

AC 2019 – 2020 Assessment

College of Arts and Sciences / Creative and Performing Arts

Division or Department: Theatre and Dance

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Northwestern Mission. Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution that is committed to the creation, dissemination, and acquisition of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The University maintains as its highest priority excellence in teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. Northwestern State University prepares its students to become productive members of society and promotes economic development and improvements in the quality of life of the citizens in its region.

College of Arts and Sciences' Mission. The College of Arts & Sciences, the largest college at Northwestern State University, is a diverse community of scholars, teachers, and students, working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. The College strives to produce graduates who are productive members of society equipped with the capability to promote economic and social development and improve the overall quality of life in the region. The College provides an unequaled undergraduate education in the social and behavioral sciences, English, communication, journalism, media arts, biological and physical sciences, and the creative and performing arts, and at the graduate level in the creative and performing arts, English, TESOL, and Homeland Security. Uniquely, the College houses the Louisiana Scholars' College (the State's designated Honors College), the Louisiana Folklife Center, and the Creole Center, demonstrating its commitment to community service, research, and preservation of Louisiana's precious resources.

NSU Theatre and Dance Mission. The NSU Theatre and Dance Program of the Northwestern Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts seeks to assist students with the acquisition of skills and knowledge in theatrical and dance arts necessary to meet their professional, social and personal needs. Through interaction of the arts, Northwestern Theatre and Dance desires to broaden the possibilities of self-development for all students and extend its influence in the region served by the University, thus culturally enriching the area.

Methodology: The assessment process includes:

- (1) Data from assessment tools (direct & indirect and quantitative & qualitative) are collected and returned to the Department Head;
- (2) The Department Head will analyze the data to determine whether the applicable outcomes are met:

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- (3) Results from the assessment will be discussed with the faculty;
- (4) The Department Head, in consultation with Advisory Committee, will determine proposed changes to measurable outcomes, assessment tools for the next assessment period and, where needed, curricula and program changes.

Theatre and Dance

Student Learning Outcomes:

SLO 1. Students will communicate all areas of performing arts through creative application in performance, direction, stage design and technology, musical theatre and dance.

Measure 1.1.

(Direct Knowledge) Theatre/Dance coursework maintains criteria focused on student's ability to communicate theatre/dance subject matter. The target is to have 80% of students attain a final grade of $\geq 70\%$ in all skill-based classes.

Finding. Target was met.

Analysis. In 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, in the Applied Theatre class, students were assigned tasks/roles based on their experience so that they could succeed but also be challenged to grow as a theatre artist and collaborators. The program also offered a class in console mixing to keep sound design students current with trends. In accordance with the plan of action from 2018-2019, in 2019-2020, the program included more assignments in which collaboration between students and faculty, as well as between production members. Theatre History courses made developing writing skills a priority for each student's learning objectives. The department continued to invite more guest artists who are at the forefront of current trends in theatre and dance, to offer master classes, workshops, presentations, networking and other possibilities for students to work with industry professionals.

As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results, eighty three percent (83%) of the students achieved a final grade of $\geq 70\%$ in all skill-based classes. These changes had a direct impact on the student's ability to communicate theatre/dance subject matter.

Decision, action or recommendation. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. Faculty will find more creative ways to have guest lectures join class discussions through webex and or zoom. Utilizing new media sources, videos and technology in their courses, faculty can engage students with new course content. These changes will improve the student's ability to communicate

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theatre/dance subject matter by having open dialogue with guest lectures and being exposed to new media.

Measure 1.2.

(Knowledge/Skill/Ability) Theatre/Dance productions maintain criteria focused on student's ability to communicate theatre/dance subject matter. The target is to have 80% of students attain a grade of $\geq 75\%$ on all written assignments.

Finding. Target was met.

Analysis. In 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, in accordance with the plan of action from 2018-2019, in 2019-2020, the program continued to produce the *New Faces* performance with students in the Intro to Theatre and Dance Theatre Technology classes, giving each a performance/technical opportunity with a solo and a large group ensemble work. The Dance Theatre Technology class continued to produce a final project. The final project gave students the chance to collaborate as a performer and choreographer with a lighting designer, learning skills on how to communicate their vision with a lighting designer.

As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results, ninety percent (90%) of the students achieved a final grade of $\geq 80\%$ on all written assignments. These changes had a direct impact of enrolled students to communicate learned skills in their performance and creative experiences through collaborative process, implementation of skills learned in the classroom translated to performance.

Decision, action or recommendation. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. Faculty will challenge students more in theatre performance by having them work on character development that is out of their comfort zone. In technical theatre, students will learn new skills in areas they do not already know or are familiar with. Dance faculty will introduce different styles of dance to challenge the ability of learning movement quickly. These changes will improve the student's knowledge, skill and ability to perform theatre/dance subject matter.

SLO 2. Students will exhibit a working knowledge of history in the performing arts, dramatic literature, theatre and dance criticism and collaborative processes.

Measure 2.1.

(Direct Knowledge) Theatre/Dance coursework maintains criteria focused on student's ability to exhibit a working knowledge of history in the performing arts, dramatic literature, theatre and dance criticism and collaborative processes. The target is to have 75% of students attain a final grade of $\geq 75\%$ in all courses related to the history of Theatre & Dance.

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Finding. Target was met.

Analysis. In 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, to improve knowledge and understanding, class lectures and discussions with power points and supporting videos were enhanced. Topics covered European and Asian theatre. Faculty implemented voluntary trips to Shreveport for a showing of the National Theatre Live productions of *King Lear* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. Student research into playwrights, and group analytical projects were incorporated in class assignments. In accordance with the plan of action from 2018-2019, in 2019-2020, the program secured funds for updating the classroom technology with a SmartBoard allowing better access to online resources. Faculty implemented new teaching methods to better suit the learning styles of today's students.

As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results, eighty five percent (85%) of the students achieved a final grade of $\geq 75\%$ in all courses related to the history of Theatre & Dance. These changes had a direct impact of student's ability to exhibit a working knowledge of history in the performing arts.

Decision, action or recommendation. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. Faculty will continue taking students on trips to Shreveport to see showings of the National Theatre Live productions. Faculty will be trained on the new technology in the classroom utilizing the SmartBoard and enhancing class instruction with more interactive technology further increasing student engagement in history of Theatre & Dance topics. These changes will improve the student's ability to exhibit a working knowledge of history in the performing arts.

Measure 2.2

(Knowledge/Skill/Ability) Theatre/Dance productions allow students to exhibit skills learned in their coursework. The target is to have 75% of students attain a grade of $\geq 75\%$ in course assignments.

Finding. Target was met.

Analysis: In 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, students were assigned various roles where they served as cast and crew throughout the academic year. They were able to experience proper formats in auditioning, design creativity, and self-evaluation techniques. Students were informed of different approaches to using their skills in various occupational endeavors. In accordance with the plan of action from 2018-2019, in 2019-2020, the program continued to explore opportunities for students to attend productions, receive training from guest artists, and given more performance opportunities both on stage and in the classroom.

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As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results, eighty five percent (85%) of the students achieved a final grade of $\geq 75\%$ in course assignments. These changes had a direct impact on students to exhibit skills learned in their coursework.

Decision, action or recommendation. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The department will produce shows/performances that push students in new and exciting ways. Faculty will support the department in training and teaching students to be prepared for these shows/performances. If the faculty do not have the skills to necessary, they will seek out guest artists that could come and teach a master class to the department. These changes will improve the knowledge, skill and ability of student to exhibit skills learned in their classwork.

SLO 3. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, interpret, create and develop a unique point of view on theatrical and dance topics.

Measure 3.1.

(Direct Knowledge) Theatre/Dance coursework maintains criteria focused on student's ability to develop analytical skills. The target is to have 70% of students attain a grade of $\geq 75\%$ in written assignments, presentations or projects of an analytical nature.

Finding. Target was met.

Analysis. In 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, a capstone course was identified which highlighted the skills/training of upperclassmen showcasing acting, singing, dancing and technical elements. Productions were presented that allowed for post-show talk backs for audience members. In accordance with the plan of action from 2018-2019, in 2019-2020, the program produced the first QEP capstone performance of *Old Faces*. This allowed graduating students to produce, perform, create and collaborate showcasing an accumulation of all of their skills and knowledge in theatre and dance.

As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results, we found that eighty percent (80%) of the students achieved a final grade of $\geq 75\%$ in written assignments, presentations or projects of an analytical nature. These changes had a direct impact on student's ability to develop analytical skills.

Decision, action or recommendation. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The faculty will create more ways for students to showcase their analytical skills through writing assignments in the area of interest to the student. The faculty will encourage students to research and present material not only in classes but on research day and other conference opportunities. These

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changes will improve the student's confidence in their ability to develop analytical skills.

Measure 3.2

(Knowledge/Skill/Ability) Theatre/Dance productions help develop a unique point of view on theatrical and dance topics. The target is to have 80% of students attain a grade of $\geq 75\%$ in written assignments, presentations or projects of a unique point of view.

Finding. Target was met.

Analysis. In 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, theatre/Dance productions were well received in the community. Opportunities for post-show discussions/critiques were increased. In accordance with the plan of action from 2018-2019, in 2019-2020, the department started donor only performances allowing directors to choose a special event to incorporate into their production. Some directors collaborated with other faculty across campus for pre-show conversations contextualizing themes of the show as well as a post-show Q&A with cast members.

As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results, ninety percent (90%) of the students achieved a final grade of $\geq 75\%$ in written assignments, presentations or projects of a unique point of view. These changes had a direct impact on student's ability to develop a unique point of view on theatrical and dance topics.

Decision, action or recommendation. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The department will continue to offer Donor Only performances and build closer ties to the community through special events like these. Faculty will come up with new ways to have students engage with the community sharing their unique viewpoints on the work they present in performance. Faculty will continue to encourage students to stand behind their convictions and present their views in an educated way with examples to justify their views. These changes will improve the student's ability to develop a unique point of view on theatrical and dance topics.

SLO 4. Students will demonstrate their competency by exhibiting productions/performances for evaluation, portfolio reviews, juries, and/or by successful placement in approved internships/employment and/or continued education.

Measure 4.1.

(Direct Knowledge/Skill/Ability) Demonstration of knowledge and skills through practical application. The target is to have 85% of students attain a final grade of $\geq 85\%$ on their capstone experience courses.

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Finding. Target was met.

Analysis. In 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, implementation of time management skills helped to improve student tendencies to feel overwhelmed at times with what is required of them. Recognition of the diversity of individual talents and skills challenged individual students to overcome their deficits. Teacher-student interactions were focused upon to increase interest in academic learning and study habits. In accordance with the plan of action from 2018-2019, in 2019-2020, the program made improvements to the student's competency by exhibiting productions/performances for evaluation, portfolio reviews, juries, and/or by successful placement in approved internships/employment and/or continued education.

As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results, ninety percent (95%) of the students achieved a final grade of $\geq 85\%$ on their capstone experience courses. These changes had a direct impact on student's demonstration of knowledge and skills through practical application.

Decision, action or recommendation. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The department will continue to reevaluate the capstone courses making sure the experience is an accurate culmination of knowledge and skills in Theatre & Dance. Faculty will help mentor students in preparing professional portfolios and digital audition packages to assist in students submitting material for internships, summer positions, regional theatre positions, amusement park & cruise ship jobs as well as graduate school application materials. These changes will improve the student's demonstration of knowledge and skills through practical application.

SLO 5. Students will develop an appreciation and accepting attitude towards social responsibility, respect for the art, artistic standards and judgment, professional discipline and interaction with other communities and cultures.

Measure 5.1.

(Direct Knowledge) Theatre/Dance coursework maintains criteria focused on student's growth and appreciation of their art and craft and their place as artist in society. The target is to have 70% of students attain a grade of $\geq 75\%$ in their disposition and professionalism as well as their understanding of how performances affect and impact the community.

Finding. Target was met.

Analysis. In 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2018-

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2019 results, students continued to show appreciation and an accepting attitude towards social responsibility, respect for the art, artistic standards and judgment, professional discipline and interaction with other communities and cultures. In accordance with the plan of action from 2018-2019, in 2019-2020, the program continued to foster national and international relationships in the theatre/dance community to give students new opportunities. As well, the program continued to invite schools in the community to our campus for special socially relevant performances.

As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results, eighty percent (80%) of the students achieved a grade of $\geq 75\%$ in their disposition and professionalism as well as their understanding of how performances affect and impact the community. These changes had a direct impact on student's growth and appreciation of their art and craft and their place as artist in society.

Decision, action or recommendation. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The department will come up with new ways for students to see the impact of their work on local communities by inviting different groups of people in the community to the department to engage in an open dialogue with students about the importance of theatre and dance in their lives. Faculty will reach out to different organizations that foster relationships with college artists and allow for the students to connect with other artists in their community. These changes will improve the student's growth and appreciation of their art and craft and their place as artist in society.

Measure 5.2.

(Knowledge/Skill/Ability) Participation in theatre/dance productions allow students to develop an appreciation of their social responsibilities as artists and crafts-persons. The target is to have 80% of students attain a grade of $\geq 80\%$ in Applied Theatre, Dance Theatre Technology, Dance Performance or Dance Production Courses.

Finding. Target was met.

Analysis. In 2018-2019, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, students obtained guidance from the university counseling department concerning matters of safety and good health. Professional companies were invited to visit campus and audition students. In accordance with the plan of action from 2018-2019, in 2019-2020, the program continued to explore more opportunities for international exchanges. Production selection is more specific to works in which there are elements of social/cultural/artistic awareness.

As a result of these changes, in 2019-2020 the target was met. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results, ninety percent (90%) of the students achieved a

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grade of $\geq 80\%$ in Applied Theatre, Dance Theatre Technology, Dance Performance or Dance Production Courses. These changes had a direct impact on students to develop an appreciation of their social responsibilities as artists and crafts-persons.

Decision, action or recommendation. Based on the analysis of the 2019-2020 results the faculty will implement the following changes in 2020-2021 to drive the cycle of improvement. The department will focus on the development of social, artistic, and cultural awareness through new productions. The department will look into having new musicals or plays performed. Faculty will suggest new shows they have seen or heard that will focus on these topics. Faculty will explore ways of involving students in community outreach. These changes will improve students to develop an appreciation of their social responsibilities as artists and crafts-persons.

Comprehensive Summary of Key evidence of seeking improvement based on the analysis of the results.

The program included more assignments in which collaboration between students and faculty, as well as between production members.

Theatre History courses made developing writing skills a priority for each student's learning objectives.

The department continued to invite more guest artists who are at the forefront of current trends in theatre and dance, to offer master classes, workshops, presentations, networking and other possibilities for students to work with industry professionals.

The program continued to produce the *New Faces* performance with students in the Intro to Theatre and Dance Theatre Technology classes, giving each a performance/technical opportunity with a solo and a large group ensemble work.

The Dance Theatre Technology class continued to produce a final project. The final project gave students the chance to collaborate as a performer and choreographer with a lighting designer, learning skills on how to communicate their vision with a lighting designer.

The program secured funds for updating the classroom technology with a smart board allowing better access to online resources.

Faculty implemented new teaching methods to better suit the learning styles of today's students.

The program continued to explore opportunities for students to attend productions, receive training from guest artists, and given more performance opportunities both on stage and in the classroom.

The program produced the first QEP capstone performance of *Old Faces*, this allowed graduating students to produce, perform, create and collaborate showcasing all of their skills and knowledge in theatre and dance.

The department started donor only performances allowing directors to choose a special

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event to incorporate into their production. Some directors collaborated with other faculty across campus for pre-show conversations contextualizing themes of the show as well as a post-show Q&A with cast members.

The program made improvements to the student's competency by exhibiting productions/performances for evaluation, portfolio reviews, juries, and/or by successful placement in approved internships/employment and/or continued education.

The program continued to foster national and international relationships in the theatre/dance community to give our students new opportunities.

The department continued to invite schools in the community to our campus for special socially relevant performances.

The program continued to explore more opportunities for international exchanges.

Production selection is more specific to works in which there are elements of social/cultural/artistic awareness.

Plan of action moving forward.

Faculty will find more creative ways to have guest lectures join class discussions.

With more and new online content, faculty will find new ways of engaging students both in person and online utilizing new media sources, videos and technology in their courses.

Faculty will challenge students more in theatre performance by having them work on character development that is out of their comfort zone.

In technical theatre, students will learn new skills in areas they do not already know or are familiar with.

Dance faculty will introduce different styles of dance to challenge the ability of learning movement quickly.

Faculty will continue taking students on trips to Shreveport to see showings of the National Theatre Live productions.

Faculty will be trained on the new technology in the classroom utilizing the SmartBoard and enhancing class instruction with more interactive technology further increasing student engagement in history of Theatre & Dance topics.

The department will consider producing shows/performances that push students in new and exciting ways.

Faculty will support the department in training and teaching students to be prepared for these shows/performances. If the faculty do not have the skills necessary, they will seek out guest artists that could come and teach a master class to the department.

The faculty will create more ways for students to showcase their analytical skills through writing assignments in the area of interest to the student.

The faculty will encourage students to research and present material not only in classes but on research day and other conference opportunities.

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The department will continue to offer Donor Only performances and build closer ties to the community through special events like these.

Faculty will come up with new ways to have student engage with the community sharing their unique viewpoints on the work they present in performance.

Faculty will continue to encourage students to stand behind their convictions and present their views in an educated way with examples to justify their views.

The department will continue to reevaluate the capstone courses making sure the experience is an accurate culmination of knowledge and skills in Theatre & Dance.

Faculty will help mentor students in preparing professional portfolios and digital audition packages to assist in students submitting material for internships, summer positions, regional theatre positions, amusement park & cruise ship jobs as well as graduate school application materials.

The department will come up with new ways for students to see the impact of their work on local communities by inviting different groups of people in the community to the department to engage in open dialogue with the students about the importance of theatre and dance in their lives.

Faculty will reach out to different organizations that foster relationships with college artists and allow for the students to connect with other artists in their community.

The department will focus on the development of social, artistic, and cultural awareness through new productions. The department will look into having new musicals or plays performed.

Faculty will suggest new shows they have seen or heard that will focus on these topics.

Faculty will explore ways of involving students in community outreach.