

Western Oregon University
Dance Program
Senior Project/Portfolio

Learning Outcome: *Produce scholarly/creative projects, solve professional problems independently, and demonstrate a well-developed intellectual/aesthetic focus.*

Each graduating senior with a B.A. or B.S. in Dance will be required to present a capstone project in one of the following areas:

- Choreography
- Performance
- Research project or other creative projects

Curriculum and Credit Hours

All majors in Dance must complete a final capstone experience on a selected topic in the field of dance under course D 405 Senior Project (2 credit hours).

Project Proposals

Students will submit a formal proposal at least three terms before intended graduation outlining their project to the department faculty.

The proposal will outline, in detail, the following (as applies):

- intention or focus of your project
- topics to be included/covered in your research
- methods of research to be employed (i.e., Bibliography including written materials, books, videos, interviews of professionals in the area of research, etc.)
- outline of the project and a timeline for progression of the development and conclusion of the project

Advisors

A dance faculty advisor will either be assigned to a student based upon the subject matter of the proposal and/or the expertise of the dance faculty. The student may request a specific dance faculty member with faculty approval.

Students are responsible for all details of the project, including the creation, research, and as applicable, the rehearsal, costumes, sound/music and the presentation of the project. Faculty members may help when asked, but the complete responsibility for the project rests with the student.

Choreographic Project

Students wishing to choreograph for the Spring Dance Concert will follow the current guidelines in the *Dance Student Handbook*.

Choreographic Projects Should:

- demonstrate an understanding of the choreographic process, including idea and movement development, the rehearsal process. Also included will be costume, set and lighting designs and sound or music. Overall, the process should reflect bringing an initial dance idea or concept to a final performance.
- include a notebook detailing the senior project process from start to finish. These may include sketches of costume and set design ideas, floor patterns and spatial relationships between dancers within the different sections in a piece, as well as thoughts about particular movement, costume, set and lighting choices and sound/music (please see list below). Notebooks will be turned in one week after the concert to the faculty advisor.

1. Audition
2. Rehearsals
3. Costume design
4. Lighting design
5. Sound design
6. Sets or props
7. First showing (Preview # 1)
8. Second showing (Preview # 2)
9. Performance
10. Post production: interview with faculty and self evaluation

Performance Projects

Performance Projects Should:

- demonstrate the ability to perform a major performance role with an acceptable level of quality and skill. A journal must be kept and include information on the following:
 1. Written self-critique and discussion of entire process including; technique, dynamics, character, group work, rehearsal process, performance
 2. Post performance meeting and evaluation by dance faculty advisor and other dance faculty

Research/Creative Projects

Research Projects will:

- demonstrate academically based research and documentation skill, and the ability to develop an original dance related idea in areas such as Dance History or Dance Criticism, Ethnology, Human Movement Notation, Kinesiology, Dance & Technology, Dance Wellness, Creative Dance for Children or Dance Pedagogy. The development and documentation of the project methodology should be established with dance faculty advisor.
- be presented on Academic Excellence Day, the last Thursday in May, or by arrangement with dance faculty advisor.

Other Creative Projects in dance that are not encompassed in the above categories may be accepted, but must be submitted to the student's dance faculty advisor for approval and for consultation in developing project guidelines.

DANCE
Senior Project/Portfolio

Assessment Form

Student: _____ **Degree**

Program: _____

Course Prefix and Title: _____

Credit Hours: _____

Date Completed: _____

Project Description: (Please type and attach additional sheets as necessary)

Problems/Challenges: What problems or challenges were you confronted with in your research/creative process and how did you solve them?

Project Evaluation (Student): What was your experience of the research/creative process? Please reflect on the following stages of the project a) pre-planning; b) process; c) final project.

Project Evaluation Including outcomes and grade (Faculty Advisor):

Dance Faculty Advisor signature: _____

Date: _____

STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHER'S APPLICATION FORM

In order to be eligible to Choreograph for Dance Concerts all students must have:

- a) a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better
- and b) completed each of the following courses with the grade of "B" or better: D260 Improvisation, D351 Dance Composition I, D352 Dance Composition II and have completed or be currently enrolled in D455 Group Choreography
- and c) senior class standing
- and d) consent of dance faculty

Student works will go through the process of two previews. After the second preview, pieces will be selected to be performed in either the main stage concert in Rice Auditorium or in the informal spring dance concert in Maple Hall.

Choreographer's Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Faculty Advisor _____

Title of Work _____

Number of Dancers _____ Women _____ Men _____

Music/Accompaniment Title(s) and Composer(s) _____

Length of Piece: Minutes _____ Seconds _____ Live _____ Recorded _____

Discuss your ideas for this dance piece. Be as specific as possible. Include descriptions of sections, tempos, shapes, levels, and energy.

Costumes: (Attach sketches)

Lighting:

Scenery/Prop (If you need anything built, please attach drawing of complete design, including dimensions, colors and materials to be used in its construction.)

Describe the staging of your work: (Cyc or Blacks?) Do you need anything moved on or off stage by stage crew, please detail here.

STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All student choreographers should reserve afternoon and evening times for rehearsals. With limited times and spaces available, it may not be possible to accommodate inflexible schedules.
2. First time student choreographers will be limited to six minutes, unless there is a very compelling reason for the piece to be longer.
3. All student choreographers must have a dance faculty advisor. The choreographer is responsible for scheduling and attending regular (weekly) meetings with his/her dance faculty advisor to discuss how the work is progressing
4. The advisor **MUST** view the work at least once (preferably more) BEFORE THE FIRST PREVIEW.
5. The expectation will be that half the dance (a minimum of 3 minutes) will be shown at preview # 1.
6. A decision will be made after preview one regarding which pieces may continue the choreographic process and be shown at preview # 2. Students in pieces that are not included on the dance concert will receive full credit.
7. The expectation will be that the piece will be **final draft ready** for presentation at preview # 2.
8. If credit hours are desired or this is a senior project, each choreographer must keep a notebook detailing compositional ideas, as well as choreography, costume design, lighting design, and any other aspects regarding production of the work. This notebook shall be turned in to the choreographer's advisor at the completion of the concert.
9. The department has various costumes and costume pieces which are available to student choreographers and their dancers. New costumes may be purchased from vendors or designed and created by the WOU Theatre and Dance Department costume shop. Choreographers are required to check in to available costumes and equipment before spending money to purchase or to make new ones. All purchases are the property of the dance company and will remain in the costume storage area.
10. Choreographers are responsible for the stage props and lighting ideas for their dance. They must consult with the Technical Director and/or Lighting Designer. It is probable that a limit will be set regarding the number of cues and special effects for each dance.
11. It is each choreographer's responsibility to check the bulletin boards outside of the dance studio (OPE 212) and Maple Hall for special notices regarding meetings, deadlines, etc.
12. Choreographers must make sure their dancers appear at previews, technical and dress rehearsals. Prior arrangement **MUST** be made with the faculty advisors for any absences from either previews or technical/dress rehearsals.
13. Sound scores for each choreographer's work must be available at least two weeks before the concert opening.

All of the above requirements must be met for a work to be considered for inclusion in the dance concert.