Background:

The Department of Art, Design and Performing Arts (DADP) fosters paradigmatic shifts in the production and representation of creative expression and knowledge. Keeping with SNU’s emphases on interdisciplinary research and situated experiential learning, the faculty, comprising practitioners and scholars across Art, Design and Performing Arts, trains students in rigorous and thoughtful praxis within the creative fields and their interface(s) with questions of technology, politics, identity, philosophy, history, society and culture. We are especially committed to a multidisciplinary and open-ended environment where students may chart their own course of study thereby becoming critical and self-reflexive scholars and practitioners of the Arts.

Undergraduate Studies at the DADPA

While at present the department only offers graduate degrees, we are committed to SNU’s ideal of a holistic undergraduate education and are striving to make Arts Education central to the Undergraduate Curricula at the University. To achieve this, the department not only offers University Wide Electives (UWE’s) in Visual and Built Environment Studies, Design, Dance, Theatre and the Visual Arts but has also fashioned a minor program in the Arts that is open to students across the university:

The DADPA Minor has a minimum of twenty-one credits and provides the students with a basic grounding on the context of the Arts within India as well as the scope for a deeper engagement with one discipline within the Arts. To achieve this, the Minor has a bipartite structure:

1) one mandatory course, “The Arts and National Imaginary,” provides a broad survey of the entanglements of Dance, Theatre, Design, Visual Arts, Architecture and Urban Design within the idea of India

2) electives of two types:
   a) Seminars:
      a.i. Social Form and Habitations (3 credits)
      a.ii. Gender and the Built Environment (3 credits)
      a.iii. Habitat and Heritage Conservation (3 credits)
      a.iv. Writing bodies (3 credits)
      a.v. Pedagogy (3 credits)
      a.vi. Elements and Principles of Design (3 credits)
      a.vii. The Land Questions (4 credits).
      a.viii. Visuality, Materiality and Information (4 credits).
      a.x. Body, Performance and Gesture (3 credits).
a.xi. Films and the National Imaginary (3 credits).

b) Studios (all course are 5 credits)

a.i. Bodies, Spaces and Places
a.ii. Between and Betwixt Design Translation
a.iii. Design Representations
a.iv. The Dancer's Body
a.v. Movement and Meaning
a.vi. Odissi Paddhiti
a.vii. Product Design
a.viii. Visual Communications
a.ix. Ergonomics

From these, the student can choose one of three prefigured disciplinary formations, or fashion one of their own with prior permission from the department. The prefigured paths are:

1) Building and Habitat
2) Performance
3) Design

**Building and Habitat (18 + 3 credits)**

The Built Environment is much more than a “mere setting” for our lives and actions. This is especially evident today in a country like India which has seen profound changes in its social, economic and political fabric over the last two decades. Indeed, in many ways, central to these transformations is the built environment which has emerged as the arena where diverse discourses of neoliberalism, governmentality, development, security, minority rights, disability, sustainability and ecology have laid their claims as well contested each other.

The track in Architectural and Habitat Arts is designed to train students to be engaged and critical analysts, complex thinkers and, most importantly, self-reflexive inhabitants of this complex (Built) Environment. It is also especially geared towards students who may want to pursue a graduate program in Urban and Habitat Studies, Urban Design, Architecture and Conservation Studies and Urban Anthropology.

**Requirements:**
Out of the “Seminar” category

The following courses are mandatory (9 credits):

a) Social Form and Habitations (3 credits)
b) Gender and Built Environments (3 credits)
c) Habitat and Heritage Conservation (3 credits)

And, one of the following courses (4 credits)

a) The Land question (4 credits)
b) Ecology and Society (4 credits)
c) Visuality, Materiality and Information (4 credits)

Out of the “Studio” Category students are required to take one of the following (5 credits)

a) Bodies, Spaces and Places (5 credits)
b) Between and Betwixt Design Translation (5 credits)
c) Design Representations (5 credits)

Note: “The Arts and National Imaginary” course offered by department is mandatory for this path (3 credits)

Performance (minimum of 21 credits)

The emphasis of this program is on praxis, taking students beyond the mastery of technique towards reflective and transformative practice. Students will explore historical, philosophical, and analytical approaches to the art form, grappling with issues such as embodiment, pleasure, meaning; with structural features governing the movement of human bodies in space and time; and with historical, cultural and sociological aspects of performance, such as ritual, patronage, caste, and sexuality.

The Performance Arts track allows students with prior dance training to push the boundaries of performance, advance technique and improve physical literacy while bringing intellectual rigor and focus to their field of study, while opening up possibilities for those who wish to make dance a subject of research.

Requirements:

All students following this track must take at least one “Seminar” and two “Studio” courses (some courses have prerequisites):

Seminar

a) Writing Bodies (3 credits)
b) Pedagogy (4 credits)
c) Films and the National Imaginary (3 credits)
d) Body, Performance, Gesture (3 credits)

Studio

a) The Dancer's Body (5 credits)
b) Movement and Meaning (5 credits)
c) Odissi Paddhiti (5 credits)
d) Bodies, Spaces and Places (5 credits)
Design (18 + 3) credits

Against the background of a rapidly changing global economy, the intense competition in the consumer product segment has created opportunities for young, innovative and creative design professionals. Our multidisciplinary, comprehensive and formal design training curriculum responds to the needs of the global consumer marketplace for continuous and innovative development of new products. Undergraduate students who take this track will complete a set of design courses that will place them strategically within the profession.

This track broadens the student’s vision of Industrial Design and provides professional exposure. No other Indian University provides such an opportunity to undergraduate students, allowing them to maintain an unrelated major while simultaneously acquiring professional knowledge in an applied field that would lead to alternative opportunities in placement.

Requirements:

All the following four foundation courses are mandatory:

One “Seminar” course (3 credits)
   a) Elements & Principles of Design (3 credits)

Three “Studio” courses (15 credits)
   b) Introduction to Product Design and Design Process (5 credits)
   c) Introduction to Visual Communication (5 credits)
   d) Introduction to Ergonomics (5 credits)

Note: “The Arts and National Imaginary” course offered by department is mandatory for this path.