

PERFORMANCE STUDIES - BA

The BA in Performance Studies offers an interdisciplinary, liberal arts approach to the study of performance. Our BA provides a foundation in critical reflection, analysis, and creative practice from which students can launch a variety of careers. In their core Performance Studies courses, BA Students are immersed in performance theory, learn the craft of creating live performance, and cultivate essential research and writing skills to be successful citizens, scholars, and artists in the 21st century.

Four Pillars of the BA in Performance Studies

Performance as Research

In Performance Studies, we embrace the fact that live, embodied performance provides a unique way to know and understand the world. We value and champion such repertoires of knowledge alongside the many other ways of knowing represented in institutions of higher education. Students in our BA program use performance as method for conducting research. In every Performance Studies class, students perform: they stage plays and concerts, conduct ethnographic research, make films and podcasts, or present their scholarship to varied audiences. They do this to embrace the fact that a musician, an actor, a dancer, or performer of any stripe knows the world differently by virtue of their performance practice. We train our BA students to translate that knowledge into a format which can be shared widely and effectively.

Intercultural Performance Practices

We live in a globalized world and prepare our students to be global leaders. We privilege performance as a location of intercultural encounter. We bring artists from around the world to campus to work with our students, and we equip our students with the tools they need to be responsible global citizens.

Performance and Technology

We emphasize the intersection of performance and technology. We equip students both to take advantage of technological advances in their creative and professional lives, and to recognize the risks and rewards technology can provide to our communities. Students study the latest developments in digital music-making, virtual reality filmmaking, acoustic surveillance, and so on. Our Performance and Technology pillar prepares students for life in the 21st century.

Performing Communities

We value the use of performance to create and circulate knowledge for and within our communities. Students in our BA program can take classes that study arts administration and work with non-profit organizations, that investigate performance in public institutions as varied as the City Council and the United Nations, and that focus on performance practices in museums, journalism, and so on. We foster the development of informed and responsible citizens who use performance to serve their communities and the wider world.

Program Requirements

First Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
PERF 101	Introduction to Performance Studies	3
	American history (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history)	3
	Creative arts (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#creative-arts)	3
	Foreign language ¹	4
	General elective ²	3
Semester Credit Hours		16

Spring		Semester Credit Hours
ENGL 104	Composition and Rhetoric	3
	Foreign language ¹	4
	Mathematics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#mathematics)	3
	Social and behavioral sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences)	3
	Performance studies elective ³	3
Semester Credit Hours		16

Second Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
PERF 301	Performance in World Cultures	3
	Select one of the following:	3
	COMM 203 Public Speaking	
	COMM 205 Communication for Technical Professions	
	COMM 243 Argumentation and Debate	
	ENGL 103 Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition	
	ENGL 203 Writing about Literature	
	ENGL 210 Technical and Business Writing	
	Foreign language ¹	3
	Government/Political science (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#government-political-science)	3
	General elective ²	3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Spring		Semester Credit Hours
	Foreign language ¹	3
	Government/Political science (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#government-political-science)	3
	Life and physical sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)	3
	Performance studies elective ³	3
	General elective ²	3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Third Year**Fall**

American history (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history)	3
Life and physical sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)	3
Mathematics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#mathematics)	3
Literature directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/)	3
Performance studies seminar ⁴	3
Semester Credit Hours	15

Spring

PERF 303 Creating Performance	3
Language, philosophy and culture (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture)	3
Life and physical sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)	3
Performance studies seminar ⁴	3
General elective ²	3
Semester Credit Hours	15

Fourth Year**Fall**

Language, philosophy and culture or creative arts (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture)	3
Social and behavioral sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences)	3
Performance studies elective ³	3
Performance studies seminar ⁴	3
General elective ²	3
Semester Credit Hours	15

Spring

PERF 481 Capstone Seminar: Performance as Research	3
Literature directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/)	3
Performance studies elective ³	3
General elective ²	3
General elective ²	1
Semester Credit Hours	13
Total Semester Credit Hours	120

¹ Complete 14 hours of a foreign language (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/>) through the intermediate level. If you choose to enroll in a language you have studied previously without receiving college credit, you must first take a placement test. See academic advisor.

² Select from any 100-499 course not used elsewhere, up to 12 hours of courses from MUSC 300-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/musc/>), THAR 300-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/thar/>), or PERF 300-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/perf/>) may be applied.

³ Select from ENGL 385; MUSC 102, MUSC 201, MUSC 204, MUSC 205, MUSC 209, MUSC 211, MUSC 214, MUSC 221, MUSC 222, MUSC 225, MUSC 226, MUSC 228, MUSC 235, MUSC 245, MUSC 255, MUSC 281, MUSC 316, MUSC 317, MUSC 318, MUSC 324/ANTH 324, MUSC 345, MUSC 355, MUSC 381, MUSC 424; PERF 202, PERF 223, PERF 285, PERF 289, PERF 291, PERF 310, PERF 311, PERF 312, PERF 325, PERF 326, PERF 327/AFST 327, PERF 328, PERF 333, PERF 338, PERF 386, PERF 402/FILM 402, PERF 483, PERF 484, PERF 485, PERF 489, PERF 491, PERF 492; THAR 102, THAR 110, THAR 155, THAR 156, THAR 201, THAR 245, THAR 281, THAR 308, THAR 321, THAR 322, THAR 407, THAR 420, THAR 435, THAR 445, THAR 482.

⁴ Select from PERF 450, PERF 451, PERF 452, PERF 453, PERF 454, PERF 460, PERF 461.

Graduation requirements include 3 hours of International and Cultural Diversity (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/international-cultural-diversity-requirements/>) courses and 3 hours of Cultural Discourse (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/cultural-discourse-requirements/>) courses. A course satisfying a Core category, a college/department requirement, or a free elective can be used to satisfy this requirement. The required 6 hours may be met by courses satisfying other areas of a degree program. See your academic advisor for further information.

General Degree Requirements:

Minimum 2.0 GPA overall and a minimum 2.0 GPA in major coursework.

A grade of C or higher is required in all coursework within the major.

18 hours of major coursework completed at Texas A&M.

Complete 36 hours of upper division (300-400 level) hours in residence, 12 hours of which must be completed in major coursework.

Complete two PERF courses formally designated as writing or communication intensive. At least one course must be completed with the writing intensive designation.