

# UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

**Date:** 11/18/2020

**From:** Melissa Melpignano, Department of Theatre and Dance

**Through:** Cristina Goletti, Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance

**Through:** Denis O'Hearn, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

**To:** Crystal Herman, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

**Proposal Title:** Adjustments to the BFA in Dance degree plan (2019 catalog)

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The proposed changes are not structural but a so-called “cleaning” procedure aimed at (1) *clarifying* the organization of the existing concentrations in the BFA in Dance; (2) *cleaning* the degree’s Foundations; (3) and *conforming* the listed courses to the actual departmental offer and mission, and to the requirements in the dance professional fields. The proposed modifications will accelerate the students’ degree completion and facilitate student success. Such changes do not impact other departments.

## 1. Clarifying the 2 concentrations of the BFA in Dance

There are two concentration in the degree: Performance, and Dance Studies & Choreography. Currently, the degree plan visualizes only the latter, so students are not aware of the first one; even if the advisor mentions it, then they don’t see it in the actual degree plan, which ultimately is the official document of reference. So, in order to be able to declare a concentration, the two possibilities need to be clear on the Degree Plan. It would also be necessary to implement a system to declare the dance concentration on Goldmine.

## 2. Cleaning the Degree’s Foundations

The Foundations for the two concentrations are meant to be same (33 credit hours). In the clarified plan, the Foundations block will appear once, at the beginning of the degree plan, before the concentrations.

It is needed to remove DANC 3348 and DANC 4371 from the Foundations; DANC 3348 needs to be listed among the Embodied Studio Practices for both concentrations (see point 3), and DANC 4371 has not been offered in the last years. DANC 3349 becomes a mandatory foundational practice, in compliance with the contemporary demands of the dance professional world. Thus, the proposal is to have unitarian Foundations for both concentrations, followed by the listing of the two concentrations with their distinct organization (see the degree plan Word doc with track changes). The organizing/graphic model is that of the BFA in Theater.

Thus, the Foundations for the BFA in Dance would be for a total of 33 credit hours:

- DANC 1151 Dance Performance (Complete 3 credits)
- DANC 2341 Ballet Foundations I

- DANC 2342 Ballet Foundations II
- DANC 2345 Contemporary Foundations I
- DANC 2346 Contemporary Foundations II
- DANC 2301 Improvisation
- DANC 3303 History of Dance as a Performance Art
- DANC 3305 Dance Production
- DANC 3363 Somatics
- DANC 3349 American Dance Forms – Hip Hop
- DANC 4394 Dance Pedagogy

3. Conforming the BFA courses to the departmental offer and mission and to the dance majors' professional needs

As part of the Dance Program's effort to comply with the University's R1 standards of excellence, increase its competitiveness at the State level, and foster student retention, and in order to offer the best professionalizing experience to our dance majors, some course changes need to be applied to the BFA in Dance degree plan:

- Removal of DANC 3348 and DANC 4371 from Foundations
- Removal of DANC 3371 and 4371 from Performance—Embodied Studio Practices and addition of DANC 3345, DANC 3346, DANC 3348, DANC 3349, and DANC 4340.
- Removal of DANC 4371 from DS&C—Embodied Studio Practices
- Add to Performance—Embodied Theory Practices DANC 3322
- Add to Performance—Embodied Theory Practices “Choose” 18 credit hours

# CURRICULUM CHANGE PROPOSAL

## APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Adjustments to the BFA in Dance degree plan (2019 catalog)

College: Liberal Arts

Department: Theatre and Dance

### DEPARTMENT CHAIR

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I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR

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I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### COLLEGE DEAN

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I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**From:** [Ohearn, Denis A](#)  
**To:** [Herman, Crystal](#)  
**Cc:** [Rivera, Julie A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: LACC proposals for Dean's signature  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 2:17:56 PM

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I approve these. This email constitutes my signature.

Best,

Denis



**Denis O'Hearn**  
Dean of Liberal Arts  
Professor of Sociology  
  
College of Liberal Arts  
The University of Texas at El Paso  
500 W. University Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79968  
Office: 915-747-7016  
[utep.edu](http://utep.edu)

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**From:** Herman, Crystal  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 1:52 PM  
**To:** Ohearn, Denis A  
**Cc:** Rivera, Julie A  
**Subject:** LACC proposals for Dean's signature

Denis,

Attached are the proposals approved in December and January that are awaiting your signature for inclusion in February's UGCC meeting.

*Crystal G. Herman M.F.A.*  
Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts  
Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee Chair  
Associate Professor, Costume Design  
Department of Theatre & Dance  
University of Texas at El Paso

Liberal Arts Office:  
Liberal Arts Building room 347  
(915) 747-5781

Theatre & Dance Office:  
Fox Fine Arts Building Room 271  
(915) 747-7853

# BFA in Dance

Return to: [Degree Programs](#)

There are two bachelor of Fine Arts concentrations students may choose from: [BFA in Dance with concentration in Performance](#), and [BFA in Dance with concentration in Dance Studies and Choreography](#). All Dance majors must take a minimum of 120 credits to graduate, 48 of which must be at the 3300-4300 level. Outside of the required Dance credits in the concentrations, all dance students must take 42 credits to satisfy the University Core requirements.

**Deleted:** the general BFA in Dance, which concentrates on performance, and the BFA in Dance Studies and Choreography...

## Degree Plan

Required Credits: 120

Code	Title	Hours
<b>ESOL Track</b>		
Students who completed <a href="#">ESOL 1311</a> and <a href="#">ESOL 1312</a> will need to also complete <a href="#">ESOL 2303</a> with a grade of C or better.		
<a href="#">Complete the University Core Curriculum requirements.</a>		42
<b>Dance Major</b>		
<b>Foundations (33 Credit hours):</b>		<b>33</b>
<a href="#">DANC 1151</a>	Dance Performance (Complete 3 credits)	
<a href="#">DANC 2341</a>	Ballet Foundations I	
<a href="#">DANC 2342</a>	Ballet Foundations II	
<a href="#">DANC 2345</a>	Contemporary Foundation 1	
<a href="#">DANC 2346</a>	Contemporary Foundation 2	
<a href="#">DANC 2301</a>	Improvisation	

Code	Title	Hours
<a href="#">DANC 3303</a>	History of Dance as a Perf Art	
<a href="#">DANC 3305</a>	Dance Production	
<a href="#">DANC 3363</a>	Somatics	
<a href="#">DANC 4394</a>	Dance Pedagogy	
<b>Choose One of the Following:</b>		
<del><a href="#">DANC 3348</a></del>	<del>American Dance Forms – Jazz</del>	
<a href="#">DANC 3349</a>	American Dance Forms Hip Hop	
<del><a href="#">DANC 4371</a></del>	<del>Amer Dance Forms Music Theatre</del>	

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Code	Title	Hours
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## Concentration in Performance

<b>Embodied Studio Practices (Choose <del>24</del> credit hours)</b>		<b>24</b>
<a href="#">DANC 3341</a>	Intermediate Ballet I	
<a href="#">DANC 3342</a>	Intermediate Ballet II	
<del><a href="#">DANC 3345</a></del>	<del>Intermediate Contemporary Dance I</del>	
<del><a href="#">DANC 3346</a></del>	<del>Intermediate Contemporary Dance II</del>	
<del><a href="#">DANC 3348</a></del>	<del>American Dance Forms - Jazz</del>	
<del><a href="#">DANC 3349</a></del>	<del>American Dance Forms – Hip Hop</del>	
<del><a href="#">DANC 4340</a></del>	<del>Special Topics in Dance</del>	
<a href="#">DANC 4341</a>	Advanced Ballet I	
<a href="#">DANC 4342</a>	Advanced Ballet II	
<a href="#">DANC 4345</a>	Advanced Contemporary Dance 1	
<a href="#">DANC 4346</a>	Advanced Contemporary Dance 2	
<del><a href="#">DANC 3371</a></del>	<del>Dance for Musical Theatre I</del>	
<del><a href="#">DANC 4371</a></del>	<del>Amer Dance Forms Music Theatre</del>	
<b>Embodied Theory Practices (Choose 18 credit hours)</b>		<b>18</b>
<a href="#">THEA 2303</a>	Acting Fundamentals	
<a href="#">DANC 3301</a>	Dance Theory and Composition	
<del><a href="#">DANC 3322</a></del>	<del>World Dance</del>	
<a href="#">DANC 4301</a>	Choreography	
<a href="#">DANC 4390</a>	Seminar	

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<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Hours</b>
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<a href="#">DANC 4311</a>	Choreography II: Group Forms	
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<a href="#">DANC 4391</a>	Performance Studies	
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Field Code Changed

**Electives (Choose 3 credit hours)**

Upper Level Elective in Any Area of Study 1	3
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1 Although the UTEP choice is larger, these choices satisfy the requirements of both the core and the major.

<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>120</b>
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Course List



## Concentration in Dance Studies and Choreography

Code	Title	Hours
<del>Complete the University Core Curriculum requirements.</del>		42
<b>Foundations (33 credit hours):</b>		<b>33</b>
<del>DANC 1151</del>	Dance Performance	
<del>DANC 2341</del>	Ballet Foundations I	
<del>DANC 2342</del>	Ballet Foundations II	
<del>DANC 2345</del>	Contemporary Foundation 1	
<del>DANC 2346</del>	Contemporary Foundation 2	
<del>DANC 2301</del>	Improvisation	
<del>DANC 3303</del>	History of Dance as a Perf Art	
<del>DANC 3305</del>	Dance Production	
<del>DANC 3363</del>	Somatics	
<del>DANC 4394</del>	Dance Pedagogy	
<b>Embodied Studio Practices (Choose 12 credit hours)</b>		<b>12</b>
<del>DANC 1022</del>	Dance Theatre Lab (Zero credit course- 4 semester required)	
<del>DANC 3341</del>	Intermediate Ballet I	
<del>DANC 3342</del>	Intermediate Ballet II	
<del>DANC 4341</del>	Advanced Ballet I	
<del>DANC 4342</del>	Advanced Ballet II	
<del>DANC 3345</del>	Intermediate Contempor Dance 1	
<del>DANC 3346</del>	Intermediate Contempor Dance 2	
<del>DANC 4345</del>	Advanced Contemporary Dance 1	

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<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<a href="#">DANC 4346</a>	Advanced Contemporary Dance 2	
<a href="#">DANC 3348</a>	American Dance Forms - Jazz	
<a href="#">DANC 3349</a>	American Dance Forms Hip Hop	
<del><a href="#">DANC 4371</a></del>	<del>Amer Dance Forms Music Theatre</del>	
<a href="#">DANC 4340</a>	Selected Topics in Dance	
<b>Embodied Theory Practices (27 credit hours)</b>		<b>27</b>
<a href="#">THEA 3312</a>	Performing Arts Management	
<a href="#">DANC 3322</a>	World Dance	
<a href="#">DANC 3301</a>	Dance Theory and Composition	
<a href="#">DANC 3351</a>	Performance Activism	
<a href="#">DANC 4301</a>	Choreography	
<a href="#">DANC 4390</a>	Seminar	
<a href="#">DANC 4311</a>	Choreography II: Group Forms	
<a href="#">DANC 3350</a>	Dances of Mexico and Spain	
<a href="#">DANC 4391</a>	Performance Studies	
<b>Elective (Choose 6 credit hours)</b>		<b>6</b>
Upper Level Elective in Any Area of Study 1		
Upper Level Elective in Any Area of Study 2		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>120</b>
Course List		

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The University of Texas at El Paso

College of Liberal Arts  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
Dance Program

**Concentration/Track in  
Performance**

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## Request Form for a New Concentration/Track

### Administrative Information

1. Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso
2. Concentration/Track Name: Concentration in Performance (within the BFA in Dance)
3. Proposed CIP Code: 50.0301.00
4. Number of Required Semester Credit Hours (SCHs): 45
5. Brief Program Description – Describe the concentration/track and the educational objectives:  
The concentration in Performance within the BFA in Dance emphasizes the technical, corporeal, and performative skills of the versatile dance major. The concentration in Performance aims to equip the dance major with the necessary tools and knowledge to tackle a career as a dancer and dance performer in professional dance productions and other performing arts settings where dance is a required skill.
6. Administrative Unit – Identify where the concentration or track would fit within the organizational structure of the university (e.g., *The Department of Electrical Engineering within the College of Engineering*):  
The BFA in Dance degree plan of the Department of Theatre and Dance within the College of Liberal Arts
7. Proposed Implementation Date – Report the date that students would enter the program with this concentration or track (MM/DD/YY):  
08/23/2021
8. Contact Person – Provide contact information for the person who can answer specific questions about the concentration or track:  
  
Name: Melissa Melpignano  
  
Title: Dr.  
  
E-mail: mmelpignano@utep.edu  
  
Phone: (310) 745-9709 (cell)

## Concentration/Track Information

### I. Need

- A. Job Market Need – Provide short- and long-term evidence of the need for graduates in the job market.

The job market for dancers requires versatility in multiple styles, cultural knowledge about the contexts in which the dancing body moves and techniques developed, and some pedagogical skills to share dance knowledge in practice and theory with fellow professionals and production collaborators. The concentration in Performance addresses these needs and prepares versatile dance majors to tackle the various demands of the dance professional world—from training to portfolio-building and professionalization. Moreover, the skills of the dance performer have increasingly become expendable across other professional fields, as dance practice trains physical, mental and emotional stamina fosters a collaborative mindset, and produces sharable skills of holistic care. Therefore, the marketability of the BFA dance major with a concentration in Performance stretches beyond the dance and performance realm and towards professional fields such as community engagement, team building and coaching, creative think-tanks, care assistance, etc.

- B. Student Demand – Provide short- and long-term evidence of demand for the concentration or track.

The majority of students willing to enroll in a BFA in Dance are willing to focus on dance practice, aiming at a career in dance performance. Within the concentration in Performance, dance majors invest in the necessary educational and professionalizing experiences that help them fulfill their professional intent. The explicit presence of a concentration in Performance would more strongly attract prospective dance students, increasing enrollment and retention.

- C. Enrollment Projections – Use this table to show the estimated cumulative headcount and full-time student equivalent (FTSE) enrollment for the first five years of the program with this concentration or track. (*Include majors only and consider attrition and graduation.*)

YEAR	1	2	3	4	5
Headcount	10	20	30	40	50
FTSE	10	20	30	40	50

### II. Quality

- A. Degree Requirements – Use this table to show the degree requirements of the program. (*Modify the table as needed; if necessary, replicate the table for more than one option.*)

Category	Semester Credit Hours	Clock Hours
<b>General Education Core Curriculum</b> <i>(bachelor's degree only)</i>	42	
<b>Foundations</b> (same for both concentrations in the BFA in Dance)	33	
<b>Concentration Specifics:</b>		
Embodied Studio Practices	24	
Embodied Theory Practices	18	
Electives	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	

Note: A Bachelor degree should not exceed 120 Semester Credit Hours (SCH) per Board rule 5.44 (a) (3). Those that exceed 120 SCH must provide detailed documentation describing the compelling academic reason for the number of required hours, such as programmatic accreditation requirements, statutory requirements, or licensure/certification requirements that cannot be met without exceeding the 120-hour limit.



- B. Curriculum – Use these tables to identify the required courses and prescribed electives of the concentration or track. Note with an asterisk (\*) courses that would be added if the program is approved. *(Add and delete rows as needed. If applicable, replicate the tables for different tracks/options.)*

**Prescribed Elective Courses (Embodied Studio Practices) – select 24 hours from the following:**

<b>Prefix and Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>SCH</b>
DANC 3341	Intermediate Ballet I	3
DANC 3342	Intermediate Ballet II	3
DANC 3345	Intermediate Contemporary Dance I	3
DANC 3346	Intermediate Contemporary Dance II	3
DANC 3348	American Dance Forms-Jazz	3
DANC 3349	American Dance Forms- Hip Hop	3
DANC 4340	Special Topics in Dance	3
DANC 4341	Advanced Ballet I	3
DANC 4342	Advanced Ballet II	3
DANC 4345	Advanced Contemporary Dance I	3
DANC 4346	Advanced Contemporary Dance II	3

**Prescribed Elective Courses (Embodied Theory Practices) – select 18 hours from the following:**

<b>Prefix and Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>SCH</b>
THEA 2303	Acting Fundamentals	3
DANC 3301	Dance Theory and Composition	3
DANC 3322	World Dance	3
DANC 4301	Choreography	3
DANC 4390	Seminar	3
DANC 4311	Choreography II: Group Forms	3
DANC 4391	Performance Studies	3

**Free Elective Course Menu**

Prefix and Number	Course Title	SCH
	Choose 3 credit hours of Upper Level Elective in any area of Study	

**Other**

Prefix and Number	Course Title	SCH

- C. Faculty – Use these tables to provide information about Core and Support faculty. Add an asterisk (\*) before the name of the individual who will have direct administrative responsibilities for the program. (Add and delete rows as needed.)

Name of <u>Core</u> Faculty and Faculty Rank	Highest Degree and Awarding Institution	Courses Assigned in Program	% Time Assigned To Program
e.g.: Robertson, David Asst. Professor	PhD. in Molecular Genetics Univ. of Texas at Dallas	MG200, MG285 MG824 (Lab Only)	50%
Goletti, Cristina Associate Professor, Chair	MFA in Dance University of Colorado at Boulder	DANC 4349, DANC 4390	50%
Nadel, Myron Professor	BFA in Dance Julliard School and Columbia Teachers College	DANC 3303, DANC 3363, DANC 4301, DANC 4311	100%
Chabikwa, Rodney T.	PhD in Africana Studies The Ohio State University	DANC 3322, DANC 3349, DANC 4345, DANC 4346, DANC 4391	50%
Smith, Lisa Professor of Practice	MFA in Creative Writing The University of Texas at El Paso	DANC 1151, DANC 3341, DANC 3342, DANC 4341, DANC 4342	100%
(*) Melpignano, Melissa Full-Time Lecturer	PhD in Culture and Performance University of California, Los Angeles	DANC 2341, DANC 2342, DANC 3301, DANC 3322, DANC 3341, DANC 3342, DANC 4340, DANC	100%

		4341, DANC 4342, DANC 4391	
Cubit-Tsutsui, Carolyn	MFA in Stage Management University of Illinois	DANC 3305	25%
Pérez, Rafael	MFA in Acting Pace University, NY	THEA 2303	25%

Name of <u>Support Faculty</u> and Faculty Rank	Highest Degree and Awarding Institution	Courses Assigned in Program	% Time Assigned To Program
Brown, Kasey	MA in Dance Education Stanford University	DANC 2341, DANC 2342, DANC 3341, DANC 3342	100
Gonzalez, Valeria Y.	MFA in Dance New York University	DANC 2345, DANC 2346, DANC 3345, DANC 3346	100
Lopez Ramirez, Sandra Paola	MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts Goddard College	DANC 2301, DANC 4301, DANC 4340	50
Pickett, Josey	M.Ed. in Education UTEP	DANC 3348	100

- D. Students – Describe general recruitment efforts and admission requirements. In accordance with the institution’s Uniform Recruitment and Retention Strategy, describe plans to recruit, retain, and graduate students from underrepresented groups for the program.  
**No change- We are giving a name to a concentration that has unofficially existed for some time.**
- E. Library – Provide the library director’s assessment of library resources necessary for the program. Describe plans to build the library holdings to support the program.  
**No additional resources needed since the courses are already in place.**
- F. Facilities and Equipment – Describe the availability and adequacy of facilities and equipment to support the program. Describe plans for facility and equipment improvements/additions.  
**All facilities and equipment already present in the program fulfill the concentration’s needs.**
- G. Accreditation – If the discipline has a national accrediting body, describe plans to obtain accreditation or provide a rationale for not pursuing accreditation.  
**N/A**
- H. Evaluation – Describe the evaluation process that will be used to assess the quality and effectiveness of the new degree program.  
**N/A – not a new program. We are giving a name to a concentration that has unofficially existed for some time.**



### III. Costs and Funding<sup>1</sup>

Five-Year Costs and Funding Sources - Use this table to show five-year costs and sources of funding for the concentration or track.

**There will be no additional costs associated with the implementation of the concentration in Performance since its courses already exist and are offered in the BFA in Dance.**

Five-Year Costs		Five-Year Funding	
Personnel <sup>1</sup>	\$0	Reallocated Funds	\$0
Facilities and Equipment	\$0	Anticipated New Formula Funding <sup>3</sup>	\$0
Library, Supplies, and Materials	\$0	Special Item Funding	\$0
Other <sup>2</sup>	\$0	Other <sup>4</sup>	\$0
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$0</b>

1. Report costs for new faculty hires, graduate assistants, and technical support personnel. For new faculty, prorate individual salaries as a percentage of the time assigned to the program. If existing faculty will contribute to program, include costs necessary to maintain existing programs (e.g., cost of adjunct to cover courses previously taught by faculty who would teach in new program).
2. Specify other costs here (e.g., administrative costs, travel).
3. Indicate formula funding for students new to the institution because of the program; formula funding should be included only for years three through five of the program and should reflect enrollment projections for years three through five.
4. Report other sources of funding here. In-hand grants, "likely" future grants, and designated tuition and fees can be included.

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<sup>1</sup> Please use the "Program Funding Estimation Tool" found on the CB website to correctly estimate state funding.