UGA Department of Dance Orientation Presentation Summer 2020

**Slide 1 -** Hello, and welcome to the University of Georgia Department of Dance summer advisement orientation presentation! I am professor Rebecca Gose and I am an associate professor in the department, and also the academic advisor for students.

**Slide 2** - I want to extend a warm welcome to you, to the department of dance at UGA. I know you will love it here and will thrive as a dancer and a student. Our small dance program in a very large institution provides a supportive and friendly community where dancers fulfill their potential and make great friends. Our program offers an A.B. in Dance. You may be wondering - what is an A.B. in Dance? (or a B.A. as it is often called) and how is it different from a BFA? The Bachelor of Arts here at the University of Georgia in Dance establishes the foundations for creative and intellectual development, both of which are interrelated & needed for longevity and success in any dance career. While nurturing multiple approaches to dance, this A.B. offers more flexibility and variety than a Fine Arts degree, while maintaining individualized options for performance and choreographic participation throughout each year.

Our students often double major in disciplines such as journalism, math, cognitive science, and anthropology and more. Many others choose a minor in addition to pursuing their dance degree. These are all wonderful opportunities; fortunately, UGA is a diverse, research institution that has much to offer that dance students may not want to miss out on. But all of these things take time and attention. The Department of Dance has recently revised our degree to provide more flexibility and choices in our options to better ensure your success at all you want to accomplish at UGA while providing plenty of options to perform each semester. The dance department is part of the Franklin College of Arts & Sciences, and another note is majors must successfully complete a full audition process in the dance department. And so, as you arrive in the first and second semesters, if you have not completed that full audition process, which includes an application and an audition, you will need to do that before the end of your first year.

As another note, the dance department offers a P12 certification track. It is an additional track - a series of courses that will certify you to teach in a public school in the state of Georgia, and that involves a student teaching semester. I will talk a bit more about that at the end of our presentation. I’d also like to say that you can concurrently pursue minors, double majors, certificates, and also study abroad programs and internships during your stay here at UGA while being a dance major.

**Slide 3 -** Let’s start with UGA requirements for graduation that every student must complete. The core requirements total 60 hours, or approximately half of your comprehensive hours at UGA. They include core requirements, US/GA history and government, environmental literacy, cultural diversity, PE, experiential learning, and a first-year odyssey course.

**Slide 4 -** The Core requirements consist of english, math, physical and life sciences, quantitative reasoning, world languages & culture, humanities and the arts, as well as social sciences. Lastly, Area VI is called “Courses related to the major” and we’ll talk about that in a minute. In addition, you must take courses in US/GA history and government, environmental literacy, as well as courses to fulfill the cultural diversity and PE requirements. All UGA students are required to complete at least one Experiential Learning activity in their time at UGA, and you must select a First-Year Odyssey (FYO) course in your first year.

**Slide 5 -** As dance is within the Franklin College, you will have to complete their requirements as well, which includes foreign language, literature, fine arts/philosophy/religion - note that our own requirement of Studies in Dance History will satisfy this requirement if you so desire - two social sciences courses from two different departments, to provide you with some diversity of perspectives, a history course, and a multicultural course.

**Slide 6 -** Regarding Areas VI, or courses related to the major, your Fall semester will include some of the classes from this list. The total for this area is 18 hours, usually completed before the 3rd year. The courses include your technique classes in jazz, contemporary, and ballet - as well as a production assignment depending on the production needs of that semester in that year - and dance improvisation and music for dance, which are not offered for Fall 2020. In addition, 3 hours of major technique electives are required for this area.

**Slide 7 -** In terms of your Fall 2020 semester, your first year, you will be required to take jazz, contemporary, and ballet class, as well as you are considered to try to get a production assignment, again depending on the production needs this fall or this coming year. And you might want to take a dance elective, depending on the other courses you are taking. You might also want to take a performance credit as well that would be added after the performance auditions are posted after the first week of classes, so that would be a Late Add.

**Slide 8 -** I’d like to mention the additional exciting courses you will be taking for your dance degree, not all just in the fall semester but what you can look forward to taking beyond your first year. Courses such as dance competition, studies in dance history, pedagogy, science, improvisation, writing, and teaching children. The electives range from pointe to *pas de deux*, performance credits, African dance forms, aerial yoga, pilates, practicing wellness course, tap, and more.

**Slide 9 -** While 12 credit hours is considered a full load for HOPE and financial reasons, a semester of 15-16 credit hours is an average load in order to graduate in 8 semesters. The DANC courses cited above, along with the coursework a student chooses from the dance elective list and general education courses, total 12-17 credit hours. As noted, a student may choose to enroll in more than 5-6 hours, but when working with your Franklin advisor on your academic schedule keep in mind the rehearsals in the department of dance that may be occurring in the late afternoon/early evening hours, say between 4-6 and 7-9 PM. Given this, if you plan to audition for performance opportunities, you may want to consider arranging your schedule so that academic classes can take place earlier in the day.

**Slide 10 -** A reasonable and safe number of total hours to be actively dancing and training per day is at or below 5 hours, taking at least one full day off each week from training. This amount should consider all the physical training you do in a day, not just those in the dance department, and not just technique class. You should also build in at least 50-60 minutes for a dinner break and a short lunch break if possible. In addition, consider the effect of how late you will be rehearsing in the evening on how early you must rise in the morning, and homework as well. Rest, recovery, and self-care are important components to sustaining yourself as a dance major at UGA. Consider perhaps that you might want to work up to an intensive schedule over a period of semesters.

**Slide 11 -** Some of the performance opportunities available in the UGA dance program include those in aerial dance, the Spring Dance Concert of faculty works, the UGA Ballet Ensemble, the Dance Repertory Project which includes guest artist work, and the Young Choreographers Series, which is a fall series of senior and underclassperson’s work that is student choreography. You can perform in those works, choreograph works, or both!

**Slide 12 -** Lastly, there’s some additional information I’d like to convey regarding dance majors in the Fall. There will be a dance majors meeting the first or second day of class, usually held in the late afternoon. You will be notified about this meeting via email, and also they will be announced in your technique classes on the first day. This meeting covers a myriad of important information that you’ll need to know, and your handbook will be given out to you on that day. The Dance Handbook is an annual packet of important information, from advising to course check-sheets, injury prevention information, building hours - information that you’ll want to know about and refer to later. Another item I’d like to mention further is the teacher certification track. I’m the certification coordinator for the department of dance, so I would be advising you, should you be interested in this pursuit. These extra courses, which consist of about 33 hours, many are already built into dance electives and dance requirements for the major, will lead you to be able to teach in the public and private K12 schools in Georgia. And I’m happy to talk to any of you further about this pursuit as you get into your first year, as applications for the teacher certification track are not until your second year.

Lastly, the auditions for performances for the upcoming year will be held in the first week of classes. The audition schedule will be posted, and it will also be in the handbook so you will have to look closely for that, and there will be posters around the department advertising these various auditions for the performance opportunities which I have mentioned.

**Slide 13** - I’d like to provide you with some of the contact information for the various advisors: Amber Fetner is your Franklin advisor. I am Rebecca Gose and I am your academic advisor for Dance, and Dr. Lisa Fusillo is the advisor for transfer students in dance. You’ll want to make sure you meet with her immediately upon arriving at UGA dance department in your first semester, on the very first day so you don’t miss out on any opportunities to register for courses that you need. Advising is required of each student each semester.

**Slide 14** - And here are some further resources for you. The Bulletin is where course descriptions and degree requirements are listed. There is also MyUGA, which is a portal that has a list of all the resources and web-links you are going to need and there are many, so that’s a great one-stop portal. Athena is where you will register for classes as well as withdraw from classes, change your major, etc. That is also a place you will be visiting frequently. And then we have the department of dance email and website

**Slide 15 -** I hope this has been an informative presentation for you, and I so look forward to meeting you. I am happy to take meetings with incoming majors during their orientation - online appointments through Zoom - to answer any further questions you have. I’m also happy to meet with you as soon as the Fall semester begins. Thank you so much!