



**Department of
World Arts and Cultures / Dance**

**UNDERGRADUATE
HANDBOOK**

2026-2027

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WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES/DANCE - MISSION STATEMENT

Defined by a dynamic blend of theory and practice, the UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance is a premier program led by a renowned faculty of scholars, activists, curators, filmmakers, and choreographers dedicated to critical cross-cultural analysis and art-making.

WACD is the place to innovate choreography, produce digital media, curate exhibitions, develop as an arts activist, and gain scholarly expertise in culture and the arts. With an emphasis on world arts, the department decenters Eurocentric perspectives by recognizing the value of visual arts and performance as modes of inquiry and ways of knowing, globally. We draw upon multiple disciplines and artistic approaches while encouraging students to position their work within broad social contexts.

Our courses integrate theory, method, and practice and are grounded in diverse cultural artistic expressions. Topics include art as moral action, body politics, theories of performance, heritage and globalization studies, choreography, and corporeality/embodiment. Guided by an interdisciplinary faculty of artists, dance scholars and ethnographers, the academic programs in World Arts and Cultures/Dance are organized around three fundamental missions:

- *The formulation of critical and intercultural insights into the nature of human creativity*
- *The creation and interdisciplinary study of dance and other body-based modes of performance*
- *Mutually beneficial engagement with the diverse cultural and artistic communities of Los Angeles*

In our World Arts and Cultures BA, we emphasize arts activism, visual cultures, and critical ethnographies. The Dance BA integrates composition, training, and improvisation, while challenging students to locate dance politically, culturally, and historically. The Art & Global Health Center enables undergraduate and graduate students to explore art as a life-saving activity.

This guide contains information regarding both the Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance and UCLA and it is meant to help ease your transition into student life. Please donot hesitate to contact your respective WACD Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer (SAO) at any time should you need assistance.

The BA in Dance Student Affairs Officer is Matt Dingman (dingman@arts.ucla.edu) and the BA in WAC Student Affairs Officer is Rafael Gayoso (rafaelg212@arts.ucla.edu). The SAO office general email is: WACD-UG-SAO@arts.ucla.edu

You also have access to the School's Office of Student Services counselors at students@arts.ucla.edu

WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES/DANCE - SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

While operating with considerable independence, our degree streams are unified by our common concern for aesthetic production, corporeality and performance, the dynamics of "tradition," and "culture-building" in contemporary societies. We forge connections between critical theory and artistic practice, and we attend to the changing social roles and responsibilities of artists and scholars of the arts in the United States and worldwide.

Working within this acutely interdisciplinary environment, the department's vision is to blend explorations in the library, the field, and the studio, to find unity through a shared engagement with problems of cultural and aesthetic diversity. All areas of our department promote interdisciplinary exploration and students are encouraged to combine rigorous scholarship, creative practice, and experiential learning.

The department is an interdisciplinary unit that finds its *raison d'être* in a set of intellectual and artistic problems rather than an established academic discipline. Faculty members, who have international standing and are engaged in both creative artistic work and research, are interlocutors in dialogues about the frictions and flows implicated by the department's name. As such, World Arts and Cultures/Dance is defined by a dynamic interdisciplinary approach that encourages intercultural literacies and repertoires, including and transcending geography, ethnicity, class, and other distinctions of identity.

The **B.A. in Dance** thoroughly integrates learning to dance, learning to make dances, and critical interrogation of dance as a cultural practice. Students study a variety of dance movement practices throughout their studies. They enroll in a four-term sequence in dance composition, with additional opportunities to participate in the creation of their own dances, as well as working as dancers in the creation of new works by faculty members, graduate students, and visiting artists. Further, they engage in a core of four courses in the study of scholarly discourse around the body and dance, launching a critical inquiry into their own study of bodily practices, internalization of the embodied experience, and how bodily ideas and embodied experiences are interpreted and communicated, both locally and globally.

The **B.A. in World Arts and Cultures** highlights culture and representation as key perspectives for understanding creativity in local and global arenas. WAC Major electives consist of cross-cultural and interdisciplinary study and focus on areas like arts activism, critical ethnographies, and visual cultures. These areas define the department commitment to a range of practices, including ethnography, activism, visual and related expressive arts, documentary and short films, museum and curatorial studies, performance, and other creative perspectives and methods. Courses combine theory and practice and are grounded in culturally diverse artistic expressions.

All students are encouraged to complement the required set of core and elective departmental courses with others offered across campus, such as courses from ethnic and area studies programs, and may organize their course of study in relation to particular interests or professional goals (e.g., international comparative studies, intercultural studies, education, area specializations such as Africa, Asia, or Latin America, minority discourse, gender studies).

Our students have excelled in fields including technology and the arts, videography, documentary work, public service, education, theatrical/events production, performing arts, urban planning, law, environmental activism, public health, and medicine. They have made careers in community nonprofits and activist groups, government arts agencies, museums, and arts foundations, and as choreographers/performers in their own companies or with other professional organizations.

A Welcome from the Undergraduate Program Leads

Dear students,

Welcome to UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance.

You are joining a community with an acclaimed faculty whose practices embrace scholarship, dance and choreography, community engagement, media and filmmaking, critical curatorial studies, and more. We believe you will find your combined majors (and graduate students) a dynamic group of emerging art-makers, scholars, and activists. Our WACD staff is dedicated to your success and to offering support along the way.

As you make yourself at home in WACD please consider joining the World Arts and Cultures/Dance Advisory Council. The WACD Advisory Council (fondly known as WACDAC) provides a line of communication between students, faculty, and student advisors. This committee offers an opportunity for you to share your experience and that of your peers. Our open lines of communication depend upon students who want to be our conduits, sharing information in a timely manner. We are looking for students from each major (Dance and WAC), and from each year, as well as a WAC and Dance transfer representative. They meet at least one time per quarter. If you are interested, please email WACD-UG-SAO@arts.ucla.edu with the subject line: "WACDAC."

We also ask **two students** to serve on the Dean's Student Council, representing your major (Dance and WAC) at the level of the school. These leadership positions are great opportunities to meet students and gain experience networking and building professional skills. If you are interested, please email WACD-UG-SAO@arts.ucla.edu with the subject line: "Dean's Student Council."

Your two programs, Dance and WAC, have two program leads: Tria Blu Wakpa (Dance) and David Delgado Shorter (WAC), respectively. We are both very happy to have you join our community.

Sincerely,

David Delgado Shorter & Tria Blu Wakpa

Undergraduate Program Leads

Tria Blu Wakpa is an Assistant Professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research and teaching center community-engaged, decolonizing, and dance studies methodologies to examine the politics and practices of dance and other movement modes—such as theatrical productions, athletics, and yoga—for Indigenous peoples in and beyond structures and institutions of confinement. She is a mother, scholar, poet, and practitioner of Indigenous dance, North American Hand Talk (Indigenous Sign Language), martial arts, and yoga. Her first book project, *Bodies as Battlegrounds, Institutions as War: Native American Choreographies in Confinement*, historically and politically contextualizes dance, theatrical productions, basketball, and/or yoga at four sites on Lakota lands: a former Indian boarding school, men and women's prisons, and a tribal juvenile hall. Her writings have been translated into French and Portuguese and appear in academic journals and books. In addition to her research, she is the Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief for *Race and Yoga*, the first peer-reviewed and open-access journal in the emerging field of critical yoga studies.

Dr. David Delgado Shorter joined the faculty as tenured professor in the UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance in 2008. His 2009 book received the Chicago Prize for best book that year in Folklore Studies. In 2013, Shorter received the UCLA Academic Senate's Distinguished Teaching Award. He is the director of Wiki for Indigenous Languages, a project that offers a digital alternative for Indigenous language revitalization by offering a language translator, wiktionary, games, and social media site to Indigenous communities. Shorter is also the director of the Archive of Healing. Most recently, he has been writing essays and delivery talks on extra-terrestrial contact.

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES/DANCE

DANCE MAJOR

I. Preparation for the Major - 26 Units:

DANCE 1	Global Perspectives on Dance	5 units
DANCE 16	Beginning Improvisation in Dance	2 units
DANCE 44	World Dance Histories	5 units
DANCE 45	Introduction to Dance Studies	4 units
DANCE 67A	Theories & Methods in Dance Composition I: Languages	4 units
DANCE 67B	Theories & Methods in Dance Composition II: Processes	4 units
DANCE 70	Production Practicum	2 units

II. Movement Arts/Dance Practices - 40 lower/upper division units (a minimum of two courses per quarter until completion is strongly recommended):

Modern/Post-Modern, Ballet, West African, Hip-Hop and Improvisation 20 units
 Select From - DANCE 6, 9, 13, 15, 56, 59, 63, 65, C106A, C109A, C113A, C115, 116

Advanced Modern/Post-Modern, Ballet, West African, Hip-Hop and Improvisation 10 units
 6 units of 1st dance style AND another 4 units of a 2nd dance style
 Select from – DANCE C106A, C109A, C113A, C115 or 116

Elective Practices 10 units
 Select From – DANCE 5, 10, 11, 12, 16, 52, 60, C112A, 116, 160, WL ARTS 55, 78*, 80, 178*
 (*Note: No more than 8 combined units of WL ARTS 78 & 178 may apply toward this requirement)

III. Upper Division Major – 25 Units:

DANCE 101	Theories of Dance	5 units
Take 2 of the 3 classes in the Dance 117 series:		
DANCE 117A	Theories & Methods in Dance Composition III: Locations	4 units
DANCE 117B	Theories & Methods in Dance Composition IV: Impacts	4 units
DANCE 117C	Advanced Topics in Choreography	4 units

IV. Dance Focus Area - (12 units of coursework selected from one area below) 12 units

(A) **Creative Inquiry as Research** – DANCE 114, 116, 117C, 118, C122, C171, 174A, 174B, C180, or other upper division courses as approved by faculty

(B) **Critical Dance Studies** – DANCE C145XP, C152, M157, 158, 160, C171, 182 WL ARTS 199, or other upper division courses as approved by faculty

(C) **Dance and Civic Engagement** – DANCE CM168, C184, WL ARTS 100A, 100B, 103, 144, 160**, 177XP, 195, or other upper division courses as approved by faculty
 (**Note: *No more than 8 units of courses 160 may be applied toward this area*).

TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED: 91

V. Optional Senior Project - DANCE 186A, 186B (consult with faculty mentor) 10 units

Sample Schedule for an Incoming FIRST YEAR Student

Below is a sample four-year plan outlining the graduation requirements for an **entering first year student** pursuing the Dance Major. Courses in **BOLD** are the required lower and upper division courses for the major and should be taken any quarter during the year indicated when available. This sample schedule is a **suggestion** as to how a student may complete their major in order to graduate within 4 years. Please note, **course offerings are subject to change and classes may be full by the time of enrollment appointments** but it is the student's responsibility to ensure all major requirements are met. **Students need to consult with their WACD Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer every quarter to confirm specific course selections for their major.**

FIRST YEAR (15-16 units per quarter with added University/School required courses)		
<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Dance 1 (5 units)	Dance 16 or 70 (2 units)	Dance 70 (2 units) -If not taken prior term
Dance 16 or 70 (2 units)	Dance 44 (5 units)	Dance 45 (4 units)
Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)
Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)

SOPHOMORE YEAR (14-18 units per quarter with added University/School required courses)		
<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Dance 67A (4 units)**	Dance 67B (4 units) **	Dance Focus (2-5 units)
Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)
Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)

JUNIOR YEAR (12-20 units per quarter with added University/School required courses)		
<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Dance 117A or 117B (4 units) **	Dance 117A or 117B (4 units) **	DANCE 101 (5 Units)
Dance Focus course (2-5 units)	Dance Focus course (2-5 units)	Dance Focus course (2-5 units)
Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)
Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)

SENIOR YEAR (12-18 units per quarter with added University/School required courses)		
<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Dance Focus course (2-5 units) – If not taken prior & completed	Dance Focus course (2-5 units) – If not taken prior & completed	Dance Focus course (2-5 units) – If not taken prior & completed
	Optional Sr Honors Project (DANCE 186A) (4 units)	Optional Sr Honors Project (DANCE 186B) (4 units)
Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)
Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)	Movement Practice (2 units)

*General Education (GE) and School requirement courses, ideally should be completed by the end of junior year, if not prior.

- Dance 1 will fulfill the A&A Diversity Requirement
- Dance 44 will fulfill the Visual and Performance Arts Analysis GE

**DANCE 16, 67A and 67B are prerequisites of 117A/117B and should be taken in that order; and Dance 44 and 45 are prerequisites of 101 and should also be taken in that order.

**117A and 117B may be taken out of sequence.

Sample Schedule for an Incoming TRANSFER Student

Below is a sample two-year plan outlining the graduation requirements for an entering transfer student pursuing the Dance Major. **This plan assumes that all general education requirements (including the Foreign Language Requirement) have been met. The plan also assumes that the student will have received at least 20 quarter units of Dance Movement Practice credits at the time of their entrance into the major.**

Courses in **BOLD** are the required lower and upper division courses for the major and should be taken any quarter during the year indicated when available. This sample schedule is a **suggestion** as to how a student may complete their major in order to graduate within 2 years. Please note, **course offerings are subject to change and classes may be full by the time of enrollment appointments** but it is the student's responsibility to ensure all major requirements are met. **Students need to consult with their WACD Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer every quarter to confirm specific course selections for their major.**

JUNIOR YEAR (13-20 units per quarter including any added outside courses)		
<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Dance 1 (5 units)	Dance 44 (5 units)	Dance 45 (4 units)
Dance 16 or 70 (2 units)	Dance 67A (4units)	Dance 67B (4 units)
Dance Focus course (2-5 units)	Dance 16 or 70 (2 units)	Dance Focus course (2-5 units)
	Dance Focus course (2-5 units)	Dance Focus course (2-5 units)
Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)
Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)
Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units) or Dance 70 – <i>if not taken prior</i>

SENIOR YEAR (16-20 units per quarter including any added outside courses)		
<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Dance 117A or 117B (4 units)	Dance 117A or 117B (4 units)	Dance 101 (5 units)
Dance Focus course (2-5 units) – <i>If not taken prior & completed</i>	Dance Focus course (2-5 units) – <i>If not taken prior & completed</i>	Dance Focus course (2-5 units) – <i>If not taken prior & completed</i>
	Optional Sr. Honors Project (DANCE 186A - 4 units)	Optional Sr. Honors Project (DANCE 186B - 4 units)
Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)
Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)
(Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)	Technique (2 units)

**DANCE 16, 67A and 67B are prerequisites of 117A/117B and should be taken in that order; and Dance 44 and 45 are prerequisites of 101 and should also be taken in that order.

**117A and 117B may be taken out of sequence.

SENIOR PROJECT IN DANCE

The Senior Project in Dance (Dance 186A and 186B) is an OPTION for the Dance major. The Senior Project in Dance is intended as a capstone experience, a creative culmination of students' studies in WACD. It is an in-depth, rigorous endeavor; an opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge that each student has accumulated. It can be a launchpad for individual career vectors. Through these projects, individual students begin developing networks of relationships with others working in their fields of interest both within and outside the university. Only the strongest proposals will be considered.

The collective aspect of the experience is also very important. By tracking and supporting each other's processes, students will have the opportunity to problem-solve, to hone critical thinking skills across disciplinary lines, and to develop abilities to articulate that thinking.

The Senior Project in Dance course sequence meets both winter and spring quarter of the senior year with the final presentation of the project in the spring quarter showcase.

Preparation for the Senior Project in Dance:

Students planning to present Senior Projects will work closely with the instructor in the winter and spring in order to be appropriately prepared to present their work publicly. Students are required to complete the following courses prior to or by the winter term: Dance 67A, 67B, 117A and 117B. In addition to the required DANCE 70 production credit, performance-based students are strongly encouraged to take DANCE C171 (Topics in Production Design) to strengthen their knowledge of production. Prior completion of choreographic or project-creation work must be evident. Students are strongly encouraged to present choreographic works on or off campus prior to beginning their Senior Project in Dance. If a student's project involves a video component, they are required to have successfully completed a video production course (such as DANCE C180) prior to Winter quarter of their senior year.

Students making presentations based on projects they have undertaken in the community, either as part of a school system or as community-based projects, are expected to have completed an individual course of study at UCLA specifically relevant to their project. For example, if a student wishes to develop a presentation around their work in the schools, they would complete coursework through such departments as WACD, The Visual and Performing Arts Education Minor (VAPAE), Education, Arts Education, etc. so as to better prepare prior to their Senior Project in Dance work.

Students planning to use video, HTML-based web design, or computer graphics must have prior experience in these technologies. Students planning to work collaboratively or to create interdisciplinary projects that cross the boundary between scholarship and performance should be prepared to specify their plans in considerable detail. (While we do want to encourage collaborative work, students should be aware that expectations for a project involving two creators are twice as high as those for an individual project.)

NOTES:

1. **Students must meet with their Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer at least once every quarter.**
2. To be considered a full-time student (*especially for the purpose of financial aid*), students **must** be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units each quarter.
3. **All courses for the major MUST be taken for a letter-grade. The only exception is when the course is ONLY offered as Pass/No Pass.**
4. Students must carry a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.0 GPA from the previous quarter (with all courses passed) in order to take over 20 units in any given quarter. To take over 20 units any quarter requires approval by The School of the Arts and Architecture (students@arts.ucla.edu).
5. Students are required to complete 40 units of Movement Practice, which is approximately two movement courses per quarter. Should a student become injured during any given quarter, they will need to discuss the injury with their instructor(s) to assess whether the student will be unable to participate in more than two weeks of their movement practice course(s). If the instructor(s) determines that the injury will prevent the student from participating in their course(s) for more than two weeks, the student is **highly recommended** to DROP the course(s). The deadline to DROP non-impacted courses is the Friday of 4th week each quarter and students can drop through MyUCLA. Should the injury occur after the 4th week of instruction, the student is responsible for obtaining the LATE DROP petition from the Student Affairs Office (148 Kaufman) or the Office of Student Services (2200 Broad). Both the student and instructor will need to fill out the front and back of the petition explaining the type of injury, why the student is unable to participate in more than two weeks of instruction, and submit the petition to the Office of Student Services as soon as possible. Please note, that approved LATE DROP petitions are assessed a LATE DROP fee and the drop will be noted on the transcript. Students who acquire an injury are also encouraged to reach out to the Center for Accessible Education to request any needed support. More information about Dropping Classes: <https://registrar.ucla.edu/registration-classes/study-list/drop-a-class>
6. **DANCE 70 is offered every quarter. This required class offers credit to students when they help with the production of a departmental performance or event.**
 - a. **First Year students should take this course by the end of their sophomore year**
 - b. **Transfer students should take this course by the end of their first year**
7. Senior Projects (Dance 186A & 186B) are **OPTIONAL** and not required. Students should consult with the Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer for more information.
8. Transfer course equivalents for the major can be determined when meeting with your Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer.
9. Refer to UCLA's School of the Arts and Architecture Proficiency and General Education Requirements for University/School requirements in order to graduate.
10. **UCLA requires that of the minimum 180 units required to graduate, at least 64 units must be at the upper division level, and 12 units must be designated as Upper Division Non-Major.**
11. Students planning on studying abroad must receive pre-approval from the School of the Arts and Architecture. It is **highly recommended** for students to meet with your Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer for course planning **before** planning to apply for a study abroad program.

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES/DANCE

WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES MAJOR

I. Preparation for the major - 25 Units

A. Required courses:

WL ARTS 1	Intro to World Arts and Cultures	5 units
WL ARTS 2	Lower Division Seminar	5 units
WL ARTS 20	Culture: An Introduction	5 units
WL ARTS 24	World Arts/Local Lives	5 units
WL ARTS 33	Colonialisms and Resistances	5 units

II. The Major - 49 Units

A. Required core courses (24 units):

WL ARTS 100A/B	Art as Moral Action or Art as Social Action	5 units
WL ARTS 102	Upper Division Seminar	5 units
WL ARTS 104	Representations: Theories and Practices	5 units
WL ARTS 124	Intro to Field-Based Research Methods	5 units
WL ARTS 185	Junior Proposal	4 units

B. Electives (25 units)

WL ARTS 102	Upper-Division Seminar*	5 units
WL ARTS 103	Arts in Communities	5 units
WL ARTS CM113B	Legislative Theater for Race and Gender Justice	5 units
WL ARTS M113D	Spoken Word Workshop: Creative Writing and Performance Practicum	5 units
WL ARTS 120	Topics in Cultural Studies	4 units
WL ARTS 121	Ethnography and Performance	4 units
WL ARTS 122	Healing Across Cultures	4 units
WL ARTS 123	Race, Nation, and Media Histories	4 units
WL ARTS M126	Whose Monument Where	4 units
WL ARTS 127	Autotheory	4 units
WL ARTS M128	Chicana Arts and Artists	4 units
WL ARTS 132	Narrative and Oral Performance	4 units
WL ARTS 133	Textiles of the World	4 units
WL ARTS 135	Women of Color and Social Movement	5 units
WL ARTS C138	American Indian Arts in Performance	4 units
WL ARTS C139	Afro-Caribbean Ritual Arts	4 units
WL ARTS CM140XP	Healing, Ritual, and Transformation	4 units
WL ARTS C142	Myth and Ritual	4 units
WL ARTS 143B	Intro to Museology: Exhibitions & Education	5 units
WL ARTS 144	Make Art/Stop AIDS	5 units
WL ARTS C145	Curating Cultures	4 units
WL ARTS C146	Politics of Performance	4 units
WL ARTS C150	Critical Ethnographies	5 units
WL ARTS C151	Ethnography of Religions	4 units
WL ARTS C152	Visual Cultures	4 units
WL ARTS C158	Theorizing Arts Activism	4 units
WL ARTS C159	Art and Global Health	4 units
WL ARTS 160	Performing Sexual Health: UCLA Sex Squad	4 units
WL ARTS CM168	Art-Making Beyond the Campus	4 units
WL ARTS C170	Island Movements	5 units
WL ARTS C171	Stages of Justice: Law and Society in the Work of August Wilson	5 units
WL ARTS 174A	Projects in World Arts and Cultures	2 units
WL ARTS 174B	Projects in World Arts and Cultures	4 units
WL ARTS 177XP	Taking Action: Arts Practice and Community Service	4 units
WL ARTS 178	Advanced Private Instruction	2-8 units
WL ARTS M179	Food Activism in Los Angeles: Narrating Pasts, Imagining Futures	5 units
WL ARTS C180	Variable Topics in Video Production/Practice	4 units
WL ARTS 181	Ethnographic Film	4 units
WL ARTS C182	Film and Feminism	5 units
WL ARTS 183	The Video Essay	4 units
WL ARTS C184	Documentary: Theories and Approaches	5 units

WL ARTS M187	Indigenous Film	5 units
WL ARTS 195	Community or Corporate Internship	2-4 units
WL ARTS 199	Directed Research	2-5 units
<i>Or other upper division courses with faculty approval via petition with student affairs officer</i>		

*102 Upper Division Seminar is a core course requirement for the major. May be repeated once for credit, as an upper division elective.

C. Optional SENIOR PRAXIS PROJECT:

Students may choose to create a body of work, portfolio, senior community research or service-learning project in consultation with faculty. Instead of 25 units from the list of electives above (II.B.), students would instead be required to take 15 units from that list of electives, and then the 10 units below:

- a. WL ARTS 186A Senior Praxis Projects (5 units – winter)
- b. WL ARTS 186B Senior Praxis Projects (5 units – spring)

Junior Proposal WL ARTS 185 (core requirement) is a pre-requisite to Senior Praxis Projects WL ARTS 186A/B and should be taken junior year to meet the requisite.

TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED: 74

Petition Process (courses from other departments to count for WAC):

While the intention is that students are completing 25 units of upper division electives within the WAC major, there is also the opportunity to meet upper division elective requirements with other upper division courses (with faculty approval via petition with student affairs officer). Please rest assured that the WAC major has long enjoyed being interdisciplinary and drawing from many forms. You will find many courses across campus that can be petitioned to count as WAC electives. To alleviate any concerns about being able to matriculate to your degree, please keep in mind that UC policy allows for students to petition courses across to campus to count as their department's courses when the courses cover similar materials and rely on similar student skills.

If you'd like to petition outside coursework, please fill out a **Blue Petition** and provide rationale (and the courses syllabus) for consideration. Our Student Affairs Office will route the forms to the appropriate faculty members for review and approvals. Please do so as soon as you can so that we can get you pre-approvals and you can enroll in courses before they fill beyond capacity. **Please email your WAC advisor to begin this process.**

Sample Schedule for an Incoming FIRST YEAR Student

Below is a sample four-year plan outlining the graduation requirements for an **entering first year student** pursuing the World Arts & Cultures Major. Courses in **BOLD** are the required lower and upper division core courses for the major and should be taken any quarter during the year indicated when available. This sample schedule is a **recommendation** as to how a student may complete their major in order to graduate within 4 years. Please note, **course offerings are subject to change and classes may be full by the time of enrollment appointments** but it is the student's responsibility to ensure all major requirements are met. **Students need to consult with their WACD Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer every quarter to confirm specific course selections for their major.**

FIRST YEAR (12-15 units per quarter with added University/School required courses)		
Required course offerings may vary by quarter, but are guaranteed to be offered during the academic year. These courses are recommended for year 1 regardless of when they are offered. Please review Schedule of Classes and Course Brochures.		
WL ARTS 1 (5 units)	WL ARTS 20 (5 units) WL ARTS 33 (5 units)	WL ARTS 2 (5 units) WL ARTS 24 (5 units)

SOPHOMORE YEAR (14-20 units per quarter with added University/School required courses)		
Required course offerings may vary by quarter, but are guaranteed to be offered during the academic year. These courses are recommended for year 2 regardless of when they are offered. Please review Schedule of Classes and Course Brochures.		
Elective Course (4-5 units)	Elective Course (4-5 units)	WL ARTS 102 (5 units) Elective Course (4-5 units)

JUNIOR YEAR (12-15 units per quarter with added University/School required courses)		
Required course offerings may vary by quarter, but are guaranteed to be offered during the academic year. These courses are recommended for year 3 regardless of when they are offered. Please review Schedule of Classes and Course Brochures.		
WL ARTS 100 A/B (5 units) Elective Course (4-5 units)	WL ARTS 124 (5 units) Elective Course (4-5 units)	WL ARTS 104 (5 units) WL ARTS 185 (4 units)

SENIOR YEAR (12-14 units per quarter with added University/School required courses)		
Required course offerings may vary by quarter, but are guaranteed to be offered during the academic year. These courses are recommended for year 4 regardless of when they are offered. Please review Schedule of Classes and Course Brochures.		
Elective Course (4-5 units)	Optional Senior Praxis Project (186A – 5 units)	Optional Senior Praxis Project (186B – 5 units)

*General Education and School requirement courses, ideally should be completed by the end of junior year, if not prior.

- WL Arts 1 fulfill the A&A Diversity Requirement
- WL Arts 33 will fulfill the Philosophical and Linguistic Analysis **OR** the Social Analysis GE

*Students **must** enroll into WL ARTS 185 (Junior Proposal) during their junior year. It is also a pre-requisite course for students choosing the optional Senior Praxis Project.

Sample Schedule for an Incoming TRANSFER Student

Below is a sample two-year plan outlining the graduation requirements for an **entering transfer student pursuing the World Arts & Cultures Major**. **This plan assumes that all general education requirements (including the Foreign Language Requirement) have been met.**

Courses in **BOLD** are the required lower and upper division required core courses for the major and should be taken any quarter during the year indicated when available. This sample schedule is a **recommendation** as to how a student may complete their major in order to graduate within 2 years. Please note, **course offerings are subject to change and classes may be full by the time of enrollment appointments** but it is the student's responsibility to ensure all major requirements are met. **Students need to consult with their WACD Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer every quarter to confirm specific course selections for their major.**

JUNIOR YEAR (14-16 units per quarter including any added outside courses)		
Required course offerings may vary by quarter, but are guaranteed to be offered during the academic year. These courses are recommended for year 1 regardless of when they are offered. Please review Schedule of Classes and Course Brochures.		
WL ARTS 1 (5 units) WL ARTS 100A/B (5 units) Elective Course (4-5 units)	WL ARTS 20 (5 units) WL ARTS 33 (5 units) Elective Course (4-5 units)	WL ARTS 2 (5 units) WL ARTS 24 (5 units) WL ARTS 185 (4 units)

SENIOR YEAR (12-19 units per quarter including any added outside courses)		
Required course offerings may vary by quarter, but are guaranteed to be offered during the academic year. These courses are recommended for year 2 regardless of when they are offered. Please review Schedule of Classes and Course Brochures.		
Elective Course (4-5 units) Elective Course (4-5 units)	WL ARTS 124 (5 units) Elective Course (4-5 units) Optional Senior Praxis Project (186A – 5 units)	WL ARTS 102 (5 units) WL ARTS 104 (5 units) Elective Course (4-5 units) Optional Senior Praxis Project (186B – 5 units)

*Students **must** enroll into WL ARTS 185 (Junior Proposal) during their junior year. It is also a pre-requisite course for students choosing the optional Senior Praxis Project.

* Transfer students entering as second year students should discuss alternatives with their WAC Student Affairs Officer and the Office of Student Services and make use of the FIRST YEAR sample schedule as well for an overview of the SOPHOMORE YEAR.

WAC SENIOR PRAXIS PROJECT

WAC majors have the **OPTION** to complete 10 units of the “Senior Praxis Project” during their senior year. The learning acquired through the Senior Praxis Project is designed as a capstone of the senior experience within the WAC major. The senior project provides students an opportunity to explore an area, or areas of interest specific to the WAC Major. WAC majors who complete the “Senior Praxis Project” are only expected to take 15 units of electives, instead of 25 units, as the WL ARTS 186A/B courses are 5 units each (Winter & Spring).

Senior Praxis Project (WL ARTS 186A and 186B)

A project requires a student to develop an arts based or academic project on a topic that interests them and falls within their stream of specialization. The Senior Praxis Project may take the form of a thesis paper, documentary film, performance piece, exhibition, etc. The range of projects is vast and we strongly encourage experimental and creative modes of thinking and making.

In order to develop a Senior Praxis Project, students will enroll in WAC 186A in the Winter to begin developing their project; then students will enroll in WAC 186B in the Spring to finalize and present their project. Students who undertake a Senior Praxis Project have strong theoretical and practical skills through course-work and are prepared to execute a project they have envisioned with a high-degree of motivation and independence in work.

WL ARTS 185 Junior Proposal is a pre-requisite course for students choosing the optional Senior Praxis Project.

NOTES:

1. **Students must meet with their Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer at least once every quarter.**
2. To be considered a full-time student (*especially for the purpose of financial aid*), students **must** be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units each quarter.
3. **All courses for the major MUST be taken for a letter-grade. The only exception is when the course is ONLY offered as Pass/No Pass.**
4. Students must carry a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.0 GPA from the previous quarter (with all courses passed) in order to take over 20 units in any given quarter. To take over 20 units any quarter requires approval by The School of the Arts and Architecture (students@arts.ucla.edu).
5. **WL ARTS 20 is a pre-requisite for WL ARTS 104.**
6. **WL ARTS 185 Junior Proposal is a pre-requisite for the optional Senior Praxis Projects.**
7. **The Senior Praxis Project is OPTIONAL. Students should consult with the Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer for more information in the Spring term of their junior year.**
8. Transfer course equivalents for the major can be determined when meeting with the WAC Advisor.
9. Refer to UCLA's School of the Arts and Architecture Proficiency and General Education Requirements for University/School requirements in order to graduate. The following link provides general UCLA information: <https://registrar.ucla.edu/academics/ge-requirement/campuswide-ge-requirements-overview>
10. **UCLA requires that of the minimum 180 units required to graduate, at least 64 units must be at the upper division level, and 12 units must be designated as Upper Division Non-Major.**
11. Students planning on studying abroad must receive pre-approval from the School of the Arts and Architecture. It is **highly recommended** for students to meet with the WACD Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer for course planning **before** planning to apply for a study abroad program.

WACDAC

World Arts and Cultures Advisory Council (WACDAC) is the vehicle for undergraduate student representation. Comprised of a group of student volunteers who meet on a quarterly basis with the department's Vice Chair of Undergraduate Affairs (Vic Marks) and Student Affairs Officers (Ashley Pham and Rafael Gayoso), WACDAC members serve as representatives of the student body. It is here that students, faculty and staff communicate opportunities, possibilities, challenges, and concerns that will build and strengthen curricular and extracurricular experience within the department.

Students from each year of both BA programs, plus a transfer student serve as representatives. For information about participation, please contact: wacd-ug-sao@arts.ucla.edu

WACsmash

WACsmash is an annual showcase and gallery of dance, film, music, spoken word, photography, and other artistic work created and produced by undergraduate students in the World Arts and Cultures/Dance Department (WAC/D). WACsmash is associated with the World Arts and Cultures Undergraduate Society (WACUS). Our mission is to promote leadership and collaboration within WAC/D, support the creative exploration of various artistic media, and provide an opportunity for creators and performers to present their work. Performing arts pieces are showcased at our very own theatre spaces in Kaufman Hall, and visual art pieces are exhibited in pop-up galleries, a visual arts exhibition in a theatre space, as well as shared with the performing arts space

For more information, find us on Instagram @wacsmash or via email - wacsmash@gmail.com

KAUFMAN HALL RESOURCES

Dance Studios

The Kaufman Hall studios are reserved for use by currently enrolled, WACD majors and WACD faculty. Policies, procedures, application for use of facilities, room availability, hours of operation, and booking information is posted in the WACD Administration Office (GKH-150).

<https://www.wacd.ucla.edu/about/facilities>

Lockers

A limited number of department-issued lockers is available to WACD majors. Lockers will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis at the beginning of the fall quarter. Bruin Card required for access. Please contact Arsenio Apillanes, arsenioa@arts.ucla.edu for locker availability, application, and additional information.

Campus Safety

<https://transportation.ucla.edu/traffic-and-safety/campus-safety>

Phones – Campus telephones (restricted to intra-campus calls) are located on the first floor near the southeast stairs, on the second floor near the restrooms and in most studios. To dial a campus telephone number, dial the last five digits of the number.

- **911** - EMERGENCY
- (310) 825-1491 – UCLA Police Department
 - Contact the UCLA Police Department to report a crime or other incident on campus, or to receive immediate help. You can contact the UCLA Police Department, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- (310) 794-9255 – Campus Escort Service
- (310) 825-9800 - Evening Van Service
- (310) 825-4321 – Campus Information

Student Study Room (GKH-155B)

Bruin Card access is restricted to WACD majors only. Please contact the building manager, Arsenio Apillanes (arsenioa@arts.ucla.edu), for access enrollment and room reservations.

Rainbow Lounge (GKH-155)

Announcements regarding classes and special events on campus and around the community are posted on the bulletin board. This room is occasionally reserved for special events.

Vending Machines/Graduate Mailboxes (GKH-155A)

UCLA Vending Services maintains two vending machines that provide snacks and beverages. Message boxes for all WACD graduate students are also located in this room. Message boxes should not be used for US mail, confidential/sensitive materials.

Video Lab

The video lab (GKH-145) is a self-service video editing/dubbing suite. Short-term video camera loans are available to approved, WACD students for support of research, experimentation and study required for the successful completion of their degree.

<https://wacd.ucla.edu/about/facilities/video-lab>

Access limited to:

- Students currently enrolled in WAC-C180, Video Production.
- Students who have successfully completed WAC-C180 and have faculty sponsorship for special projects.

For more information, please visit the main office to be connected with the Video Lab Manager.

Social Practice Art Lab (SPAL)

The Social Practice Art Lab is designed to give WACD students a space to come together, envision, and model their artistic practice in conversation with community. With an emphasis on sketching out possible ideas, the space can facilitate up to 16 students and is available for booking during regular Kaufman Hall hours. The lab's policies, required affirmation form, handbook and reservation process are available in the undergraduate Bruin Learn, at the top of [Modules](#).

WACD UNDERGRADUATE ANNOUNCEMENTS LISTSERVS

Students will be automatically added to the WACD Undergraduate Listserv google groups. This is a resource for students to receive announcements (jobs, internships, scholarships, free tickets, etc) from the WACD Student Affairs Office that come from our community. Direct advisor E-mails are typically reserved for academic matters.

For access, students should accept an invitation from the: Wacdugdanceannouncements@lists.ucla.edu or Wacdugwacannouncements@lists.ucla.edu google group.

WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES / DANCE LEADERSHIP & FACULTY

2026-2027

Department Chair: *Aparna Sharma*

Undergraduate Program Lead, World Arts and Cultures: *David Delgado Shorter*

Undergraduate Program Lead, Dance: *Tria Blu Wakpa*

Graduate Program Lead, Choreographic Inquiry MFA: *Kate Ladenheim*

Graduate Program Lead, Culture and Performance PhD: *Rebekah J. Kowal*

Please visit our website to view all of our department's current faculty:

<https://www.wacd.ucla.edu/people/faculty>

UCLA CAMPUS RESOURCES

SOAA Office of Student Services

Broad Art Center, Room 2200 ● students@arts.ucla.edu ● <https://arts.ucla.edu/resource/current-students/>

They are the "Big Picture" people. OSS helps with everything from excess units, GE/proficiency petitions, double major or minor planning and discussion, and much more. An excellent office to start with for ANY non-major questions.

BASIC NEEDS

basicneeds.ucla.edu

UCLA Basic Needs aims to eliminate student hunger and homelessness. We believe every student should not have to sacrifice their health and nutrition in pursuit of their degree.

BRUIN RESOURCE CENTER (BRC)

B44 Student Activities Center ● www.brc.ucla.edu

The UCLA Bruin Resource Center (BRC) can enrich your experience by providing valuable resources, services and learning opportunities and by promoting a supportive and inclusive campus community. The BRC serves all UCLA students, with a particular focus on:

- Current and Former Foster Youth
- Veteran Students
- Undocumented Students

The BRC also offers programs that promote holistic development and education of the student and the larger campus community.

CAREER

501 Westwood Plaza (at Strathmore), Floors Two and Three ● career.ucla.edu

The Career Center offers a variety of resources as well as individual and group advising:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • volunteer positions | • international scholarships |
| • career guides | • international traveling |
| • career week | • internships abroad |
| • on-campus recruitment | • short-term work abroad |
| • Handshake online jobs & internships | • teaching abroad |

They offer Drop in, Appointment, and Online counseling. Check the website for more information.

Drop-In CAREER Counseling (Strathmore, 3rd Floor/Virtual)

The UCLA Career Center provides Drop-In Counseling for undergraduate and graduate students throughout the year. It's a great opportunity to meet one-on-one with a career counselor without a prior appointment, and is the first step in the career counseling process.

Drop-In sessions last approximately 15 minutes, are on a first-come-first-served basis. They are designed to address students' immediate questions and needs, such as:

- Career exploration and job internship search resources
- Resume and cover letter critiques
- Graduate school and pre-professional guidance
- Referrals to appropriate Career Center and campus services

CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION (CAE)

A255 Murphy Hall • www.cae.ucla.edu

UCLA's Center for Accessible Education (CAE) facilitates academic accommodations for regularly enrolled, matriculating students with disabilities. The CAE provides access to the numerous educational opportunities available to students on our campus and empowers students to realize their academic potential.

To obtain disability-related accommodations and services through the CAE, students should complete a Request for Services form and upload appropriate documentation. Students may also download and complete a printable version of the Request for Services form and email or fax it to the CAE at (310) 825-9656.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

John Wooden Center West • www.counseling.ucla.edu

The UCLA campus community is diverse in every way imaginable, and engaging with students with different gifts, backgrounds and sensibilities is one of the most exhilarating aspects of life at UCLA. The diverse counselors and clinicians at CAP are knowledgeable in a variety of areas, but they share one core passion: helping students to flourish while pursuing their personal and educational goals.

While the transition to UCLA can be an exciting challenge, some students may be coping with personal, financial, health and other stressors. The Counseling Center is available to support student growth and development, and to help students restore balance, build strength, gain emotional resiliency and increase personal well-being. Crisis Counseling is available 24-hours a day by phone.

Resilience In your Student Experience (Rise) is an affiliate program and physical extension of UCLA's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). The RISE Center is a holistic wellness hub that provides an array of programs, classes, trainings, and self-directed resources to foster and support resilience, connection, and well-being for our UCLA community. <https://risecenter.ucla.edu/>

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OFFICE (CPO)

Student Activities Center, 220 Westwood Plaza, Suite 105 • www.cpo.ucla.edu

The Community Programs Office (CPO) serves as an umbrella department for the Student Initiated Outreach Center, Student Retention Center, and twenty five student-initiated community service projects. The CPO strives to increase students from undeserved communities' access to higher education, retention in the university, and graduation rates while also serving as a conscious effort in the community, working towards the empowerment of all people.

DASHEW CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS

106 Bradley Hall ● www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu

The Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars (DCISS) enhances the UCLA experience for international students and scholars and promotes global connection through services to the university community. Staff members are international educators who uphold the highest professional standards and meet the needs of students and scholars with cultural sensitivity and awareness. They advise, counsel, advocate, ensure regulatory compliance and create learning and community involvement opportunities through their programs and events.

UCLA OFFICE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Murphy Hall ● <https://equity.ucla.edu/>

UCLA's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) leads and advances strategies for enhancing equity, diversity and inclusion; protecting civil rights; and upholding dignity for all in our community.

To report an incident of discrimination or harassment: <https://equity.ucla.edu/report-an-incident/>

LGBTQ CAMPUS RESOURCE CENTER (LGBTQ CRC)

B36 Student Activities Center ● www.lgbtq.ucla.edu

The UCLA Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Campus Resource Center at UCLA offers a comprehensive range of education and advocacy services supporting intersectional identity development as well as fostering unity, wellness, and an open safe, and inclusive environment for UCLA's LGBTQ+ community.

UCLA LIBRARY – ARTS LIBRARY – ARTS LIBRARIAN

<https://www.library.ucla.edu/location/arts-library>

The Arts Library has more than 300,000 volumes in the fields of architecture, architectural history, art, art history, design, fashion and costume, film, television, photography, theater, urban design, and allied disciplines.

WACD Librarian - Diana King ● diking@library.ucla.edu ● <https://www.library.ucla.edu/staff/diana-l-king>

UCLA TRANSFER STUDENT CENTER

Kerckhoff Hall 128 ● <https://transfers.ucla.edu/>

The Transfer Student Center is UCLA's central hub for all things transfer! It is the UCLA Transfer Student Center's mission to provide transfer students resources and programming that connects them to the university and supports them so they can achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals as they progress through their educational journey.

Undergraduate Research Center: The Center for the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

A334 Murphy Hall ● hass.ugresearch.ucla.edu

The Undergraduate Research Center for the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences serves all students in humanities, arts, social science, and behavioral science disciplines. Conducting research as an undergraduate is an excellent way to gain experiences and skills that will benefit you both academically and professionally. In addition to providing an opportunity to explore your areas of interest in depth,

undergraduate research encourages you to develop skills in collaborative learning and critical thinking. For students interested in pursuing graduate school, undergraduate research is a way of expanding your education outside of the classroom and preparing yourself for the rigors of graduate study. Even if you are unsure about graduate studies, conducting undergraduate research is a great way to develop skills that are useful for a variety of careers, as well as to test the suitability of a research-oriented career to your interests.

UNDERGRADUATE WRITING CENTER

<https://uwc.ucla.edu/>

The Undergraduate Writing Center is a free service for all UCLA students. They provide one-on-one appointments. They are happy to work with you on course papers, capstone projects, senior thesis papers or application materials (resumes, CVs, statements of purpose or cover letters).

FUNDING SOURCES IN PROGRAMMING

The following organizations look for well-organized projects, which not only benefit the specific interests of one particular group or organization, but also encourage student participation from other disciplines and departments on campus.

Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement (SOLE) (formerly the Center for Student Programming)

105 Kerckhoff Hall • www.sole.ucla.edu

UCLA Performing Arts Student Committee

B6 Royce Hall • www.sca.ucla.edu

SERVICE LEARNING AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Experience in the communities of Los Angeles can benefit you in the following ways:

- It can give you a broader view of the arts in contemporary society
- You have the opportunity to learn from community leaders, professionals, and activists
- It challenges you to apply current knowledge and develop new skills
- You can engage in career exploration and refine your future goals

WL ARTS 195 “Community or Corporate Internships in World Arts and Cultures” (2 to 4 units)

Tutorial, six hours. Internship in supervised setting in community agency or business. Students meet on regular basis with instructor and provide periodic reports of their experience. May be repeated for maximum of 8 units. Individual contract with supervising faculty member required. P/NP or letter grading.

UCLA Center for Community Engagement

A265 Murphy Hall • communityengagement.ucla.edu

The Center for Community Engagement supports civic engagement for UCLA undergraduates and faculty through the integration of teaching, research and service alongside community partners. The Center actively promotes good citizenship, leadership and social justice through service learning, internships and other community-based learning experiences. In collaboration with campus academic departments, the Center offers UCLA undergraduates the opportunity to participate in civic engagement through a variety of structured, rigorous academic courses that link theory with practice. The research interests of faculty and students are connected to the needs and priorities of community partners throughout Los Angeles and in the state, nation and larger global community.

STUDY ABROAD

The UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP)

1332 Murphy Hall • www.ieo.ucla.edu/uceap

UCEAP strives to develop world citizens who understand, appreciate, and contribute positively to a rapidly changing world. UCEAP facilitates the internationalization of the higher education experience through the recruitment, preparation, support, and integration of UCLA and visiting exchange students involved in UCEAP study abroad. More information about UCEAP, their academic programs, selection criteria, program costs, and financial assistance, can be found online.

Study abroad offers a unique opportunity for students to explore another culture while earning credit towards graduation. Through UCEAP, the University of California system offers over 140 exchange programs in more than 30 countries. Students can spend a summer, semester or year abroad. Courses taken abroad may be counted towards major, minor or GE requirements. Some programs also offer students the possibility to do field work, independent research or an internship abroad.

Non-UC Study Abroad

1332 Murphy Hall • www.ieo.ucla.edu/nonucprograms

If EAP, Travel Study and UCLA Exchange aren't right for you, a variety of other programs are available that staff can help you explore. Students are encouraged to speak with a counselor in the International Education Office before signing up for a non-UC study abroad program. Advisors can help you choose a reputable program and offer advice on transfer credit.