Performance studies is an academic discipline that examines relationships between performance and culture. We study traditional art forms such as music, theatre, and dance but also explore a broad range of cultural expression, including rituals, festivals, religious ceremonies, games, parades, storytelling, clothing, folklore, indigenous arts, and the mass media. Those with MA degrees in performance studies may pursue a doctoral degree in the field of performance studies, as well as folklore, theatre, music, dance, communication, and cultural studies. Or, they may teach at the secondary level, work in arts advocacy, for NGOs that specialize in cultural preservation, or in a variety or public humanities positions.

Students in the MA in Performance Studies at Texas A&M University may use performance as research in many of their class projects and for their theses. Many undertake fieldwork or archival research and attend conferences with financial support. All admitted students are offered graduate assistantships for the two years of the program.

Masters

- Master of Arts in Performance Studies (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/liberal-arts/performance-studies/ma)

Courses

PERF 600 Graduate Scholarship in Performance Studies
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Overview of history, key issues, and major arguments in performance studies.
Prerequisites: Admission to the MA in Performance Studies or approval of instructor.

PERF 601 Theories of Performance Studies
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Overview of major theories of performance studies and related disciplines; also includes major critical and cultural theories that contribute to the field.
Prerequisites: Admission to the MA in Performance Studies or approval of instructor.

PERF 602 Research Methods in Performance Studies
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examination and assessment of primary research methods in performance studies; emphasis on post-positivist methods; includes examination of ethical imperatives in research.
Prerequisite: Admission to the MA in Performance Studies or approval of instructor.

PERF 603 Performance, Power, and Identity
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Issues in, and production of, power and identity in expressive culture, examines how forms of power and varieties of social identity shape, and are shaped by, performance.
Prerequisites: PERF 600 or approval of instructor.

PERF 604 Performing Vernacular Culture
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examines populist and counter-traditions in expressive culture; emphasis on contemporary cultures of performance and/as practices of everyday life.
Prerequisites: PERF 600 or approval of instructor.

PERF 605 Globalization and Performance
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examination of global performances; theoretical and methodological approaches to globalization and/in performance and/as practices of everyday life.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

PERF 606 Performing Gender and Sexuality through Music
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examination of how gendered and sexual identities are explored and contested through musical performance.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

PERF 607 Performance and Technology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Exploration of the intersection of performance and technology; special emphasis on the impact of technology on aesthetics, social and political formations, and the body.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

PERF 608 Performance and the Art of Government
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examination of performance in political processes and institutions; using the tools of performance studies to analyze and interpret the work of states and governments.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

PERF 610 Graduate Studies in Dance Research
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examines key theoretical and methodological issues in dance studies from a performance studies perspective.
Prerequisite: PERF 602 or approval of instructor.

PERF 611 Religions, Spiritualities, and Performance
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examines the intricate relationship between religious traditions and performance. Focus on contemporary religious movements.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

PERF 613 Performing Texas
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Explores "Texas" as a set of complex performances that construct specific identities and communities.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

PERF 614 Soundscapes
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Explores sound in social life; sound as performative of identity; sound performance.
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.
PERF 615 Spectacle and Performance  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Examination of various popular performances as spectacle.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

PERF 616 Sport as Performance  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Explores sport as manifold modes of cultural performance; focus on embodiment, gender, race, nationalism, spectacle, politics, warfare, and media.  
Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

PERF 620 Critical Ethnographic Methods in Performance Studies  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Critical methods in performance ethnography; emphasis on political dimensions of field encounter. May be taken two times for credit.  
Prerequisites: PERF 600; PERF 602.

PERF 621 Graduate Studies in Popular Music Research  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Examination of context, politics, and political economy of specific popular music forms.  
Prerequisite: Graduation classification.

PERF 622 Performance and the Construction of American Identity  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Role of performance in construction of national identity; special emphasis on post-Civil War US.  
Prerequisites: PERF 600, PEF 601, PERF 602, or approval of instructor.

PERF 623 Phenomenology and Music  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Theoretical and methodological potentials of phenomenology in analyses of music; special emphasis on use of phenomenology to examine multiple aspects of music production, including embodiment.  
Prerequisites: PERF 600, PERF 601, PERF 602, or approval of instructor.

PERF 625 Latino/a Expressive Culture  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Explores how issues concerning Latinos, including race and ethnicity, religion, border politics, immigration, the drug war, family, gender and sexuality, and class, are reflected and debated through expressive forms of performance such as theater, comedy music, folklore and performance art.  
Prerequisite: Acceptance into the MA in Performance Studies program or approval of instructor.

PERF 682 American Theatre: Gender on the U.S. Stage  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Focuses on 18th-21st century texts and performers in order to account for transformations in representations as well as lived experiences of gender.  
Prerequisite: Enrollment in the MA in Performance Studies or approval of instructor.

PERF 685 Directed Studies  
Credits 1 to 3. 1 to 3 Other Hours.  
Directed studies in specific areas of performance studies. Student may take up to two sections of directed studies in the same semester, with a maximum of 6 credits.  
Prerequisites: PERF 600, PERF 601, PERF 602, or approval of instructor.

PERF 689 Special Topics in Performance Studies  
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.  
Selected topics in an identified area of performance studies. May be repeated for a total of 9 credits.  
Prerequisites: PERF 600, PERF 601, PERF 602, or approval of instructor.

PERF 691 Research  
Credits 1 to 3. 1 to 3 Other Hours.  
Research for thesis.  
Prerequisites: Approval of department head.