Critical Dance Studies

Assessment Plan for the PhD Program

Program Learning Outcomes

The Ph.D. program in Critical Dance Studies will produce graduates who:

1. **Have comprehensive knowledge of the theoretical principles and methodological approaches that inform dance studies and are able to apply these methods and theories to complex problems in dance studies.**
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Reading and writing assignments in the core course sequence: Historical Approaches to Dance Studies, Rhetorical Approaches to Dance Studies, Cultural Approaches to Dance Studies, and Political Approaches to Dance Studies.

2. **Are able to apply methods and theories from other disciplines to issues in dance studies.**
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Reading and writing assignments in at least two courses outside the Dance Department.

3. **Are able to (1) critically read, understand, and evaluate scholarly literature; (2) integrate and synthesize ideas; (3) identify and evaluate novel and relevant research questions; (4) develop appropriate and effective research strategies; (5) communicate clearly and effectively.**
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Qualifying Examination with written and oral components.

4. **Are able to (1) apply appropriate, responsible, and ethical research methods; (2) evaluate, analyze, and interpret evidence; (3) develop and sustain evidence-based arguments; (4) convey findings clearly and effectively; (5) identify broader implications of findings; (6) produce publishable results.**
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Annual progress reports; seminar presentations; qualifying examination and defense; dissertation; and dissertation defense.

5. **Are able to demonstrate competence in one language other than English.**
   
   **Assessment Method:** Students choose from several departmentally-approved means of demonstrating competence, including: passing a translation exam administered by a faculty member; attaining a grade of "B" or better in a graduate seminar taught in the language; or attaining a grade of “B” or better for the equivalent of two years of coursework in the language.

6. **Are effective teachers.**
   
   **Assessment Method:** Assignments in one or both of two pedagogy courses (Dance 301, which is required, and Dance 14 plus 2 units of 302, which is a
prerequisite for TA-ing Dance 5); student teaching evaluations, when relevant (note: not all graduate students serve as TAs).

7. Are capable professionals.

**Assessment Method:** Professionalization assignments in Dance 301 (recently re-vamped to include both pedagogical and professionalization components); conference presentations; fellowship and grant awards; publications; reviewer activities; job placement.

8. Are able to produce acceptable results within reasonable timeframes.

**Assessment Methods:** Advancement to candidacy within 1 year of normative time; degree conferral within 1 year of normative time.


**Assessment Method:** Exit interview.