Department: Dance
Assessment Coordinator: Cher Carnell and Susan Haines

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:

The following areas of knowledge are central to the BA degree in Dance:

- A kinesthetic and intellectual understanding of the language of movement art through oral, written and non-verbal communication
- Knowledge of diversity and multicultural issues
- Knowledge of the role of dance in reflecting our past, informing the present and influencing the future
- Knowledge of professional practices in the field of dance
- Demonstration of physical and artistic skills required for proficiency in contemporary dance technique and competency in ballet technique.

The following applies to the BFA degree in Dance:

- Demonstration of physical and artistic skills required for proficiency in advanced contemporary technique and in choreography.

GUR Student Learning Outcomes - HUM GURs offered by program/department:

DNC 108: HUM GUR Competencies: 1) Analyze and communicate ideas effectively in oral, written, and visual forms, 2) Analyze and interpret information from varied sources, including print and visual media

DNC 231: COM GUR Competencies: 1) Analyze and communicate ideas effectively in oral, written, and visual forms, 2) Analyze and interpret information from varied sources, including print and visual media

DNC 232: ACGM GUR: 6) Explore, Imagine, and create. 8) Understand and evaluate assumptions, values, and beliefs in context of diverse local, national and global communities

- Student Learning/Department Outcomes Assessed This Year:
  - 5) Development of physical and artistic skills required for proficiency in contemporary dance technique and competency in ballet technique.
  - 6) Demonstration of physical and artistic skills required for proficiency in advanced contemporary dance technique and in choreography.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
<th>SLO/POs Assessed</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior exit surveys</td>
<td>5,6</td>
<td>Students are meeting standards in these areas; surveys reflect satisfaction with learning experiences and achievement in technique in ballet and contemporary technique.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty surveys for detailed technique evaluation and reflection</td>
<td>5,6</td>
<td>Survey data revealed lowest scores in improvisation and requisite stability for jumps and leaps. Alignment, performance, grounded and connected movement scores were high.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty observation and evaluation of student technique and choreography in course work and formal and informal concerts.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>The majority of students are achieving proficiency in contemporary technique and choreography.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Changes/Kudos to us based on assessment findings:**

Our students are achieving high levels of technique in our program. Many of our students who started dancing while at WWU were cast in the guest artist residency piece, which are usually taken by our most highly skilled dancers. This means we are doing a lot of things right! The survey results show that our students need more experience with improvisational structures and awareness of collaborative models of working in rehearsals to generate and manipulate movement material. The Dance faculty are eager to address this by offering more experiential process work within the technique classes.

**Findings:**

Students are meeting standards in these areas; surveys reflect satisfaction with learning experiences and achievement in technique in ballet and contemporary technique.

Survey data revealed lowest scores in improvisation and requisite stability for jumps and leaps. Alignment, performance, grounded and connected movement scores were high.

The majority of students are achieving proficiency in contemporary technique and choreography.

**Recommendations:** Dance faculty will increase improvisational work through movement structures and creative process work, and lower extremity conditioning work to support jumping and leaping achievement in all levels of technique class. DNC 111-113, DNC 221-223, DNC 321-323, DNC 421-423.

For students not meeting the standards for choreographic course work, they have the option to repeat these courses as recommended by faculty. DNC 242, 342, 442.