



Performing Arts Playbook

Fall 2020 Semester

Department of Performing Arts • American University

June 16, 2020

Learning Together in Fall 2020

To our students: As American University moves toward [a blended in-person and online learning community in Fall 2020](#), the five programs that comprise the Department of Performing Arts – Arts Management, Audio Technology, Dance, Music, and Theatre/Musical Theatre – are committed to a dynamic, connected, expressive, and fulfilling experience for all of our majors, minors, and participating students.

We are working together to rethink and adapt our Fall 2020 courses to meet these goals online, in-person, and in blended settings. All of this work will be informed by the “Guiding Values” listed here. *We invite you to join us as full partners on this journey.*

We are particularly focused on courses that conventionally require groups of students working intensively and collectively in shared space, such as productions, performances, ensembles, studios, seminars, hands-on projects, and a range of other experiences. For this work, we plan to integrate and innovate across four modes of practice, performance, and production:

- **Asynchronous**
This involves group performance and production assembled from individually recorded performances – like the “virtual choirs” you’ve seen online.
- **Synchronous**
This involves real-time, interactive work from remote locations. We are exploring a series of online services and systems that allow this close creative collaboration, even from afar.
- **Physically Distanced**
When we do gather in shared space, we will use technologies that support real-time, artistic creation that ensure appropriate physical distance. Individual “kits” of microphones, headphones, and production technology will allow students, faculty, and guests to work together while standing apart.
- **Blended**
We also imagine a wide range of evolving art forms and creative practices that combine the components above – with recorded and live expression seamlessly intertwining into a single experience online or in person.

Each of your faculty is working to integrate these tools into their ensembles, productions, performances, and group learning courses. We and they will be sharing these plans with you as Fall approaches. We welcome your questions and ideas. And we’re excited to join with you to understand, imagine, and enact the future of the performing arts.

We know you will have many questions about your performing arts experiences and expectations for the Fall. We encourage you to reach out to the department or any individual program using the contact information below.

Guiding Values

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our students, staff, faculty, collaborators, and their families are our first and last consideration in all that we do.

Student Success

We remain committed to students growing and thriving to their greatest potential, ensuring progress toward their stated academic goals as well as a life of dignity, meaning, and impact.

Equity & Inclusion

The performing arts, like all aspects of society, find their fullest and deepest expression only when all individuals and groups are safe, respected, heard, and included. We acknowledge the systems of racism, White supremacy, and oppression that infuse the history and present of the performing arts, and we commit ourselves to identify, disrupt, and dismantle them.

Human Expression

The impulse to explore and express our individual and shared humanity lies at the heart of the five disciplines that comprise our department – Arts Management, Audio Technology, Dance, Music, and Theatre/Musical Theatre. These “ways of knowing” and “ways of being” are essential in this moment as we open our hearts to shared experience and open our imaginations to possible futures.

Kindness and Mutual Care

We commit to being present with and for each other with empathy and compassion.

Learn more and join the conversation at www.american.edu/cas/performing-arts/

Contact us with your questions, concerns, comments, and ideas: dpa@american.edu / (202) 885-3420

Or, contact any program directly: theatre@american.edu, music@american.edu, dance@american.edu, audiotechnology@american.edu, artsmanagement@american.edu