

Addendum to the NASD *Handbook 2003-2004*

National Association of Schools of Dance
September 2003

These amendments to the NASD *Handbook 2003-2004* were ratified by the Membership on Saturday, September 13, 2003.

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BYLAWS

Article III. Governance

Section 3. Board of Directors

Amend second sentence of Section 3.a) to read as follows:

The Board shall have Directors from institutions with professional degree programs such as the Bachelor of Fine Arts or Master of Fine Arts; liberal arts and/or academic degree programs such as the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, or Doctor of Philosophy; and professional training that may or may not result in the awarding of a certificate.

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BYLAWS

Article IV. Commission on Accreditation

Section 1. Membership

Item c) Representatives

Amend second sentence of Section 1.c) to read as follows:

The Commission shall have members from institutions with professional degree programs such as the Bachelor of Fine Arts or Master of Fine Arts; liberal arts and/or academic degree programs such as the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, or Doctor of Philosophy; and professional training that may or may not result in the awarding of a certificate.

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BYLAWS

Article V

Standing Committees

Section 2. Membership

Amend last line of item a), and items b) and c), to read as follows:

- a) The Chairs of all Standing Committees shall be elected at an Annual Meeting by majority vote of those eligible to vote as described in Article III of the Constitution. The exception to this rule shall be the Chairmanship of the Committee on Nominations, which shall be filled by the immediate Past President. The Chairs of all other Standing Committees shall be elected by the membership.
- b) Other than the Chair, all members of the Committee on Nominations shall be elected by the membership.
- c) When applicable, all other committee members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

BYLAWS

Article VI

Elections and Appointments

Section 2. Terms of Office

Add a new paragraph between current paragraphs 1 and 2 as follows:

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for three-year terms. A member other than the President or Vice President or Chair of the Commission on Accreditation may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. (The two-term limitation applies only to consecutive terms.)

Add new paragraphs between current paragraphs 2 and 3 as follows:

The Chair of the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by the immediate Past President, and thus will be a term of three years. Other voting members of the Committee on Nominations shall serve one three-year term. (The one-term limitation applies only to consecutive terms.)

The Chair of the Committee on Ethics and any other standing committees shall be elected for one three-year term. Members of the Committee on Ethics and any other standing committees shall be appointed for one three-year term. (The one-term limitation applies only to consecutive terms.)

XVII. STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC TERMINAL DEGREES

A. Practice-Oriented Degrees — The Master of Fine Arts

Replace entire section with the following:

1. *Purpose and Content*

The dance profession and higher education recognize the M.F.A. as a terminal degree in studio-related areas such as dance performance, choreography, reconstruction, design, and technology. Therefore, M.F.A. programs must exhibit the professional intensity and high standards expected of all terminal degree programs. The M.F.A. degree title is appropriate only for graduate-level programs that emphasize full-time professional practice of some aspect of dance performance or choreography. Individuals holding the degree must be practitioners at a high professional level.

Specific programs and procedures applicable to awarding the M.F.A. degree are determined by the institution. Standards and guidelines for these are outlined in section XIV.G above. The necessary components of M.F.A. degrees are (a) creation and performance and (b) advanced studies in related areas such as aesthetics, critical analysis, history, pedagogy, and related humanities.

2. *Credit Hour Requirements*

An M.F.A. program requires the equivalent of at least two years of full-time graduate study, with a minimum of 60 semester credit hours or 90 quarter hours.

3. *A Common Body of Knowledge and Skills for M.F.A. Graduates*

The elements outlined below should be combined and synthesized in an individual exhibiting exceptional artistic skill and a well-developed personal aesthetic. The M.F.A. graduate possesses an ability to articulate and defend, in both oral and written forms, the principles of this personal aesthetic in artistic, scholarly, and pedagogical work; and is able to use this point of view as a driving principle in a context of artistic contributions and in teaching in the content of the discipline.

- a) Professional competence as a dance artist in some aspect of performance-oriented work as exemplified by considerable depth of knowledge and achievement, which is demonstrated by the production of a significant body of work.
- b) A breadth of understanding in dance and related disciplines and the ability to think independently, to integrate, and to synthesize information within the dance discipline and across disciplines.
- c) Knowledge and understanding of the forces that have shaped dance throughout history and as an evolving contemporary art form, including representative works, individuals, styles, cultural contexts, events, movement theories, and dance science and somatics.
- d) Awareness of current issues and developments that impact the field and the potential to contribute to the expansion and evolution of the art, to advocate for the arts, and to explore and address new questions and issues on local, regional, national, and global levels.
- e) Writing and speaking skills to communicate clearly and effectively to the dance community, the public, and in teaching situations.
- f) The ability to work collaboratively and productively within a diverse global community of artists and to acknowledge and respect diverse aesthetic viewpoints.
- g) Familiarity with current technologies utilized in the creation, documentation, preservation, and dissemination of work.
- h) A knowledge of bibliographic resources in dance, including web-based resources, and the skills to access these resources.

4. *Curricular Structure*

A minimum of 65% of the total credits for the degree shall be in creative- and performance-oriented subjects. As part of this requirement, institutions are responsible for maintaining title/content consistency. In order to designate a major in performance and/or choreography and/or any other specialization, at least 50% of the total credits for the degree shall be in the major area. Institutions with a more general program should use more general titles such as M.F.A. in Dance. The studio component consists of supervised curricular experiences, as well as independent study. All of these produce knowledge and skills that enable the student to produce a final project of high professional quality.

A minimum of 15% of the total credits for the degree should be in academic studies concerned with dance. Course assignments should be made with careful consideration of (a) the scope and objectives of the student's program and (b) the content of studies completed at the undergraduate level. Academic study should continue throughout the graduate program.

Elective studies are important in M.F.A. programs, since they provide opportunities for students to follow specific areas of interest related to their areas of specialization or their prospective careers. It is strongly recommended that at least 10% of the total program be reserved for electives.

5. *Program Standards*

As a matter of public record and as the basis for evaluation, the objectives of each specific M.F.A. program must be defined and published.

Admission, retention, and advisement mechanisms should be interrelated and must support the objective of each specific M.F.A. program. Admission is based on projections of individual capability and capacity for professional work. Retention and advisement ensure the continuing assessment of the admission decision and provide the means by which progress toward professional preparation can be most effectively guided.

Assessments of progress should be provided on a regular and periodic basis: once each semester or once every two quarters is recommended as a minimum. Constant and current career guidance and counseling should be provided to aid and support students' entry into the profession.

M.F.A. candidates shall have frequent opportunities to present their work, particularly in the context of their educational programs. They should be encouraged to develop and present their work in circumstances that develop connections with the professional world related to their course of study.

The M.F.A. candidate is required to present a final project showing professional competence in a specific area of work. While such presentation may be supported by a written document, such a document in itself may not be considered the final project.

M.F.A. programs in a specific area shall be led by faculty who are specialists in that area. Faculty leading M.F.A. programs should be exemplars of the area of specialty and teaching professions they represent. Faculty resources should be sufficient to expose students to a variety of points of view.

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