

Theatre and Dance Department
Academic Assessment Program
BFA in Musical Theatre

A. Mission of the Department

It is the mission of the department to provide a quality theatre education and training within the framework of a liberal arts education.

B. Philosophy of the BFA Program

Students in the BFA Programs will comprehend the process involved in the creation of theatre, beginning with the script through the interpretive creative processes of performance and production. Students will have achieved significant technical mastery in at least one of the traditional or innovative techniques appropriate to their work. Students will have developed a significant sense of what constitutes a serious work of theatre and a relatively coherent set of ideas and goals that are embodied in their work. Students will demonstrate their competency by developing a presentation for evaluation.

C. Goals of the BFA Musical Theatre Program

1. Demonstrated ability to act, i.e. to project one's self believably in word and action into imaginary circumstances, evoked improvisationally and/or through text.
2. Demonstrated ability to characterize convincingly from plays drawn from different genres and styles alone and in an ensemble relationship with other actors.
3. A developed technique for analyzing and performing varied characters from written plays.
4. A flexible, strong, and controlled voice with trained breath support; appropriate vocal range and freedom from vocal and postural tension in rehearsal and performance; demonstrated ability to project the voice effectively.
5. A flexible, relaxed, and controlled body trained in basic stage movement disciplines and a demonstrated ability to use the body effectively on stage as an instrument for characterization.
6. Achievement of the highest possible level of performance as a singer, actor, and dancer.

7. Thorough development in basic musical skills including vocal performance and musicianship.

D. Assessment Criteria and Procedures

1. Acting and singing juries occur at the conclusion of each semester until the senior year. Dance juries occur at the end of the freshman year and each semester after until the senior year. An acting jury is comprised of two monologues taken from existing text.* Singing juries are comprised of material selected from a choice of songs. Dance juries are comprised of a skills test covering the style(s) of dance a student has covered in that semester.
2. Following each jury students are given oral feedback by the performance faculty as to their progress concerning the following: level of mastery in vocal skills, movement skills, embodiment of character, pursuit of objectives, tactics, spontaneity, commitment level, vocal progress, musicianship, dance skills, etc.*
3. During the student's final year he/she produces and presents a recital before a public audience.
4. The sophomore review includes singing, acting and dancing. It is at this time that the music and performance faculty determine whether the student should be allowed to continue in the program.
5. The four-year curriculum culminates in a public performance recital consisting of a repertory of singing, acting and dance.
6. A private evaluation follows the senior recital.

* Jury Rating Sheets are attached.

E. Implementation

1. Juries are routinely held during Week 13 of each semester.
2. Feedback sessions are held during Week 14 of each semester.
3. BFA Recitals are held throughout the fall and spring semesters.
4. Feedback on BFA Recitals is held at the convenience of professors and students.
5. Faculty meet during the semester to discuss necessary curriculum changes based upon student performance in juries and recitals.

F. Results and Reporting

1. Assessment results of student progress in the BFA Performance program are kept in the chairman's office and reported in the Annual Report to the Dean of Arts and Humanities.
2. Program changes based upon assessment results are reported in the Annual Report to the Dean of Arts and Humanities.