



1/26/10

✓  
To: Jennifer Payne, Curriculum Coordinator, Office of the Registrar

Matthew Winslow, Acting Associate Registrar, Information and Systems Support, Office of the Registrar

Fr: Betsy Cooper, Director Dance Program *BC*

Re: Offering Dance Studio Technique Courses for C/NC

The Dance Faculty has been in discussion for more than a year regarding the use of the 4.0 grading system for studio-based technique courses. We believe the use of a letter system would be in far greater accordance with our assessment of dance students but this is not an option to us. Each quarter we labor over student grades. Should a student receive a 3.6 or 3.7 for ballet technique, a 3.2 versus 3.3 for their work in modern dance technique? Rationalizing these slight differences is a painstaking process and we all wonder what do these numbers actually communicate to our technique students. If we worked in a traditional dance conservatory we would assess students purely on the basis of their dance technique— an assessment that would necessitate evaluating and quantifying body types, agility, flexibility, and other physical characteristics. As a B.A. program firmly rooted in the liberal arts tradition, we do not assess students on physical attributes, nor do we make evaluations solely on the basis of their dance technique. If we were to adopt such a policy, many of students would not receive satisfactory grades, despite tremendous effort and tenacity of spirit. Many of our students begin to study dance while at college and in many cases do not have possess the physical attributes one associates with a professional or aspiring professional dancer. Thus, our metrics for grading technique students include some of the following:

- Level of participation in the course---preparedness for class
- Engagement with the course material---demonstrating a willingness to take risks in the acquisition of new material
- Ability to observe corrections from instructors/peers and incorporate this information into technical/artistic practice on a consistent basis

In addition, faculty members routinely confer with students on an individual basis to evaluate their work in the studio and suggest strategies for improvement. We believe our ongoing assessment and dialogue with students is far more meaningful than the final numerical grade.

In light of our discussions, we would like to offer our studio technique courses on a C/NC basis and continue to offer students of technique individual assessment and feedback on an ongoing basis. We will have a retreat early in spring quarter to develop a set of minimal requirements for awarding credit in technique courses. Our program is not alone in selecting this type of grading system for technique courses. The dance programs at Stanford and UC Riverside are among some of the institutions using a C/NC grading system. In addition, many of the ensemble courses offered by the UW School of Music (MUSEN 35,180, 200, 201, 207, 340) are C/NC courses. We believe a transition from numerically graded to C/NC assessment will foster an enhanced level of experimentation, risk taking and artistic exploration in our courses. We expect that far fewer students will attend class with a contagious illness because they are concerned about how absences from class will negatively their GPA. And finally, we suspect that a transition to a C/NC system will combat the issue of grade inflation in studio based movement courses.

We would like to offer the following courses on a C/NC basis:

104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 210, 211, 212, 230, 231, 232, 233, 235, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 324, 371, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406.

search

UW \* The Graduate School

[Admissions](#)[Students](#)[Faculty / Staff / Postdocs](#)[Diversity](#)[Giving](#)[About](#)

## Policies, Procedures, and Requirements

[Graduate School Memoranda](#)  
[Master's Degree](#)  
[Doctoral Degree](#)  
[Graduate Program Coordinators](#)  
[Graduate Courses](#)  
[Repeating Courses](#)  
[Grading System for Graduate Students](#)  
[Scholarship Requirements](#)  
[Academic Probation](#)  
[Withdrawal Policy](#)  
[Enrollment Requirements](#)  
[Final Quarter Registration](#)  
[Continuous Enrollment and On-Leave Policy](#)  
[Readmission](#)  
[Concurrent Degree Programs](#)  
[English Proficiency Requirements](#)

### Quick Links:

[Apply Now](#)  
[MyGrad Program](#)  
[Lectures and Events](#)  
[Policies / Procedures](#)  
[Fellowships / Assistantships](#)  
[Request a Master's Degree](#)  
[Thesis / Dissertation](#)  
[Graduate Faculty Locator](#)  
[UW Press](#)  
[Staff Directory](#)  
[Site Index](#)

### Support:



# Master's Degree Policies

## Master's Degree Requirements

A student must satisfy the requirements for the degree that are in force at the time the degree is to be awarded

1. **At least 36 credits must be completed**
  - All courses numbered 400-799 that are numerically graded 2.7 and above, or have a grade of Satisfactory or Credit ('S' or 'CR') count toward the 36 credit total. 498 'Special Topics' and 499 are not counted in the 36 credit total.
  - Courses graded less than 2.7 do not count towards the 36 credit total.
  - At least 18 credits must be in courses numbered 500 and above.
  - 18 credits must be numerically graded in department approved 400-level courses accepted as part of the major and in 500-level courses. This excludes 498 and 499 and transfer credits.
  - No more than 6 graduate level quarter credits can be transferred from other academic institutions to count toward the 36 credit total.
  - No more than 12 UW Graduate Non-matriculated credits can be applied to the 36 credit total.
  - No more than 12 credits derived from any combination of UW Graduate Non-matriculated credits and transfer credits can be applied to the 36 credit total.
  - If a student repeats a non-repeatable class, only one set of credits counts toward the 36 credit total.
2. **A minimum cumulative GPA (grade point average) of 3.00 is required for a graduate degree at the University**
3. **The Master's Degree Request must be filed**
  - If the Master's Degree Request is filed during weeks ten and eleven it is not accepted. The system is closed.
  - In summer quarter, the Master's Degree Request is filed in weeks eight and nine is not accepted. The system is closed.
4. **Must complete all degree requirements within six years**
  - The timeframe/clock begins on the first day of the quarter that the Graduate Student uses a course to satisfy degree requirements when he/she is coded as either a Graduate Non-Matriculated student (Department Code with class 6) or as a Graduate Student (Department code with class 8) in the department to which he/she is admitted.
  - UW Graduate Non-matriculated credits used towards the 36 course credit total are counted in the six years.
  - Quarters spent On-Leave and out of status are counted in the six years.
5. **Must maintain registration through the end of the quarter in which the degree is conferred or, if eligible, pay the Graduate Registration Waiver Fee within 14 days following the last day of the quarter in which all degree requirements were met.**
6. **Thesis track students are required to take a minimum of 9 thesis credits in their 36 credit total.**
7. **Thesis Track students are required to submit two copies of an acceptably formatted thesis to the Graduate School by 5 pm on the last day of the quarter.**

[HOME](#) | [UW HOME](#) | [CONTACT US](#)[Intranet](#)

© 2009 The Graduate School