



Undergraduate Student Handbook 2019–2020

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Mission Statement

The Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies 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.

Welcome from the Department Chair

Located within the College of Letters and Science at one of the world's great universities, the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies—and in the allied Ph.D. in Performance Studies—houses faculty, students, and staff who 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, playwriting, 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.

Separate undergraduate degree programs are offered in Theater and Performance Studies (TPS) and Dance and Performance Studies (DPS). While all students fulfill core requirements in theater or dance and performance studies, each student may choose electives to focus their studies in one or more areas. Undergraduate majors and minors will be well prepared for the future, both as artists and engaged citizens of the world. The flexibility and integration of our TPS and DPS programs 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 and designers in dance, theater, 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 a focus of study in acting, design, directing, technical production, dance technique, choreography, arts leadership, performance, and/or playwriting while simultaneously taking 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 ample opportunity to study with important scholars and practitioners in theater, dance, and performance studies.

The department offers a performance season of classic, modern, and original theatrical works along with the annual concert of the Berkeley Dance Project. Entry-level performance courses in acting, directing, dance technique, playwriting, choreography, design, and performance studies are open to all Berkeley students. Advanced students hone their skills with “capstone courses” in stage performance, performance studies, directing, choreography, playwriting, arts administration and organizational management, design, pedagogy, internships/field studies, graduate school preparation, study abroad, and undergraduate seminars. The capstone courses are designed for TPS and DPS majors and minors seeking depth and engagement with topics related to their focus of study.

Welcome to our inclusive and energetic department. Here you will find small class sizes, inspiring faculty, engaged staff, talented peers, and multiple opportunities to pursue your artistic and intellectual creativity in ways that are both challenging and fulfilling. We are very much looking forward to working with you.

Lisa Wymore, Department Chair



Prof. Lisa Wymore



Department Offices

The TDPS Main Office, 15 Dwinelle Hall, houses all faculty offices and mailboxes. For a directory of staff, faculty, and graduate students, visit tdps.berkeley.edu. Contact the Main Office at (510) 642-1677 or tdps@berkeley.edu.

Production Facilities

Our performance spaces include the 500-seat, multi-form Zellerbach Playhouse, the 141-seat Durham Studio Theater, the Bancroft Dance Studio, and an experimental black box theater, Zellerbach Room 7. Zellerbach 170 and Bancroft Studio also serve as dance and performance rooms. In addition, the Department has several rehearsal rooms, design studios, a variety of shops (scene, paint, costume), and an extensive properties and wardrobe collection. Assistive-listening devices are available at Zellerbach Playhouse performances. At this time, we are lacking the resources to offer them in our other venues.



Communications

WEBSITE & ONLINE CALLBOARD

The TDPS website, tdps.berkeley.edu, has up-to-date information about all facets of our program. Audition sign-ups, callback lists, production and class audition results, and production assignments are now listed on the TDPS Callboard, found under the Student Resources menu.

EMAIL UPDATES

Once you declare a major or minor in TDPS, the Undergraduate Academic Advisor will add you to our major and minor listservs. During the academic year, the Communications Director sends out the *TDPS Weekly* email with information and announcements about what's happening in the department, courses, scholarship information, upcoming auditions, performance opportunities, and other useful information. The Department Chair may also communicate with you throughout the semester.

OFFICE HOURS

Take advantage of faculty office hours and meet with your current professors, or others in the department you would like to get to know. Hours change every semester, so please refer to the directory under the People menu at tdps.berkeley.edu



Departmental Events

Our department is a vibrant community and we host many events where undergraduates and other members of the department may gather. Events include a fall undergraduate welcome, the TDPS Speaker Series, class showcases, a student production forum, commencement, and many others. We encourage you to attend as many events as you can. Check your email for event announcements, or see the department calendar at tdps.berkeley.edu



Undergraduate Academic Program

Course Sequencing & Planning Your Schedule

The department's undergraduate course offerings are divided into lower division (1–99) and upper division (100–199). Graduate courses are numbered 200 and above and are normally not open to undergraduate students without special permission. It is important to take lower division courses before taking related upper division coursework to ensure your success at both levels. This takes careful planning, especially for transfer students. Juniors and Seniors quickly discover that upper division classes are often scheduled at the same time as the lower division classes.

Requirements for Majors & Minors

FIND THE MOST UP-TO-DATE REQUIREMENTS AT [GUIDE.BERKELEY.EDU](https://guide.berkeley.edu)

- [MAJOR: Theater and Performance Studies](#)
- [MINOR: Theater and Performance Studies](#)
- [MAJOR: Dance and Performance Studies](#)
- [MINOR: Dance and Performance Studies](#)

Important Notes for Majors

- Letter-graded courses that majors may repeat for credit: 40, 45, 141, 142, 143, 145, 146, 147A, 147B, 166, 167, 168, 169, 172, 176, 179, 180, and 181
- Some dance courses have repetition limits (see guide.berkeley.edu for more information).
- P/NP courses 197, 198, and 199 may be repeated for majors, however for minors, all coursework must be letter-graded, so these courses would not count toward your minor.
- Performance Studies courses 114, 119, 121, 125, and 126 may be repeated as long as they are different topics and taught by different instructors.

Class Auditions & Interviews

Accommodation Policy for Auditions

All students are invited to audition for TDPS acting and dance courses. If a disability-related accommodation is needed for a class audition, please contact the undergraduate academic advisor, Michael Mansfield (tdpsugadvisor@berkeley.edu) at least one week prior to the start of the semester.

Please Note: some audition spaces are not readily accessible for those with mobility impairments. With advance notice, we are happy to make arrangements for an alternate venue. Those in DSP, please contact your DSP specialist well in advance of the audition so there is time for the accommodation process and notify the department to make arrangements. Please ask DSP to also send disability accommodation notices for auditions to Michael Mansfield at least one week prior to the start of the semester.

Acting Sequence Courses That Require An Audition: Theater 10, 109, 110A, 110B, 111

- The acting sequence consists of the following courses: Theater 10 (Fundamentals of Acting I), Theater 109 (Fundamentals of Acting II), Theater 110A (Intermediate Acting: Scene Study and Style), Theater 110B (Intermediate Acting: Shakespeare), and Theater 111 (Advanced Acting Studio I and II).
- All acting courses must be taken in sequence. For those with advanced training, equivalent courses from a college or university class, successfully completed and for which transcript credit has been granted, may be considered and allow beginning the sequence at a more advanced level. Freshmen should consider taking all six.
- All acting courses require an audition for entrance. Acting students do NOT enroll in 10, 109, 110A, 110B, or 111 through CalCentral before the beginning of the semester. If you are unable to audition on the day of auditions, plan to take the course during another semester. Sign-ups for the audition times open on Callboard on the TDPS website on August 15 and January 15. Find the Callboard under the Student Resources menu at tdps.berkeley.edu.
- After the auditions, class lists will be posted on the TDPS online Callboard. Once accepted into the course, the instructor will give you instructions on how to add the course via CalCentral. All students admitted to the course must attend the first day of actual class in order to secure placement.
- For the audition, please prepare a one-minute speech from a play. Memorization of the piece is strongly encouraged for Theater 10 and is required for all other classes.

Theater Courses That Require An Audition, Writing Sample, or Interview: Theater 112, 139A, 139B, 162, 163

- Admission to 112 (Voice and Speech) is based upon an interview with and at the discretion of the instructor. All candidates must attend the first day of class. The course control number will be issued subsequent to admission.
- To be considered for 139A (Fundamentals of Playwriting), submit a sample of creative writing (up to five pages) by August 14 for fall and January 6 for spring to the instructor's mailbox in 15 Dwinelle Hall. Include your name, year, major, phone number and email address. For those who miss the deadline, you are advised to attend the first class. Enrollment is limited.
- Admission to Theater 162/163 (Stage Directing) is based upon an interview with and at the discretion of the instructor. Be prepared to talk about your interest in the course and any relevant experience. The class list for 162/163 will be posted on the TDPS online callboard. The callboard link will be given to students after their interview, and course control number will be released once the class list has been determined.

Dance Courses That Require An Audition: Theater 141, 142, 143, 145, 147A, 147B

- All dance students are encouraged to enroll through CalCentral and all must attend the first day of class for the required placement audition. All auditions will be held during the regular class time in Bancroft Studio, located at 2401 Bancroft Way, at the corner with Dana Street. If you don't know which level is appropriate, attend all technique classes on the first day to determine which is the best match. At the end of the first class, the instructor will determine if you have been admitted to that level. If you haven't already done so, you must enroll in that level through CalCentral. Anyone not admitted must drop the course through CalCentral.
- For Theater 40, you can enroll on CalCentral, however, attendance at the first day of class is required for confirmation to be enrolled. Priority will be given to TDPS majors and minors and to first-year and second-year students.
- No special preparation is required for the audition. Footless tights, leotards, or fitted gym clothes are suggested attire.

Advising & Expectations for Students

The goal of advising is to create the optimum educational and artistic experience for TDPS students, and prepare you for whatever path you choose to take. As a major or minor, you are responsible for your progress in the program. We also expect you to have knowledge of your college, major and minor requirements, understand the basic university policies on incomplete grades, repeated courses, and the practices of enrolling in classes (including add/drop procedures); you should also be aware of the policies governing any financial aid you may receive; and the various deadlines imposed by the Registrar or by the Department.

It is required that you meet with the Undergraduate Academic Advisor at least once a semester to create an academic program plan and track educational progress in the department.

You can otherwise meet with the Undergraduate Academic Advisor on an as-needed basis throughout the semester. He can assist you with many things:

- Declaring a Major/Double Major/Minor
- Approving most documents for Majors/Minors for the College of Letters & Science and Office of the Registrar
- Course Selection and Sequence of Classes
- Information about Honors Projects (Theater H195A/B)
- Information about Workshop Production Proposals (Theater 196)
- How to complete an Internship or Field Study (Theater 197)
- How to teach a DeCal Course (Theater 198)
- How to complete an Independent Study (Theater 199)
- Study-Abroad Opportunities (EAP)
- Peer Advisor Opportunities for Departmental Leadership
- Graduate School Information
- Transfer coursework and facilitating your experience as a transfer student

Additionally, all faculty members are here to support your growth and offer guidance. [Office hours](#) are an ideal time to meet with them. You can also find the names and contact information for [Peer Advisors on the TDPS website](#).

Course Accommodations

For course accommodations, please work jointly with the [Disabled Students' Program \(DSP\)](#) and the course instructor to make arrangements for any needed accommodations in course participation or testing. Be sure to do this in advance. The Undergraduate Academic Advisor and Departmental Equity Advisor is available for any additional assistance you might need.



MICHAEL MANSFIELD
UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR

Drop-In Hours:

Monday–Friday, 1–4 p.m.
15B Dwinelle Hall

Contact Michael:

(510) 643-4050
tdpsugadvisor@berkeley.edu

Suggested Steps for Success in TDPS

1. Meet with the Undergraduate Advisor regularly (at least one time per semester). Make a plan and choose classes that help you accomplish that plan.
2. Take prerequisite courses as soon as you can to lay the foundation for your upper-division coursework and progress toward graduation. Theater 26 in particular becomes a scheduling challenge for juniors or seniors, as it is typically offered only once a year and conflicts with required upper-division coursework.
3. Take advantage of faculty office hours to get to know your professors.
4. Get involved right away with the department's productions or research opportunities. If you already have an area of specialization, contact staff or faculty working in that area as soon as you arrive on campus. Our faculty and staff are here to serve you as teachers and mentors, so don't be afraid to reach out to them either before or at the beginning of your first semester and talk.
5. Take advantage of all UC Berkeley and TDPS has to offer as you build your experience, credentials, and work experience — involvement in shows, internships, teaching a DeCal, pursuing research, independent study courses, work study jobs, honors projects, and student leadership opportunities.
6. If you have transferred, get involved in the Transfer, Re-Entry, and Student Parent Center on campus. They offer a multitude of programs, including those connecting you with continuing transfer students in your major, academic planning and enrichment workshops, service learning internships and courses that will help you transition to UC Berkeley.
7. Use CalCentral to help track your graduation progress.

Additional Academic Opportunities

Double Majors

Some Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies majors elect to complete a second major. Some students choose to double major in both Theater and Performance Studies and Dance and Performance Studies. Declare your two majors early! Students are required to meet with the advisor in both their major departments at least once a semester to discuss their progress and their plans for the following semester. You can share two courses between your majors, and are advised to keep the unit ceiling and semester ceiling in mind when planning your program.

Transferring Units

It is rare that a course from a community college or other university will transfer into the major or minor. Since your major or minor will be from the Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies Department, expect to do most of your major and minor coursework here.

Exception: Theater 10 equivalent courses transfer into the major. For other courses that may fulfill another lower-division requirement, transfer students may bring a copy of previous transcripts and course descriptions to the Undergraduate Student Advisor for evaluation.

Education Abroad Opportunities

Students in TDPS often go to England, South Africa, Australia, or Italy to study theater while dancers often go to France, Thailand, or Ghana. EAP units can count as elective coursework toward our majors and minors. For more information about EAP opportunities, speak with the Undergraduate Academic Advisor, see the [Study Abroad website](#) or go to the EAP office in 160 Stephens Hall.

A maximum of 8 units of equivalent upper division coursework transfer into the major or minor from EAP or other 4-year colleges as electives upon departmental approval. All L&S-approved units from other colleges transfer toward your degree, but rarely into our major. Bring a copy of course descriptions to the Undergraduate Student Advisor for evaluation before going abroad, if possible. Make sure your credits abroad are upper-division courses, letter-graded, and will transfer back to UC Berkeley to be added to your transcript.

In the UCDC or UC Center Sacramento Internship Programs, students from all majors live and study in Washington, D.C. or Sacramento, CA for a semester or summer, participating in an internship in public service/non-profit centers. For UCDC, this could be of particular interest to students interested in arts policy or arts administration (examples of potential sites include the Folger Shakespeare Library, Arena Stage or the Kennedy Center for the Arts). For UC Center Sacramento, whether for a semester or a summer, allows you to engage your interest in politics, healthcare, education, environment, business, international affairs, law, arts, and culture directly while learning through direct governmental experience and service-based internship placements. Contact Michael Mansfield if you are interested in UC Center Sacramento Programs.

Getting Involved Outside of Class

Participation in Productions

You have a unique opportunity to participate in departmental productions as directors, choreographers, actors, dancers, designers, playwrights, and technicians. Students are required to enroll in the appropriate course and receive credit for all work in production during the semester in which the production takes place. This course counts as either an upper-division elective for the Majors or as one of the upper division class electives for the Minors. Students should register for the appropriate course number as soon as they are cast, or as soon as it is determined that they will be formally participating in the production.

Participation in any production carries responsibilities; the success of a production depends on the commitment of all involved. Once a cast, design team, and crew have been selected, the absence of any member of that team is detrimental to the production. Such absences have an immediate and negative effect on both the educational and artistic aims of the production and are therefore unacceptable.

You may consult the Undergraduate Advisor or the director/faculty sponsor of your show to find out the appropriate course and section in which to enroll.

University Wide Research Opportunities

- [The Haas Scholars Program](#) gives students up to \$12,500 to carry out research in any major.
- [The Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program \(URAP\)](#) partners students with faculty members who are engaged in research projects in their field of interest.
- [The Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize](#) supports intellectual and creative pursuits that heighten awareness of issues of social consciousness and the public good through research after graduation.
- [The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship](#) is for sophomores interested in pursuing teaching and research.
- [The Big Ideas Contest](#) supports inspired innovative and high-impact student-led projects aimed at solving problems that matter to this generation.
- [Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships \(SURF\)](#) are designed to help students to do concentrated research in preparation for a senior thesis or other major capstone research project.

Contact the Undergraduate Advisor for more information on these and other research opportunities.

Leadership Opportunities within TDPS

PEER ADVISORS: Each year 6 TDPS Majors are invited to continue their natural service and leadership skills by becoming peer advisors. This generally entails willingness to talk about the Department, the courses, the opportunities, and the experiences you have had here with current students or prospective students and their parents/guardians. Peer Advisors are asked to be available for Departmental Welcome Celebrations, Departmental Season Announce Gatherings, Cal Day, or as “oncall” advisors for fellow students or visiting students. Contact the Undergraduate Advisor for more information.

STUDENT LIAISONS: Each year several students self-nominate and are chosen to be a voice for student dreams, concerns, decisions, and questions that arrive in our community during that year. Typically, student representatives are willing to be seen as spokespersons for the entire TDPS Undergraduate student community. Contact the Vice Chair for more information.

Performing Arts Groups on Campus

Visit tdps.berkeley.edu/resources/student-groups for a list of more than three dozen performing arts groups on campus.

Careers & Professional Preparation

Career Counseling

Career counseling is available at the Career Center, 2111 Bancroft Way, and job and internship listings can be found on the [Career Center website](#). The Undergraduate Academic Advisor and TDPS Department faculty are also very good resources. They are happy to answer questions and provide advice about careers in the arts, feedback on resumes, and professional development.

Alumni Mentorship

TDPS alumni from all walks of life are happy to speak with you about career possibilities. If you are interested in connecting with someone from a particular career field, please ask the Undergraduate Advisor and we will try to put you in touch.

Work Study Opportunities

Have you been awarded a campus work-study award? Working in TDPS is a great way to gain experience. The box office, scene and costume shops, and theater supervisor hire TDPS students for paid work-study positions. Contact the TDPS Office Manager for available opportunities.

Graduate School

The Undergraduate Academic Advisor has information about MFA/PhD Programs and other Theater Programs available after completing a B.A. He can also advise you on steps to take now that will make you a more successful applicant.

Department Prizes & Scholarships

The Department bestows a variety of prizes, scholarships, and awards each year at the commencement ceremony to recognize our students' achievements and to support their future endeavors. Monetary awards vary from year to year and may be reduced by other maximum award amounts already received. One award allows faculty, staff, and students to recommend and/or nominate themselves or others for an outstanding social justice endeavor within the department during that academic year. An invitation to submit nominations for this prize will be requested in March each year. Visit tdps.berkeley.edu/resources/prizes for a full list of prizes.

Department Policies

Appeals & Exceptions

Students who wish to request an exception to departmental policy should first meet with the Undergraduate Academic Advisor to discuss options. After this meeting, the advisor may ask the student to submit his or her request in writing or set another meeting to meet with other appropriate parties to come to a solution.

Concurrent Enrollment, Extension, and International Students

- **Acting and Directing Classes:** Priority is given to full-time UC Berkeley students. International study abroad students, for 1 or 2 semesters, are exceptions to this rule and may be prioritized.
- **Productions:** Priority in casting is given to UC Berkeley students. International study abroad students, for 1 or 2 semesters, are exceptions to this rule and may be prioritized.
- **All Classes:** Priority is given to full-time UC Berkeley students. Extension students are considered only after all eligible UC Berkeley students have enrolled and room permitting.
- An individual Berkeley Extension student is only eligible to take 2 semesters of dance technique as an Extension student.

Casting & Productions

For up-to-date information on productions and auditions, visit the [TDPS online Callboard](#).

Complimentary Tickets

Declared TDPS Majors receive one complimentary ticket to each Playhouse Production. Instructions on claiming your tickets will be emailed to you each semester. [See the full policy on the TDPS website](#).

Student Space Use

TDPS students may reserve use of Zellerbach Rooms 7, 133, 135, and 413 for TDPS class projects or rehearsals. For more information visit tdps.berkeley.edu/resources/space-use

Student Conduct

Students are expected to abide by the [Code of Student Conduct](#). The Student Affairs website addresses issues concerning behavior on campus, in the classroom, and in homework and research.

Links to Campus Resources

[Academic Advising \(L&S\)](#)

[Academic Calendar](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Career Advising](#)

[Concurrent Enrollment](#)

[Course Catalog](#)

[Course Schedule](#)

[Education Abroad Programs](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

[Graduate School Preparation](#)

[International Student Office](#)

[International Student Housing](#)

[Prospective Students](#)

[Registrar's Office](#)

[Scholarship Search](#)

[Student Housing](#)

[Summer Sessions](#)

[Transfer Credit \(Course Search\)](#)

[Transfer Student Center](#)

[University Extension](#)

[University Health Services](#)