

Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

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**Department Website: Theater, Dance, and
Performance Studies** (<http://tdps.berkeley.edu>)

Overview

The Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies (TDPS) teaches performance as a mode of critical inquiry, creative expression, and public engagement. Through performance training and research, we create liberal arts graduates with expanded analytical, technical, and imaginative capacities. As a public institution, we make diversity and inclusion a key part of our teaching, art making, and public programming.

Located within the College of Letters and Science at one of the world's great universities, the faculty, staff, and students in TDPS—and in the allied PhD in Performance Studies—pursue a wide spectrum of research and production activities.

We see performance as an interdisciplinary form, exploring verbal, visual, spatial, and embodied registers of experience.

We see performance as a transnational cultural form, exploring the politics and poetics of social life in all parts of the world.

We see performance as a public forum for contemporary ideas, allowing us to test and debate the central concerns of our time in a space that is at once critical, emotional, and collective.

The faculty is nationally and internationally known both for its scholarly research and for its artistic work in design, directing, choreography, acting, and experimental performance.

Our curriculum ranges from the classics to the contemporary; it cuts across theatrical, dance, and visual art forms; it spans all corners of the globe, using the site of performance to deepen UC Berkeley's critical education in the humanities.

Indeed, at a time when scholars and educators call for more cross-disciplinary intellectual collaboration and project-based learning in higher education, we take pride in our daily commitment to collaboration and to the kind of rigorously critical, team-based projects we develop with our students, staff, and faculty both in the classroom and in our production season.

Undergraduate majors and minors are well-prepared for the future, both as artists and as engaged citizens of the world.

The flexibility and integration of our major programs in Theater and Performance Studies and in Dance and Performance Studies makes our majors excellent candidates for a variety of professions in the social, corporate, legal, and arts sectors, as well for admission to graduate programs in the arts and in professional schools.

We are proud of the ways our graduates have used their critical and expressive skills toward successful careers as professional artists in dance, theatre, and experimental performance as well as in law, advertising, human resources, publishing, radio, technology, social work, and in all aspects of profit and nonprofit administration. Through the course of their studies, students pursue intensive work in acting, design, directing, technical production, dance technique, and choreography.

At the same time, they take critical and cultural studies courses that set the literary, historical, political, theoretical, and aesthetic concerns of performance in dialogue with other disciplines in the arts, humanities, and the social sciences.

All professors teach at all levels, and students have an ample opportunity to study with important scholars and practitioners in theater, dance, and performance studies. Separate undergraduate degree programs are offered in Theater and Performance Studies and Dance and Performance Studies; while all students fulfill general requirements in theater or dance and performance studies, they are encouraged to specialize in one of several areas.

All students at Berkeley are required to fulfill an extensive range of requirements outside the major, and students majoring in Theater or Dance and Performance Studies are encouraged to fulfill these requirements in complementary offerings in dramatic literature, culture and performance, in the visual arts and music in a wide range of departments in the Division of Arts and Humanities and in the College of Letters and Science generally.

The department offers both a Mainstage and a Workshop season of performances of classic, modern, and original works along with the annual concert of the Berkeley Dance Project.

Auditions are open to all students, staff, and faculty on campus, and students receive course credit for successfully completing a production.

Most entry-level performance courses (acting, directing, dance technique, playwriting, choreography, design) are open to all Berkeley students.

Advanced students can also receive course credit for internships and apprenticeships and can propose Honors Projects (in both critical writing and performance) for their final year.

The faculty, staff, and students welcome you to our diverse and energetic department.

In the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, you will find small class sizes, inspiring faculty, engaged staff, talented colleague students, and multiple opportunities to pursue your artistic and intellectual creative in ways that are both challenging and fulfilling.

We are very much looking forward to working with you.

Major Requirements

The department offers majors in both Theater and Performance Studies and Dance and Performance Studies. Students are encouraged to pursue their particular interests in the disciplines of design, theatrical performance, performance studies (the literature, history, cultures, and theory of performance), directing, playwriting, dance, choreography, and technical production. All majors begin with a core of both practical and critical work; students then select an area or areas of concentration and shape their programs in consultation with the undergraduate academic

adviser. Senior majors may undertake critical or performance projects or both as the culmination of their studies.

It is expected that students will maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in the upper division coursework in the major. All letter-graded courses for the major must be taken for a letter grade. A maximum of eight units of equivalent coursework transfer into the major from EAP or other 4-year colleges as electives upon departmental approval. See the online TDPS Undergraduate Handbook for more information.

Theater and Performance Studies

Declare the major after passing two of the four prerequisite courses:

- One Theater course: 10 (or acting technique at any level) or 60; and
- One Performance Studies course: 26 or 25AC or 52AC.

Students should choose, in consultation with student academic adviser, an area of concentration from the upper division courses in the department. More specific information on the major is available in the departmental office and online.

Required Lower Division

10, 25AC or 52AC, 26, and 60

Required Upper Division

At least 24 total units of upper division courses in TDPS, including:

- **Performance Studies:** Three courses from the areas listed below, each course from a different area:
 1. Performance Theory: 119
 2. Performance and History: 125
 3. Performance Literature: 126 or 113A
 4. Performance and Culture: 121 or 122.
- **Technical Theater:** One course from each of the following technical areas:
 1. Production or Design: 172, 173A, 173B, 174A, 174B, 175A, 175B, or 177
 2. Theater Practicum: 167 or 168 (course determined by the crew or shop work done in your 60 course).
- **Electives:** Choose upper division electives to focus your major to your area or areas of interest— approve with the undergraduate academic adviser.

Dance and Performance Studies

Declare the major after passing two of the four prerequisite courses:

- One Modern Dance Technique course: 40 (or technique at any level) or 60; and
- One Performance Studies course: 26 or 52AC or 25AC.

Required Lower Division

40, 26, 52AC or 25AC, and 60

Required Upper Division

At least 24 total units of upper division courses in the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, including:

- **Performance Studies:** Three courses from the areas listed below, each course from a different area:

1. Performance Theory: 119
2. Performance and History: 125
3. Performance Literature: 126 or 113A
4. Performance and Culture: 121 or 122.

- **Technique:** After declaring the major, students are required to take a technique course each semester: 40, 141, 142, or 143.
- **Choreography:** two courses from the list below, one course from each area:

1. Preparing to Choreograph: 144 or 114
2. Choreography: 146A or 146B.

- **Technical Theater:** One course from each of the following technical areas:

1. Production or Design: 172, 173A, 173B, 174A, 174B, 175A, 175B, or 177
2. Theater Practicum: 167 or 168 (course determined by the crew or shop work done in your 60 course)

- **Electives:** Choose upper division electives to focus your major to your area of interest— approve with the undergraduate academic adviser.

Honors Program

Majors in TDPS with an overall GPA of 3.3 in the University and in the major may, with the approval of the department, apply for admission to the honors program. Students should apply through the undergraduate academic adviser no later than the 13th week of the spring semester of their junior year. If you wish to have your honors project culminate in a stage production, apply by February of the spring semester of your junior year. Students accepted in the Honors Program will include in their programs: H195A, an intensive, critical study of problems of dramatic literature, performance studies, acting, playwriting, directing, dance, choreography, or design; and H195B, development of studies begun in H195A, either as a stage production or a written thesis.

Minor Requirements

The department offers minors in both Theater and Performance Studies and Dance and Performance Studies. Students should choose, in consultation with the undergraduate academic adviser, an area or areas of concentration in theater or dance and performance studies. Sample minor programs of study are available in the department office. Students may declare the minor after enrolling in at least one course in the department. A transferred course or course from another department brought into a minor must be adviser-approved.

Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 in the upper division units for the minor. All courses for the minor must be taken for a letter grade. A course with the identical course number may only be counted twice toward the minor and only two courses may be repeated in this way. See the website (<http://tdps.berkeley.edu>) and the on-line TDPS Undergraduate Handbook for more information.

Theater and Performance Studies Minor Lower Division

One course chosen from 10, 25AC, 26, 52AC, or 60. (Theater 10 may be replaced by 11 or 110A if you audition in at that level.)

Upper Division

Five upper division courses are required. Three courses must be taken in the department, and one of those is required.

- **Required:** One upper division Performance Studies course: 119, 121, 122, 125, 126, or 113A.
- **Electives:** Choose four or more electives to build a focus in your minor.

Dance and Performance Studies Minor

Lower Division

One course: 25AC, 26, 40, 52AC, or 60.

Upper Division

Five upper division courses are required. Three required courses must be taken in the department, unless a technique exception is selected (see below).

Required

- One upper division Performance Studies course: 119, 121, 122, 125, 126, or 113A
- One Modern Dance Technique course: 141, 142, or 143 is required (unless 40 is chosen to fulfill this requirement and a fifth upper division course is chosen)
- One Choreography course: 114, 144, 146A, or 146B (1 or 3 units)

Notes: 146A/146B for 3 units as a choreographer has a prerequisite of 114 or 144, taken in advance or concurrently with this course. 146A/146B for 1 unit as a dancer is also available.

Electives: Choose two or more electives to build a focus in your minor.

Graduate Program

The PhD in Performance Studies provides an interdisciplinary and individually crafted curriculum directed toward advanced studies in the literatures, performances, cultural contexts, and theories of theater, dance, and other performance forms throughout the world. The PhD program is administered by an interdisciplinary graduate group composed of faculty from a wide range of related departments. Students in the PhD program in performance studies conduct research in a diverse array of interdisciplinary methodologies and topics.

THEATER R1A Performance: Writing and Research 4 Units

Department: Theater, Dance, and Performance St

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of lecture/discussion per week.

Prerequisites: UC Entry Level Writing Requirement or UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam. R1A or its equivalent is prerequisite to R1B.

Reading and composition in connection with the study of dramatic literature. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement Formerly known as Dramatic Art R1A.

THEATER R1B Performance: Writing and Research 4 Units

Department: Theater, Dance, and Performance St

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of lecture/discussion per week.

Prerequisites: UC Entry Level Writing Requirement or UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam. R1A or its equivalent is prerequisite to R1B.

Reading and composition in connection with the study of dramatic literature. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement Formerly known as Dramatic Art R1B.

THEATER 5 Public Speaking and Presentation Skills 4 Units

Department: Theater, Dance, and Performance St

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 6 hours of studio per week. 10 hours of studio per week for 8 weeks. 10 hours of studio per week for 6 weeks.

Students will learn to present themselves and material clearly, confidently, and persuasively, using age-old arts of oral communication. They will learn techniques for overcoming stage fright, developing clear enunciation, finding and using their natural, unaffected vocal register, varying tone and intonation to hold audience interest, controlling pacing, moving with assurance and purpose, using appropriate gestures, and eye contact as well as exploring methods to change behaviors that bar effective communication and structure speeches to maximize persuasiveness.

THEATER 10 Introduction to Acting 3 Units

Department: Theater, Dance, and Performance St

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 6 hours of studio sessions per week plus preparation and rehearsals to be arranged.

Prerequisites: Audition required.

This is a theory and performance course that provides an overview of the actor's creative process. Basic acting techniques are presented in conjunction with exercises, improvisation, and text work, designed to enhance concentration, imagination, vocal resonance, clarity of speech, self confidence, and communication skills.

Formerly known as Dramatic Art 10.

THEATER N10 Introduction to Acting 3 Units

Department: Theater, Dance, and Performance St

Course level: Undergraduate

Term course may be offered: Summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 6 hours of studio sessions per week plus preparation and rehearsals to be arranged