

**Southern Utah University
Theatre Arts & Dance Department
Academic Outcomes Assessment Plan
Academic Year 2002-2003**

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose:

Vision Statement:

Build, pebble upon pebble, by more and better programs, faculty and facilities, a rising arch of knowledge for our students through which the river of their and our artistic influence will flow across the community, region, and country, so that the national recognition of their talents may enrich all society.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the department of theatre arts and dance is to provide a nurturing and challenging educational environment which celebrates our history, propels us towards our future, and excels in practical application of theatrical and dance techniques. A rich diversity of idioms, theatrical disciplines, and technologies combine with an ever-changing array of production opportunities and personalized mentoring by all our faculty and staff. Central to our focus as a department is superior teaching; our classroom encompasses the studio, the stage, and the technical laboratory.

Goal Statement:

Provide our students with meaningful experiences that promote an understanding of the potentials of theatre arts and dance as mediums of expression and as collaborative art forms. We afford students the opportunity for creative and critical thinking, problem solving, exploration in an environment that values artistic integrity, understands failure as well as success, respects the viewpoints of others, and encourages artistic truth. Our standard of quality is enhanced by our strong professional link with both the internationally recognized Utah Shakespearean Festival and Burch Mann's American Folk Ballet. The extensive season of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance serves not only as a training lab for our students, but also enhances the cultural and aesthetic experiences of our campus and is a major cultural resource for the southwest region of the state.

Intended Outcomes/Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the societal role of theatre and dance both past and present and will be able to articulate a vision for its role in the future.
2. Seniors will demonstrate their knowledge and mastery of their particular discipline (i.e. acting, directing, stagecraft, design, choreography, dance performance, etc.)
3. Students will know the options for and be prepared for post-baccalaureate opportunities.

4. Theatre and dance courses will be taught by qualified faculty and staff with sufficient expertise in their areas of teaching.
5. Laboratory and research opportunities will be available to all students and facilitated by qualified faculty and staff with expertise in the appropriate areas of the disciplines.
6. The theatre and dance curriculums will meet or exceed the standards set by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and Dance for undergraduate education in course offerings, content, activities and assessment.
7. The Department will provide the necessary facilities and resources to adequately prepare students for graduate studies, competitive job markets and technological advances in the field.
8. Students will develop and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the ethical principles associated with artistic integrity.

Assessment Criteria and Activities

1. Department will hire, promote and tenure faculty members who are qualified in the field and demonstrate teaching excellence. Teacher evaluations will be reviewed each semester and used to identify areas where improvement is needed. These areas are reviewed in annual stewardship interview with the department chair, and plans and commitments are made for necessary changes.
2. Department will assign faculty and staff with expertise to offer laboratory and research opportunities. The department will also require faculty to be involved in research and/or laboratory activities.
3. Every theatre and dance major is assigned a faculty advisor within the department.
4. Every theatre and dance major is required to attend the fall and spring mandatory meetings for preparation toward the upcoming semester.
5. All incoming freshmen will be required to produce a writing sample to assess adequate writing skills and identify deficiencies.
6. Theatre students will complete the departmental core offerings with a satisfactory grade of C or higher.
7. All theatre and dance majors will be required to complete a mentored capstone project demonstrating competency in their discipline. Students will meet with professor and/or supervisor on a biweekly basis to monitor progress.
8. Senior capstone presentations will be made to the supervisor and other appropriate faculty.

9. All dance students must participate in placement auditions before admission into major level courses.

10. All dance students will have to meet competency levels before being allowed to advance in their dance course work.

11. Time will be allotted at the annual fall faculty and staff retreat to discuss capstone project options for each of the senior students. Assignments will then be made through subsequent consultations between the student and his advisor. (In the case of a student with a performing discipline, if a major role has not been earned through the auditioning process, then the student advisor will make a proposal to the faculty for a special project.)

12. Juries will be held at the end of each semester for all theatre and dance students. Faculty will allot a ten to fifteen minute interview for every major. Faculty members will be present to determine each student's level of skill, competency and progress. Strengths and weaknesses will be assessed for each student and an individualized course of action will be developed.

13. All graduating seniors will be given an exit interview at their final jury to assess program strengths and weaknesses. A survey will be administered to all graduating seniors by department to collect quantifiable data for continuing assessment.

14. Departmental objective survey administered to all freshman, sophomores and juniors to continually track program strengths and weaknesses during undergraduate development.

15. Departmental Curriculum Committee will meet biweekly to evaluate curriculum effectiveness.

16. Department will administer surveys every three years to assess curriculum fit with employers and graduate program needs. A variety of post-baccalaureate entities will be contacted to create an assessment profile with respect to the necessary skills needed to adequately prepare students for future endeavors. The data will be tabulated and compared to curriculum for ongoing evaluation.

17. Curriculum and departmental policies and procedures will be evaluated with student opinions by the implementation of student focus group reviews on an annual basis.

18. Department will develop, evaluate and refine the departmental student handbook for policies and procedures on an annual basis. Every theatre and dance major is required to abide by the policies and procedures as set up in the departmental handbook.

19. Department will maintain Alumni contact for post-baccalaureate assessment.