WINTHROP UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Assessment of student learning outcomes in the Department of Theatre and Dance occurs within the context of the following general principles:

- 1. Much of the assessment that takes place in the classroom is evaluative, and faculty members employ assessment tools everyday in many ways.
- 2. The department's academic programs have a wide array of educational objectives, so the department does not have a "one-plan-fits-all" approach to assessment.
- 3. Academic assessment does not replace curricular, departmental, and other types of ongoing review for improvement: it supplements and improves it.
- 4. Faculty ownership of and participation in assessment activities is essential. Assessment is embedded in the culture of the entire teaching/learning enterprise of the department.
- 5. The department has a history of making programmatic changes based on assessment results.

Description of a few examples of assessment measures can demonstrate how the above general principles translate into concrete form at the broader, departmental level.

Accreditation Reviews and Annual HEADS Reports

Winthrop is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance and the National Association of Schools of Theatre. The Dance Program reviews were conducted in 1999 and 2009. The next review is scheduled for November 2018. The Theatre Program reviews were conducted in 2003 and 2013. The next review is scheduled for 2023. In each case, program success is evaluated with consideration of accreditation standards and data compiled in HEADS reports.

Annual Faculty Review

The Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance reviews each faculty member's goals and record of accomplishment in May for the previous calendar year. Evaluation criteria include teaching, creative/scholarly activity, and service that supports student learning. On the basis of this assessment, faculty members and the Chair collaboratively consider and design new goals and objectives.

Classroom Observation

The department Chair and senior faculty members observe the instruction of probationary and adjunct faculty every semester. They use a rubric for rating instructors' effectiveness, then a meeting occurs with the instructor to review the observation/evaluation and make plans for teaching improvements.

Administrative Evaluations

All faculty members in the department make written evaluations of the department Chair and the Director of Dance, a program director-level administrative position. The dean and chair, respectively, collect and analyze the faculty evaluations as one element in a larger, annual review of administrative effectiveness. Annual consultations between these two administrators and their respective superior occur to develop a plan for improving administrative skills.

Local, State, Regional and National Festival Adjudications and Professional Development Student and faculty participation at discipline-specific festivals and competitions, such as the American College Dance Association (ACDA), the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival (KC/ACTF), and the Charlotte Dance Festival. These events provide feedback and evaluation in areas of performance, production and choreography by experts, scholars and professional adjudicators. The success of our students and faculty is measured by their creativity and artistry, the number of peer-reviewed scholarly activities in which they engage annually, and by their honors and awards.

Placement

Placement of graduates from the school in professional companies, internships, and graduate programs is considered in the assessment of school goals.

Assessment measures in this department demonstrate:

- A. that we have an assessment plan that tracks the where, how and when learning occurs for students during their academic careers in the dance or theatre major at Winthrop. (The Assessment Map)
- B. that the learning that occurs in all aspects of the dance and theatre programs aligns with the broader learning goals of the department, college, university, and external accrediting organizations. (Vertical Alignment)
- C. that we always attain the important symbiotic connection between assessment and change. (Closing the Assessment Loop)
- D. that we regularly review all components of our department's assessment plan (see fifth column of The Assessment Map)

A. The Assessment Map in the Department of Theatre and Dance:

ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT	RESULTS	ASSESSMENT
ACTIVITY	RESULTS	FREQUENCY	USED TO	ACTIVITY/TOOL
			MAKE	REVIEWED
			CHANGES IN:	
Department Level				
Course Evaluations	Student feedback	Every semester	Pedagogy;	Every five years
	data on		curriculum	
	instruction			
Post-Show	Minutes of	After every	Season Planning;	Every five years
Discussions	sessions	production	curriculum	
			planning	
Post-Show Faculty	Minutes of	After every	Production	Every five years
Reviews	sessions	production	Processes and	
			Logistics	
Production		Every semester	Pedagogy,	Every two years
reflection essays in			production	
THRA 370,372			processes,	
THRT 395, DANA			curriculum	
444, 443				
Classroom	Observation data	Every semester	Pedagogy and	Every five years
observation	by chair and		course content	
	tenured faculty			
	followed by			
	individual			
	meeting with			

	faculty member			
Chair's Advisory Council	Minutes of sessions	Every month	Production practices; Season Planning; curriculum; student services; advising	Every five years
Senior Exit Interview/Survey	Notes from interviews/survey data	Every semester	Curriculum; teaching assignments; season planning	Every ten years
Dance Program				
Placement Class	Initial proficiency evaluation data	At beginning of first semester	Curriculum; advising	Every two years
Fourth Semester Proficiency Evaluation	Proficiency evaluation data	Fourth semester	Advising; curriculum; teaching assgmts.	Every five years
Fourth Semester Portfolio Review	Student portfolio	Fourth semester	Curriculum; season planning	Every two years
Seventh Semester Proficiency Evaluation	Proficiency evaluation data	Seventh semester	Advising; curriculum; teaching assignments	Every five years
First and Final Semester Content Exam	Student exam papers	First and Seventh semesters	Curriculum; teaching assignments	Every ten years
Adjudication of DANT 301 Pieces	Oral response to preview performance	Sixth semester	Production practices; pedagogy and course content	Every five years
ACDF Regional adjudication	Oral response to performance	Every year	Production practices; course content	Every five years
SCADA adjudication	Oral response to performance	Alternate years	Production practices; course content	Every ten years
NASD recommendation	Revision of dance course descriptions and goals	Every ten years.	Course content, curriculum	Every ten years
Capstone Courses	Student portfolios, student projects, course evaluations	Student's Senior Year	Course content, curriculum	Every five years
Competency Review Committee (for Certification degree students)	Approval to complete next step in Teacher Education program	Every semester	Teaching assignments; curriculum	Every seven years—review conducted by COE
Application to Teacher Education (for Certification	Student essay and portfolio	In fourth semester	curriculum	Every seven years—review conducted by COE

degree students)				
Praxis I (for	Student test	In fourth	curriculum	Every seven
Certification degree	scores	semester		years—review
students)				conducted by COE
Praxis II (for	Student test	In final	curriculum	Every seven
Certification degree	scores	semester		years—review
students)				conducted by COE
Theatre Program				
Third Semester	Faculty	Third semester	Curriculum;	Every two years
Review	evaluation data		teaching	
			assignments	
Sixth Semester	Faculty	Sixth semester	Curriculum;	Every two years
Review	evaluation data		teaching	
			assignments	
ACTF Respondent	Oral and written	Every semester	Production	Every five years
	response to		practices; season	
	performance		planning;	
			teaching	
			assignments;	
			advising	
NAST	Revision of dance	Every ten years.	Course content,	Every ten years
recommendation	course		curriculum	
	descriptions and			
	goals			
Capstone Courses	Student	Student's	Course content,	Every five years
	portfolios,	Senior Year	curriculum	
	student projects,			
	course			
	evaluations			
Competency	Approval to	Every semester	Teaching	Every seven
Review Committee	complete next		assignments;	years—review
(for Certification	step in Teacher		curriculum	conducted by COE
degree students)	Education			
	program			
Application to	Student essay and	In fourth	curriculum	Every seven
Teacher Education	portfolio	semester		years—review
(for Certification				conducted by COE
degree students)				
Praxis I (for	Student test	In fourth	curriculum	Every seven
Certification degree	scores	semester		years—review
students)				conducted by COE
Praxis II (for	Student test	In final	curriculum	Every seven
Certification degree	scores	semester		years—review
students)				conducted by COE

The department's faculty members manage the above assessment tools consistently and regularly, as the third column in the chart indicates. The department's faculty members meet up to four times per month, and they review assessment data and implement change in those meetings. Many of the above assessment activities receive initial review in a faculty subcommittee (dance faculty, theatre faculty, curriculum committee, competency review committee) that makes a recommendation for action to the full departmental faculty. Several faculty members also will gather on an ad hoc basis to conduct certain assessment tools

(proficiency evaluations, sophomore and junior reviews, classroom observation) and then provide the departmental faculty with the results for discussion and action.

B. Vertical alignment of learning goals:

The specific degree program missions and goals align with the department, CVPA, university, and accreditation organization missions and goals.

Theatre Program Mission Statement

The mission of the theatre program is to foster individual students' aesthetic, intellectual, and creative development within the context of a liberal arts education as they pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Theatre Program Goals:

- 1. Students should demonstrate a fundamental understanding of and appreciation for the creative processes of theatre, the socio-historical contexts and the nature of the theatrical event.
- 2. Students will achieve basic skills in performance and production.
- 3. Students should demonstrate a sense of commitment and a positive attitude that will foster the creative process.
- 4. (Certification Emphasis): The student will be an effective decision maker in directing the education of students

Dance Program Mission Statement

The dance program at Winthrop University prepares students for careers and future study in dance by fostering their aesthetic, technical, intellectual, and creative development within the context of a liberal arts education. In order to achieve this mission, the program provides students with opportunities to participate in studio-based practices and explorations as well as performance and other relevant educational offerings. The program serves both the university and local community in enhancing their knowledge of the discipline of dance from a holistic perspective, including the political, historical, cultural, and technological events that have contributed to its evolution.

Dance Program Goals

- 1. To provide a developmentally sequenced curriculum of studio and theory courses that exposes dance majors and minors to a breadth of skills, knowledge, and critical thinking.
- 2. To nurture artistic leadership in students through opportunities to perform, choreograph, teach, design, stage manage, participate in internships, and be involved in professional organizations.
- 3. To promote collaborative experiences that develop students' communication skills, appreciation of diversity, and adaptability to change in all artistic and interdisciplinary endeavors.
- **4.** (Certification Emphasis): To prepare students for successful careers as educational leaders in public and private K-12 education.

The theatre and dance program mission statements and program goals share a liberal arts-based vision of education and a commitment to developing students' collaborative and creative skills.

Department of Theatre and Dance Mission Statement

The mission of Winthrop University's Department of Theatre and Dance is to foster individual students' aesthetic, intellectual, and creative development within the context of a liberal arts education as they pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre or in Dance. Through class instruction, private coaching, mentoring, and performance, the department advocates both theoretical and creative explorations to achieve an understanding of the social, political, historical, and technological aspects of theatre and dance. We strive to afford opportunities for students to develop a significant level of competency in one emphasis in theatre (performance, design/technical, K-12 teacher certification) or in dance (performance, K-12 teacher certification)

The department's mission statement affirms the commitment to students' aesthetic and intellectual development asserted in the dance and theatre program goals. The department mission statement echoes the "context of a liberal arts education" component of the dance and theatre mission statements.

CVPA Mission Statement

The College of Visual and Performing Arts at Winthrop University offers nationally accredited programs in art, design, theatre, dance, and music, and provides academically challenging instruction in an interdisciplinary environment that inspires and prepares the next generation of artists, educators, scholars, and audiences. We promote intellectual inquiry and collaborative opportunities that encourage each student to develop a uniquely creative vision cultivated through artistry, teaching, scholarship, public performance, and community engagement.

The college mission statement asserts that students receive "academically challenging instruction." The department's mission statement affirms that we achieve this through "class instruction, private coaching, mentoring, and performance" and through the expectation that every student develops a "significant level of competency in one emphasis in theatre . . . or in dance." The department's mission statement asserts that students acquire knowledge through public performances, echoing the language of the college mission statement concerning "public performance and community engagement."

University Level Competencies

In 2010 the administration formed the UWAAC task force. It recommended the adoption of the four University Level Competencies to serve as a guide for all academic programs. These competencies were adopted in 2010. All programs are required to develop an assessment plan by February 2012 that demonstrates how students achieve these competencies.

Competency 1: Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems.

Winthrop University graduates reason logically, evaluate and use evidence, and solve problems. They seek out and assess relevant information from multiple viewpoints to form well-reasoned conclusions. Winthrop graduates consider the full context and consequences of their decisions and continually reexamine their own critical thinking process, including the strengths and weaknesses of their arguments.

Competency 2: Winthrop graduates are personally and socially responsible.

Winthrop University graduates value integrity, perceive moral dimensions, and achieve excellence in their work. They take seriously the perspectives of others, practice ethical reasoning, and reflect on experiences. Winthrop graduates hold a sense of responsibility to the broader community and contribute to the greater good.

Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.

Winthrop University graduates comprehend the historical, social, and global contexts of their disciplines and their lives. They also recognize how their chosen area of study is inextricably linked to other fields. Winthrop graduates collaborate with members of diverse academic, professional, and cultural communities as informed and engaged citizens.

Competency 4: Winthrop graduates communicate effectively.

Winthrop University graduates communicate in a manner appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. They create texts – including but not limited to written, oral, and visual presentations – that convey content effectively. Mindful of their voice and the impact of their communication, Winthrop graduates successfully express and exchange ideas.

The Department of Theatre and Dance has an assessment plan that documents how our programs fulfill these University Level Competencies. Discussion of this assessment plan comes at the end of this section that discusses vertical alignment of our learning goals.

Relevant Excerpt from the University Mission Statement

Winthrop University provides personalized and challenging undergraduate, graduate, and continuing professional education programs of national caliber within a context dedicated to public service to the nation and to the State of South Carolina. The values of service, excellence, diversity, community, and

leadership provide the foundation for Winthrop's continuing development and shape Winthrop's continuing success.

Winthrop enrolls an achievement-oriented, culturally diverse and socially responsible student body between 6,500 and 7,000 students. Winthrop prides itself on being an institution of choice for groups traditionally under-represented on many college campuses.

Winthrop students acquire and develop knowledge, skills, capabilities and values that enrich their lives and prepare them to meet the needs and challenges of the contemporary world, including the ability to communicate effectively, appreciate diversity, work collaboratively, synthesize knowledge, solve complex problems and adapt to change. Ongoing assessment of programs and services ensures both that all academic programs challenge students at their highest level of ability and that the library, instructional technology and other academic service areas support courses of study that are consonant with best practices. As a result, Winthrop graduates are eminently well prepared to enter the most competitive graduate or professional schools as well as to be leaders in their chosen professions and in their communities.

In the department mission statement, we assert that we offer students a "significant level of competency" in one area of theatre or dance. This links to the university mission statement's assertion that "academic programs challenge students at the highest level." The department mission statement speaks of the "context of a liberal arts education" that shapes the theatre and dance curricula. This reflects the identity of the university as a "comprehensive teaching university" in the university mission statement. The department's mission statement speaks of the various means of instruction provided to students with the words "Through class instruction, private coaching, mentoring, and performance." This echoes the language of the university's mission statement where it states "Winthrop University provides personalized and challenging undergraduate, . . . programs."

NAST Theatre Program Outcomes

Students holding undergraduate liberal arts degrees must have:

- 1. The ability to think conceptually and critically about text, performance, and production.
- 2. An understanding of playwriting and production processes, aesthetic properties of style, and the way these shape and are shaped by artistic and cultural forces.
- 3. An acquaintance with a wide selection of theatre repertory including the principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- 4. The ability to develop and defend informed judgments about theatre

NASD Dance Program Outcomes

Students holding undergraduate liberal arts degrees must have:

- 1. The ability to identify and work conceptually with the elements of dance.
- 2. An understanding of choreographic processes, aesthetic properties of style, and the ways these shape and are shaped by artistic and cultural ideas and contexts.
- 3. An acquaintance with a wide selection of dance repertory, the principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- 4. The ability to develop and defend critical evaluations.
- 5. Fundamental knowledge of the body and of kinesiology as applicable to work in dance.

The department mission statement asserts that students "achieve an understanding of the social, political, historical, and technological aspects of theatre and dance," and this aligns with the accrediting organizations' call for development of students' understanding of artistic processes, "aesthetic properties of style and the ways shape and are shaped by artistic and cultural ideas and contexts." The accrediting organizations also expect theatre and dance programs to develop students' skills broadly, and the mission statements for the dance and theatre programs speak of achieving "basic skills in performance and production" and "breadth of skills."

The department has developed an assessment plan for the four University Level Outcomes (ULCs). The discussion below outlines the various assessment instruments that measure students' progress towards attaining the ULCs. Highlighted text in the four competencies mark the language that most accurately describes the learning that occurs among students in this department. The chart below the four competencies presents the various assessment tools we use, the nature of the results, the frequency our use of the tools, and the ULC's that they assess.

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ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY	ASSESSMENT RESULTS	ASSESSMENT FREQUENCY	COMPETENCY ASSESSED
Department Level			
Course Evaluations	Student feedback data on instruction	Every semester	2, 4
Post-Show Discussions	Minutes of sessions	After every production	2, 3, 4
Production reflection essays in THRA 370, DANA 444, 443	Student essays	Every semester	1, 2, 3, 4
Chair's Advisory Council	Minutes of sessions	Every month	4
Senior Exit Survey	Notes from survey data	Every semester	1, 2, 4
Placement Class	Initial proficiency evaluation data	At beginning of first semester	2
Fourth Semester Proficiency Evaluation	Proficiency evaluation data	Fourth semester	2
Fourth Semester Portfolio Review	Student portfolio	Fourth semester	1, 2, 4

Seventh Semester	Proficiency evaluation	Seventh semester	2
	data	Seventii semestei	
Proficiency	data		
Evaluation	C4 14	Direct and Consents	1 2 4
First and Final	Student exam papers	First and Seventh	1, 3, 4
Semester Content		semesters	
Exam			
Adjudication of	Oral response to	Sixth semester	2, 3, 4
DANT 301 Pieces	preview performance		
ACDF Regional	Oral response to	Every year	2, 3
adjudication	performance		
SCADA	Oral response to		2, 3
adjudication	performance	Alternate years	
Capstone Courses	Student portfolios,	Student's Senior Year	1, 2, 3, 4
	student projects,		
	course evaluations		
Praxis I (for	Student test scores	In fourth semester	1, 3
Certification degree			·
students)			
Praxis II (for	Student test scores	In final semester	1, 3
Certification degree			,
students)			
Theatre Program			
Third Semester	Faculty evaluation	Third semester	1, 2, 4
Review	data		1, 2, 1
Sixth Semester	Faculty evaluation	Sixth semester	1, 2, 4
Review	data	Sixtii semester	1, 2, 1
ACTF Respondent	Oral and written	Every semester	2
71C11 Respondent	response to	Every semester	
	performance		
Capstone Courses	Student portfolios,	Student's Senior Year	1, 2, 3, 4
Capsione Courses	student projects,	Student's Semon Tear	1, 2, 3, 4
	course evaluations		
Praxis I (for	Student test scores	In fourth semester	1, 3
Certification degree	Student lest scores	III TOUTHI SEHIESIEI	1, 3
_			
students)	Ctudent test seems	In final compactor	1 2
Praxis II (for	Student test scores	In final semester	1, 3
Certification degree			
students)			

C. Closing the Assessment Loop

Specific Assessment Activity in 2016-2017

THRA 413: Musical Theatre Auditions changed from one credit to three credits. The material covered extends the breadth of a 1-credit ½ semester class. Effective fall 2017.

THRA 411: Auditioning has been changed from 1-credit to 3-credits, both to maintain parity between the musical theatre and performance curricula, and to account for the added camera auditions technique into the curriculum. Catalogue description and goals now include auditioning for both stage and screen. Effective Fall 2017.

THRA 121: Improvisation is now required in the Performance curriculum. The course description now includes reference to being based on the work of Viola Spolin. Effective Fall 2017

THED 345: Exploring K-12 Education. Removed prerequisite so that students can stay on track to graduate with changes in COE. Added restriction to sophomores or juniors. Effective Fall 2017.

DCED 592: Field Experience in Teaching Dance. Changed grading to S/U. This rectifies a mistake when it was first created. It should have been S/U all along. Effective Fall 2017.

DCED 345: Exploring K-12 Education. Removed prerequisite so that students can stay on track to graduate with changes in COE. Added restriction to sophomores or juniors. Effective Fall 2017.

DANA 444: Dance Performance Practicum. Changed the amount of times the course can be taken for credit from seven to ten. This was to account for the various performance opportunities the students have, from dance repertory group to residencies, to Winthrop Dance Theatre. Effective Fall 2017.

DANA 261 Musical Theatre Dance Forms may now be taken twice for credit. Effective Fall 2017.

DANA 252 Jazz Technique II may now be taken twice for credit. Effective Fall 2017.

DANA 232 Tap Dance II may now be taken twice for credit. Effective Fall 2017.

Created two new courses: THRA 265: Voice for the Actor and THRA 255: Movement for the Actor. These courses will replace THRA 221: Voice and Movement. This provides students appropriate credit for the hours they commit to the material. It also provides better opportunity to assign the best faculty to teach the material.

Changed required dance courses in the musical theatre curriculum: Musical theatre students are lacking the coordination in the sequence of their dance training. With the current curriculum, they are choosing a buffet of dance classes rather than a prescribed sequence of courses that build on each other. According to the NAST 2016-2017 Handbook: In multipurpose institutions where training in music, acting, and movement is provided by one or more units, or where there is an interdisciplinary structure for the degree program, arrangements for coordination must be evident in the development, operation, and evaluation of the program.

The department's faculty reviewed assessment tools according to our cycle of review adopted in 2010-11.

- Course Evaluations; Dance Placement Class'; Adjudication of DANT 301 Choreographic Work
 - Course Evaluations: The faculty reviewed the process of course evaluations and affirmed its value as an instrument for collecting data about student's experience in courses. Now that all these are done electronically through Enterprise Surveys in Blackboard, there is less involvement by faculty. This has caused lower participation from enrolled students. To remedy this, faculty have been encouraged to carve out a 10-minute slot at the end of the semester for students to complete these evaluations in class, as we used to do with the paper forms, though now they are typically completing them on their smartphone. Recorded in Departmental Faculty meeting minutes.
- Dance Placement Class (Dance)
 - O Dance Placement class continues to serve the dance program in lieu of auditions for placement into the program. Changes from this assessment include limiting participation to students with prior dance training, and not all musical theatre students. Those with little or no dance training will automatically be encouraged to register for Beginning Ballet and Beginning Modern Dance. Recorded in faculty meeting minutes.
- Adjudication of DANT 301 dance pieces
 - Dance faculty determined that faculty should continue to adjudicate student choreographers in DANT 301, and in addition bring in outside professionals to also provide adjudication of the pieces. This was planned to begin in Spring 2017, tough we failed at procuring an outside adjudicator, and so now will happen in Fall 2017.
- All 400-level theatre and dance classes which serve the general education curriculum were recertified. These include THRT 442: African American Theatre as a Humanities and Arts Perspective Focused class.

The faculty worked to revise the Student Self-Evaluation for Departmental Productions form, focusing on university wide competencies, and creating an 'A' and 'B' version to be used on alternate years. The 'A' form was used for 2016-2017. The new form is as follows:

- 1. Name of production(s) you participated in and your role.
- 2. Name of your direct supervisor or director/choreographer
 - Before you begin, please read all for ULC Competencies. We are asking you to respond in detail to each question in essay format (includes an introductory paragraph, closing paragraph and at least two body paragraphs) Times 12 font and at least 2 pages in length, being mindful of your voice and the impact of communication in the successful expression and exchange of ideas.

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Student Self-Evaluation for Departmental Productions FORM A

- 1. Did you feel adequately prepared for your role in this production? Why or why not? Give two examples from your classes and/or the rehearsal process of this preparation. You may also use examples from applicable classes within or outside the department
- 2. Was your contribution on this production your best effort? How and why?