Annual Department Assessment and Improvement Report: 2013

Department: Dance
Assessment Coordinator: Susan Haines/Cher Carnell

Departmental Mission: The faculty and staff of the Theatre and Dance Department are committed to a liberal arts approach to performing arts education while maintaining a balance of both academic and practical approaches to the arts of theatre and dance. We believe strongly in the value of academic rigor, which in turn supports and maintains productions and projects of the highest standards. We promote a global, diverse and collaborative view of performing arts education, and strive to train artistic leaders in their chosen disciplines who will further contribute to the craft.

Department Student Learning Outcomes: Upon graduation, Dance majors will be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of a kinesthetic as well as an intellectual understanding in the language of movement art, gaining skills in oral, written and non-verbal communication
2. Practice of creative, reflective thinking
3. Knowledge of diversity and multicultural issues
4. Knowledge of the role of dance in reflecting our past, informing the present and influencing the future
5. Knowledge of professional practices in the field of dance

GUR Competencies:
DNC 231: GUR competencies #1 and #11
DNC 232: GUR competencies #7 and #8
DNC 108: GUR competencies #1 and #11

Student Learning Outcomes Assessed This Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
<th>SLOs Assessed</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Papers and projects from DNC 431</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
<td>Students are demonstrating above average comprehension and knowledge of the field of dance that include; professional practices, and how past and present can shape the future. Furthermore, their ability to clearly articulate their ideas has improved with a more process oriented writing practice in DNC 231 and 431.</td>
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<td>Junior and Senior Survey data</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
<td>Students report great satisfaction with technique courses, choreography courses, dance history courses, work with guest artists and the Departmental trip to New York. Lowest scoring for SLO #5 was in the area of dance production. However, many students commented that THR 212 is invaluable and that this course specifically has contributed greatly to their knowledge of professional practices in dance production.</td>
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Changes based on assessment findings: Faculty are reviewing and discussing production requirements for Dance majors, an area of curriculum that has gone through many recent changes with the merger with Theater. We will be reviewing the THR 255 requirement for the majors. Any new ideas for curricular changes would need to be discussed further with the entire Production Faculty and the new Chair of Theater and Dance. We may be able to better serve the Dance majors by simply requiring a written analysis and self-reflection of their work in the THR 255 practicum and how it is applicable to dance performance.