

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
Department of Performing Arts/ Dance Program  
Bachelors of Arts in Dance  
Bachelors of Arts/Bachelors of Science in Dance Education  
Self-Study Document, Fall 2014

Author's Contact Information:

Amanda Sowerby

Email: [asowerby@weber.edu](mailto:asowerby@weber.edu)

Phone: 801-626-7674

Fax: 801-626-6811

Office: Browning Center 213A (MC1905)

The following is a summary of the self-study document, highlighting important points. For complete information, please refer to the full, self-study document itself.

**Mission Statement:**

The Dance Program's mission is to make a difference through dance...Performing, Creating, Discovering, Thinking and Connecting.

Access – Rich opportunities to *perform*, study styles and techniques from many cultures, and to create. Individual attention from faculty and a collaborative approach allow students to improve every day. Technology-based courses, dance science and rigorous academic preparation in theory and criticism open doors for careers in dance and related fields.

Community – Through established courses students work with communities on campus and beyond and learn to teach, perform for and work closely with others, to *experience* the value and power of dance.

Learning – Students apply themselves and explore their points of view in order to grow as dancers, creators, thinkers and leaders, to *discover* the roles dance plays in their lives and work, to be self-motivated, independent and responsible.

These experiences support 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, to *think* creatively and critically, to work collaboratively with others, and to communicate. These skills are also embedded in the language and practice of dance, and prepare students for the evolving job market, to live as engaged individuals, to embrace lifelong learning, and to enrich society.

**Curriculum:**

The Dance Program learning outcomes are introduced, developed and mastered through a rigorous practice in technical skill building, creative scholarship, pre-K through 12 pedagogy and community engaged practical learning. In addition to general education and disciplinary core curriculum, students enrolled in the Dance Education major are required to take an additional 33 credits in the Moyes College of Education in order to qualify for secondary state licensure.

**Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment:**

At the end of their study at WSU, students in this program will be proficient in:

1. Technique and Performance:

Students will apply dance technique, kinesiological principles, and artistry to improve as dancers and performers.

2. Theory/Criticism:

Students will apply and communicate principles of dance theory and criticism.

3. Creative Process:

Students will engage in the evolving nature of the creative process.

4. Meaning/Self Discovery:

Students will discover, express and gain ownership of their own point of view about dance.

Evidence of learning is provided in this report; all benchmarks for success were met in the 2013-2014 academic year.

**Academic Advising:**

The Dance Program faculty and the Lindquist College of Arts and Humanities academic advisor (Debbie Murphy) are committed to assisting each student in a planned and achievable path to successful completion. In 2012 the Dance Program faculty divided advising responsibilities between the 3 full-time faculty members. All students have one designated advisor; Dance, Dance Education, Dance Minors/Dance Teaching Minors and Dance Honors. This change in advising procedure has allowed for more directed planning and a more personalized approach for both faculty and students. This new system has been met with positive feedback and, additionally, allows for a more evenly distributed advising schedule for faculty.

**Faculty:**

The Dance Program has three full-time tenure track faculty members and employs adjunct faculty to fill General Education course DANC1010 needs and to offer a range of cultural dance forms that are essential to our program. During the spring 2014 semester one-quarter of our course offerings were taught by adjunct faculty. Since WSU is located in an unusually rich area of dance resources, the use of adjunct faculty enriches our program with professional examples and diverse cultural influences. As we have seen slow but steady growth in the number of majors numbers, we predict that the Dance Program will seek future support for a fourth full-time faculty member in the next four to seven years.

**Program Support:**

The Dance Program currently utilizes the services of a secretary, student office assistant, and a budget manager through the Department of Performing Arts. Additionally, the Dance Program employs one student office assistant through the university's 50/50 Program in Career Services, with the Dance Program's portion funded through Weber State University's Student Association's student fees. The Dance Program also receives excellent support from the Stewart Library. To add, as of this year, we receive support for our Dance Education Program from the newly appointed Beverley Taylor Sorenson Endowed Chair for Arts Education.

In Section I: Action Plan for Staff, Administration, or Budgetary Findings of the Self Study, the Dance Program addresses the loss of long standing program support, which served the Fall and Spring Dance Concerts. It is paramount that the Dance Program continues to serve its students through choreographic and performance related research, and hands on learning of technical theater, as it relates to dance. The loss of technical support for Dance Program productions requires the Dance Program to subtract funding historically used to provide our students with guest artists and instructors, undergraduate research support, and student festival travel.

### **Relations with External Community:**

The Dance Program maintains relationships with the community in three primary ways:

1) Through CCEL (Center for Community Engaged Learning) courses, 2) through pre-service teaching courses/internships, and 3) dance performance related activities, both on and off campus. The Dance Program has built community partnerships with area pre-K-12 schools, non-profit organizations, and private sector studios.

### **Student, Faculty, Contract/Adjunct Faculty and Staff Statistics:**

The majority of students in the Dance Program are female. This is a common occurrence in dance programs across the nation. The student faculty ratio data indicate an increase in the number of students taking courses in the program and a higher student to faculty ratio over time. The data is in line with an increase in SCH data, which have increased from 2010-2013. The number of declared majors (Dance and Dance Education combined) has also increased, as have the number of students graduating.

### **Results of Previous Program Reviews:**

The previous University 5-year Program Review was conducted by the Department of Performing Arts. Since that time the Dance Program implemented many of the recommendations made to the DPA by the review team. Such examples include: improving accountability in advising, supporting interdisciplinary research activities for dance students and faculty, emphasizing respect for all students in the DPA, and supporting students and faculty of the DPA by attending performances and assisting such events when possible. Please note: This is the first time that the Dance Program is conducting the review independently.

### **Information Regarding Current Review Team Members:**

WSU faculty member outside of the Department of Performing Arts

Matthew Choberka

Department of Visual Arts and Design, Department Chair

Associate Professor

3964 West Campus Drive Dept.2001

Ogden, UT. 84408

matthewchoberka@weber.edu

(801) 626-7270

WSU faculty member outside the Telitha E. Lindquist College of Arts and Humanities

Dr. Brenda Marsteller Kowalewski

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Professor  
Center for Community Engaged Learning  
3910 West Campus Drive Dept. 2113  
Ogden, UT 84408-2113  
801-626-7737  
bkowalewski@weber.edu  
(801) 626-7893

Review Team members outside of WSU

Nichole Ortega  
Utah Valley University  
Department of Dance, Department Chair  
Associate Professor  
800 West University Parkway  
Orem, UT. 84058  
nichole.ortega@uvu.edu  
(801) 863-7130

Amy Ragsdale  
University of Montana  
Professor Emeritus  
Headwaters Dance, Director  
P.O. Box 9356  
Missoula, MT. 59807  
aragsdale58@gmail.com  
(406) 728-1131