

Dance Students' Application of Technique and Performance

Dance BA – College of the Arts

Step 1: Student Learning Outcome

Students adequately demonstrate the technique, performance skills and movement vocabulary required of performing artists.

Step 2: Methods and Measures

Faculty assess student progress at performance reviews and juried annual assessments in application of previously learned skills, and concepts to new challenges and problems in studio study, using a rubric designed specifically for each discipline. Rubrics were co-designed by all the Dance Faculty. The Panel of Dance Faculty members submit results for each student and then these are discussed before deciding on the final rubric score of “Exceeds Expectations”, “Meets Expectations”, or “Needs Improvement” for each student.

Dance studio rubric criteria comprise the following;

- 1) Application of Technique
 - Technical accuracy
 - Centering, balance, and alignment
 - Stamina, strength, and flexibility
 - Spatial awareness and precision of movement
- 2) Application of Performance
 - Timing and musicality
 - Quality and dynamics
 - Self-expression, sense of performance, and use of focus

Step 3: Criteria for Success

Overall, 70% of students will receive “Meets Expectations” or “Exceeds Expectations” in Application of Technique and Application of Performance skills.

Step 4: Results

A total of 37, fourth level (IV) dance majors were assessed on their Ballet and Modern Technique and Performance skills. The fourth levels of Ballet and Modern are the highest levels reached in the Dance Program.

Ballet Assessment Results:

- 1) Application of Technique
 - Technical accuracy = 95% Meets, 5% Exceeds
 - Centering, balance, and alignment = 70% Meets, 25% Exceeds

- Stamina, strength, and flexibility = 70.8% Meets, 29.2% Exceeds
 - Spatial awareness and precision of movement = 58.3% Meets, 41.7% Exceeds
- 2) Application of Performance
- Timing and musicality = 62.5% Meets, 37.5%, Exceeds
 - Quality and dynamics = 62.5% Meets, 37.5%, Exceeds
 - Self-expression, sense of performance, and use of focus = 54.2% Meets, 45.8% Exceeds

Overall, 99% of Ballet IV students received a “Meets Expectations” or “Exceeds Expectations” in Application of Technique and Performance skills.

Modern Assessment Results:

- 1) Application of Technique
- Technical accuracy = 46.2% Meets, 53.8% Exceeds
 - Centering, balance, and alignment = 69.2% Meets, 30.8% Exceeds
 - Stamina, strength, and flexibility = 53.8% Meets, 46.2% Exceeds
 - Spatial awareness and precision of movement = 30.8% Meets, 69.2% Exceeds
- 2) Application of Performance
- Timing and musicality = 15.4% Meets, 84.6%, Exceeds
 - Quality and dynamics = 76.9% Meets, 23.1%, Exceeds
 - Self-expression, sense of performance, and use of focus = 84.6% Meets, 15.4% Exceeds

Overall, 100% of Modern IV students received “Meets Expectations” or “Exceeds Expectations” in application of Technique and Performance skills.

In comparing results from past years, there has been steady improvement in results, as seen with Ballet IV scores increasing from an overall score of 90% (Meets/Exceeds) in 2019-20, to 99% (Meets/Exceeds) in 2020-21. Modern IV students increased from 98% (Meets/Exceeds) in 2019-20, to 100% (Meets/Exceeds) in 2020-21.

Step 5: Improvement Actions

The 2020-21 Dance Technique and Performance Skills Assessment demonstrates the competency of the Ballet and Modern Dance Curriculum and its faculty of teaching artists. The results demonstrate that students are able to apply and utilize the developing skill sets from each level of their training resulting in their continued success in the program.

Dance faculty will continue to communicate with each other regarding individual students who have challenges to overcome in order to be successful. Assessment results will be shared with faculty in the first fall meeting.