Critical Dance Studies

WASC Assessment Plan for PhD Program

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.