

# Dance Students' Comprehensive Knowledge in Dance History

## Dance BA – College of the Arts

### Step 1: Student Learning Outcome:

Students adequately demonstrate the mastery of facts, concepts and vocabulary in the area of dance history. Students will be engaged in the learning and researching the history of the art form. During this process they will utilize critical thinking and originality in their approach to research and analysis.

### Step 2: Methods and Measures

Data were collected in the spring of 2017 from research projects created by Dance Majors juniors. Students conducted research on a specific figure from one of the periods being studied. The research paper presentation included a discussion of the historical context of the figure's work.

Faculty assessed student comprehensive knowledge using the following criteria:

- Exceeds Expectations
  - Demonstrates mastery of facts, concepts and vocabulary.
  - Always uses critical thinking and originality in the approach to the analysis.
  - Provides a significant degree of specificity and detail in the analysis beyond what is assigned.
- Meets Expectations
  - Demonstrates some mastery of facts, concepts and vocabulary.
  - Uses some critical thinking and originality in the approach to the analysis.
  - Provides some degree of specificity and detail in the analysis beyond what is assigned.
- Needs Improvement
  - Demonstrates little or no mastery of facts, concepts, and vocabulary.
  - Does not use critical thinking and originality in the approach to the analysis.
  - Provides little or no specificity and detail in the analysis.

### Step 3: Criteria for Success

Seventy percent (70%) of students should receive “meets expectations” or above on the presentations and written papers based on evaluation of mastery of materials and critical thinking about the text as discussed in the assignment.

### Step 4: Results

The criteria for success was achieved with the following results;

- 84% Met or Exceeded Expectations
  - Exceeds Expectations: 8%
  - Meets Expectations: 76%
  - Needs Improvement: 16%

### Step 5: Improvement Actions

Although 84% of students met or exceeded expectations, it was noted that 16% fell short in meeting the expectation of the criteria and should be addressed. The improvement action to be implemented consists of assisting students to be able to identify and analyze the elements of dance in a given piece, including an understanding of its choreographic processes, aesthetic properties, and artistic, social, and historical context. This is to be done at various stages in the curriculum in both the Modern and Ballet areas as well.