Experimental Choreography

WASC Assessment Plan for MFA Program

The Masters in Fine Arts in Experimental choreography in Dance will produce graduates who:

1. Have comprehensive knowledge of choreographic practice, methodological approaches to creating artistic work for built environments, mediated environments, and the concert stage.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in core course sequences: Improvising Choreography, Dancing Representation, Creating the Experiment, Collaborating in Dance Making. Final project after two years of coursework, and the end of every MFA course demonstrates knowledge acquired and applied in their choreography.

2. Are able to: a) read and understand scholarly literature; b) understand choreographic principles using notions of time and space and bodily movement/physicality; c) use the tools from theoretical and practical classes to create artistic vision; d) execute the artistic vision.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in all MFA and PhD core courses. End of each course will produce written essay or performance piece or a combination of both. Projects will be examined as they connect theory and practice in rigorous investigation of contemporary aesthetic issues as formulated in their own research projects. They will be asked to examine their own artistic work production from their aesthetic inquiry through the study of historical, cultural, and political perspectives on dance and as it bears on new choreographies of their making.

3. Are capable and professional choreographers.

   **Assessment Methods:** Professionalization assignments in Dance 301; final performance at the end of MFA. Final performance demonstrates the skill of integrating the above into a work of art. Should be able to collaborate, experiment, and understand the terms of representation. Should understand that dance is both analytical and productive. Can critically engage with key theoretical ideas and produce works of art that reflect this engagement. Have acquired and utilized compositional strategies drawn from the four key core courses.

4. Are effective teachers.

   **Assessment Method:** Assignments in one or both of two pedagogy courses (Dance 301 and Dance 14 plus 2 units of 302); student teaching evaluations (when relevant).

5. Are able to produce acceptable results within reasonable timeframes.
Assessment Method: Advancement to candidacy within 1 year of normative time; degree conferral within 1 year of normative time.

6. Are satisfied graduates who have been able to come from professional backgrounds and are able to return to a range of spaces and to pursue an array of career goals that enhance their skills.

Assessment Method: Exit interview.