and scope of the dissertation project, sets it in the context of relevant scholarship, and provides a chapter outline and a working bibliography.

Examples:
Dissertation: Queer Performance in San Francisco
Possible Qualifying Fields: Theories of the Body in Representation; Queer Performance History; a specific performance; Regional theatre history of California,

Dissertation: Performing Ourselves, Performing Ethnography: Construction of Self in Latino/a Cultural Production
Fields: Latino/a Performance History; Ethnography and its critique; Race, Ethnicity and Identity, Practice as research elements such as the design, lighting, film/editing, dramaturgy.

Approvals process

The PhD Program Faculty reviews the recommended dissertation and qualifying examination committees, and may request changes in membership prior to submission of the recommendation to Graduate Studies. The dissertation and qualifying examination committees are appointed in accordance with Graduate Council policies and Graduate Studies procedures.

When the examination reading lists have been approved by the qualifying examination committee, normally no later than week four of the Fall quarter, the documents are submitted to the PhD Program Faculty for review and approval. The PhD Program Faculty reviews the qualifying examination fields and reading lists. The Faculty may approve, disapprove, or request changes or revisions in the examination fields. When approved, the PGPA sends the application to take the qualifying examination forward to Graduate Studies.

When the dissertation prospectus has been approved by the dissertation committee no later than week seven of the Fall quarter, the documents are submitted to the PhD Program Faculty for review and approval. The PhD Program Faculty reviews the dissertation prospectus and may approve, disapprove, or request changes or revisions during week eight of the Fall quarter. When approved, the PGPA informs each student in writing of that approval.
The student may schedule the written and oral examinations in consultation with the examination committee and the graduate secretary, normally for the ninth and tenth weeks of the Fall quarter; the written exam is scheduled for three days during the ninth week, and will examine the chosen fields in 3 exam papers, one to be taken each day for four hours. The oral examination is scheduled for the following week. The chair of the qualifying examination committee is responsible for gathering questions from committee members, and providing the Graduate Program Administrator with a clean copy of the examination.

The written examination consists of four-hour sessions; the examination may be written in longhand, or on a typewriter, or on a personal computer provided by the student, in which case the student must immediately print out the text. Written material is to be handed to the Graduate Program Administrator. The examination is closed-book. After the final session, the Graduate Program Administrator copies the exam and provides each member of the Qualifying committee with a copy of the written exam, to be read in advance of the oral examination.

If part of the examination is practice as research, suitable arrangement will be made for the assessment of live or recorded performance and the accompanying documentation, to be carried out in advance of the oral examination. The oral examination is normally 2-3 hours; students may be asked to provide additional commentary on any part of the examinations, and to reflect on the dissertation prospectus. At the close of the oral exam, the Qualifying committee votes to pass, not pass, or fail the student on the basis of the complete examination process. Although the committee may feel that some parts of a given exam are stronger or weaker than others, the examination should be evaluated as a whole.

According to policies of the Academic Senate, a student who receives a “not pass” is eligible to sit for the examination again. In Theatre and Dance, the entire written examination must be retaken, and should be based on the same reading lists but with a new set of questions. Retaking part of the examination is not an option. However, should any practice as research element be assessed as pass, the student should not re-take it. A student who receives an overall ‘fail’ will be disqualified from the program. The Graduate Advisor’s Handbook outlines the formal procedures for recommending both unanimous and split votes of pass, not pass, fail, and no exam. Failure to pass the qualifying examination for a second time will result in disqualification from the program.

Third Year, Winter Quarter, through Fourth Year:

In the remainder of the third year and the fourth year, students write the dissertation. In many cases, formal communication with the dissertation committee is through the major professor who has the main responsibility for supervising the student’s progress, and meets with the student at least once a month. In some cases, all members of the committee are willing to read drafts of individual chapters; in others, committee members expect the chair to supervise individual chapters through several drafts before they become involved.

Should the dissertation include practice as research, the student will be advised by the appropriate faculty member in the area they are exploring, who will normally be the person who supervised the practice as research independent study during the second year. Nevertheless, the major professor has the responsibility to ensure that the documentation accompanying the practice as research is produced to the appropriate standard. Any practical performance elements must be made available to all members of the dissertation committee by the time of final submission. Depending on the nature of the performance, this element may be made available up to 6 months before submission of the written dissertation but a record of any durational performance must be submitted along with the dissertation.
All members of the committee have an equal responsibility in reading and evaluating the final dissertation in a timely manner. Within this framework, it is up to the student to develop a relationship with the committee that works well for her/him. In all cases, it is important for the student to solicit and receive the committee's criticism and advice on the bulk of the dissertation sufficiently early in the process to take advantage of it.

A student may request a change in committee through the PGPA in consultation with the major professor, or, where the PGPA is the major professor, through the Head of Department. The student should be prepared to outline a persuasive rationale for the change, since any change may only be recommended for substantive reasons. If a committee member is leaving the University, arrangements should be made with the PGPA as far in advance as possible. All changes in dissertation committee membership must be recommended Office of Graduate Studies in accordance with Graduate Council policies and Graduate Studies procedures.

The completed dissertation should be submitted to all three members of the dissertation committee at least 4 weeks prior to the defense date. Any practice as research elements must have completed production at least 8 weeks prior to the defense date, and a record of performance is an essential part of the submission to the dissertation committee. The dissertation should be between 250-300 pages. Should a practice as research element be included the length may be appropriately adjusted by the student and major professor on application to the PhD Program Faculty, but in no case will it be less than 200 or more than 300 pages.

According to the policies of the Academic Senate, a three-person dissertation committee is not required to hold a dissertation defense, and must recommend that a defense be held on a case-by-case basis. The Program Faculty of Theatre and Dance strongly recommends that such a defense be held whenever possible. The dissertation defense is an oral defense, open to the university community; its date is published, and faculty and students are encouraged to attend. After the defense, the committee will vote to accept or not accept the dissertation. If the dissertation is accepted, it is signed by the committee.

**Unsatisfactory Work**

Students who produce unsatisfactory work at any time during their studies will be alerted to this fact by their Advisor. All reasonable paths will be taken that can help the student achieve their potential within the program. Should the faculty member(s) concerned still be of the opinion that the standard of work is not improving the student will be advised in writing that they should reconsider their continuing participation in the program. If progress is still not forthcoming, the faculty member concerned will advise in writing the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in charge of Students of the situation, asking for guidance. Should this guidance be acted on, and the student continue to demonstrate unsatisfactory progress, disqualification will normally result.

Performance Studies Ph.D. degree requirements
Approved on May 13, 2005
The Graduate Program in the Department of Theatre and Dance

The Department of Theatre and Dance offers three graduate degrees: a MFA in Dramatic Art, a MA in Performance Studies and a PhD in Performance Studies. The MFA in Dramatic Arts is designed to provide advanced training and practice that enables early-to-mid-career artists to develop artistically and professionally. The MA and PhD in Performance Studies have an academic focus on the history, theory, and literature of performance and its relation to twentieth and twenty-first century cultures.

Aims of the MA Program

Students in the MA program should not expect to receive any training in theatre practice, but the department offers an internationally recognized MFA program which, with the Mondavi Center performance program and other local productions, provide excellent material for the critical, theoretical and historical aspects of the coursework.

The MA in Performance Studies focuses on the history, theory, and literature of performance and its relation to twentieth and twenty-first century cultures and subcultures, and encourages integration with practical theatre experience. Training students for scholarly research and the critical appreciation of culture and performance, the program embraces a wide range of human activity. In keeping with the most recent changes in advanced studies of theatre, dance and design, this strongly interdisciplinary program asks students to develop skills to question and extend the social and political ramifications of performance and the performatve.

The Program:
The graduate program offers the MA Plan II (Comprehensive Examination) option only. The Plan I (thesis) option is not offered.

Degree requirements
The one-year program requires students to take 12 units a quarter, for 3 quarters (or 36 units of upper division and graduate courses), and satisfactory performance on a comprehensive final examination. A student must take the core course DRA200, and take one course from the DRA265a, b or c series. In addition she/he must take at least three further courses in the Department, two of which should be at the graduate level, and one a group study. One course is usually taken in a foreign language department to satisfy the Foreign Language Requirement (see below). The remaining courses may be taken either in the Department of Theatre and Dance or in other departments (for example Comparative Literature, Technocultural Studies, English, Music, Critical Theory, and Feminist Theory and Research). No more than 9 units may be taken as DRA299 independent study.
Available Courses:
DRA200: Methods, Materials and Performance Research – given every year
DRA265 courses: at least three of these are given every two years
  DRA265a: Modes of Production
  DRA265b: Signification and the Body
  DRA265c: Technologies of Difference
  DRA265d: Theory of Dramatic Art
Option courses: at least three of these are given every two years
DRA250: Modern Theatre
DRA253: Approaches to Collaboration
DRA254: Performing Identities/Personae
DRA259: Topics in Contemporary Theatre and Performance
Additional courses:
DRA298: Group Study (1-5)
DRA299: Individual Study (1-12)

Foreign Language Requirement
As a consequence of the intercultural and transcultural emphasis for study in the department, all students are required to have a reasonable reading knowledge of a language other than English. Students may satisfy this requirement either by passing an upper-division or graduate course in the language with a grade of B or better, by passing the Graduate School Foreign Language Test with a score to be determined by the graduate program appropriate to the language, or by passing a reading test in the language arranged by the Graduate Program Faculty. Students submitting course work taken at another institution for passage of the language requirement must provide evidence of a useful working knowledge of the language for scholarly purposes, in the form of a critical essay (in English) reflecting on non-English language critical material and translation of primary performance material (into English). Both pieces of submitted work should be accompanied by copies of the material in the language from which the translation is made.

Schedule
In the first quarter each MA student is assigned an Advisor by the Graduate Faculty Advisor. Depending on individual undergraduate training, students may be advised to take undergraduate coursework in “traditional” fields of performance studies not emphasized in the graduate program; in this case, work extending the undergraduate syllabus will be devised in consultation with the faculty member giving the course.
Students normally take a majority of graduate seminars, an advanced undergraduate course, and one individual study course. At the end of the first year of study, all MA students write a comprehensive examination covering any required courses offered that year (i.e. DRA200, and one of 265 a,b,c or d, or substituted courses). This examination is take-home, and students are given 24 hours in which to return the examination, submitting approximately 4000 to 5000 words (approximately 15-20 pages). All students taking the exam will take the exam on the same day. The exam is read by three members of the Program Faculty, and is graded pass/fail.
Progression:
The MA has been designed as an integral and intellectually coherent degree. At the same time, it is part of the larger graduate program in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Should a student want to apply for transfer into the PhD program at the end of the year’s study, and should an application for a change of degree objective submitted in the usual way be successful, the student may be allowed to enter the PhD program at year two of study.

Unsatisfactory Work
Students who produce unsatisfactory work at any time during their studies will be alerted to this fact by their Advisor. All reasonable paths will be taken that can help the student achieve their potential within the program. Should the faculty member(s) concerned still be of the opinion that the standard of work is not improving the student will be advised in writing that they should reconsider their continuing participation in the program. If progress is still not forthcoming, the faculty member concerned will advise in writing the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in charge of Students of the situation, asking for guidance. Should this guidance be acted on, and the student continue to demonstrate unsatisfactory progress, disqualification will normally result.