



University of Wisconsin Whitewater

Academic Assessment

DANCE MINOR

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the UW-Whitewater Theatre/Dance Department is to provide high quality undergraduate education for students of theatre and dance. This is achieved through extensive programs that emphasize learning both theory and practice of the craft through classroom and laboratory experiences, as well as productions. The Department serves the University's select missions of offering "undergraduate programs and degrees in the arts", producing "research, scholarship, and creative endeavor", and serving "as a regional cultural and resource center". In addition, the Department's mission is to serve the mission of the College of Arts and Communication "to cultivate and inspire creativity, expressions, inquiry and integrity through embodied education in the fine and communicative arts and professions".

The Dance Minor is a liberal arts degree which offers the opportunity for broad-based exposure to all areas of dance. The curriculum includes in-depth studies in ballet, contemporary dance, dance composition, choreography, and dance history/criticism. Dance Minors have a wide variety of practical "hands-on" opportunities that often enable them to couple their love for dance with their major degree program.

The mission of the Dance Minor is to provide students with a basic background in dance theory, dance techniques and dance practices. Students with majors in other fields are allowed to explore their dance potential as part of their liberal arts education. To accomplish this mission, all Dance Minor students take the Dance Core Courses which include: Dance Appreciation, Contemporary Dance Technique I, Ballet I, and Practicum in Dance Performance. They also take one upper-level Contemporary Dance Technique course and three course Dance Composition sequence, along with at least 5 credits of electives. Graduates will be prepared for wide variety of dance or dance-related careers, often mixing their Dance Minor with their Major degree program in selecting their career path.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

Upon completion of the DANCE Minor, students will be able to successfully:

- **[Critical Thinking; Intercultural knowledge & competence]** Summarize the role of Dance and dance practitioners in society;
- **[Information Literacy; Foundations & skills for lifelong learning]** Demonstrate ability in and knowledge of the fundamentals of Ballet Technique;
- **[Information Literacy; Foundations & skills for lifelong learning]** Demonstrate ability in and knowledge of the fundamentals of Contemporary Dance Technique;
- **[Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis; Problem Solving]** Execute the fundamentals of Dance Improvisation, Dance Composition and Choreography;
- **[Oral and Written Communication]** Demonstrate the ability to communicate critically and effectively, whether orally or in writing; and
- **[Teamwork]** Demonstrate competence in collaboration skills when working with others to complete projects.