

## **Dance Program Review – 2003/2004**

### **FULL TIME FACULTY:**

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Citrus College Dance Program provides a vast array of opportunities in the field of dance to the community college student. These include instruction to the beginning student in ballet, jazz, tap, modern and musical theatre technique, as well as training for the vocational student in order to prepare them for employment in the professional dance world. The program conforms to the mission of Citrus College seeking to provide transfer and associate degree courses, reaching out to the community, and improving the local work force in the commercial dance field.

The Dance Program serves several important functions:

- a) Provide the necessary technical and performance tools that would enable a student to become employed as a professional dancer.
- b) Provide a variety of dance performance experiences.
- c) Expose students to working professionals in the dance industry.
- d) Create liaisons between the College and surrounding employers of dancers to increase vocational placement upon completion of the program.
- e) Offer dance classes that fulfill transfer requirements for the University of California and Cal State University systems.

- f) Offer dance classes that fulfill general education requirements for non-fine arts majors.
- g) Offer beginning and intermediate courses in ballet, jazz, tap, modern and musical theatre techniques.
- h) Provide outreach to the community and evening students to broaden their exposure to dance.

**MISSION:**

COMMENDATIONS:

- a) The dance program is in conformity with the mission of Citrus College which is to provide transfer and associate degree courses.
- b) The dance program affords the student an opportunity to train in classical technique as well as commercial dance forms in preparation for employment in the professional dance world.
- c) The dance program offers experiences that help to build self esteem and improve inter-personal communications. Instruction in dance courses provides an environment in which the student can enhance his/her general life skills.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) With the addition of the Recording Arts/Video Technology facility, and the institution of a Pilates training program, we must continue to prepare ourselves for an influx of students in the dance program and up-date teaching techniques accordingly.
- b) The dance program should continue to monitor successful four-year institutions with quality dance departments to assure continued student preparation within the discipline.
- c) With the remodel of the Hayden Library, there should be a focus toward providing students with additional dance research materials and dance videos

for viewing resources. The opportunity for students to independently research will greatly benefit the dance program.

- d) The dance program should seek to increase its outreach and recruitment efforts involving surrounding secondary education dance programs.

**NEED:**

COMMENDATIONS:

- a) The dance program contributes significant FTE reflecting a steady increase from 1998 (13.71) to 2002 (61.21).
- b) The dance program offers complete curriculum including: beginning, intermediate and intermediate/advanced dance classes, together with dance concert production opportunities, all of which are available to both the day and evening student.
- c) Current Labor Department data reflects that there is an expansion in career opportunities for the dance major. This department offers a perfect training ground for the student desirous of not only a four-year degree, but also of a career in the dance industry.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) Dance classes should, whenever possible, be scheduled to maximize the student's availability to participate in general education courses.
- b) Dance faculty should continue to investigate the institution of the state-approved Commercial Dance Certificate, which would provide students with an alternative "fast-track" option to a career in the entertainment field. This will require reinstitution or addition of courses currently not offered due to state budget constraints and facility limitations.

## **QUALITY:**

### COMMENDATIONS:

The Dance program has proven successful as a result of the following:

- a) The vision of the dance faculty to provide for the academic and practical needs of the dance student in preparation for university transfer.
- b) Faculty who demonstrate an awareness of academic trends and practices within the dance industry.
- c) Faculty members who are participants in the professional dance industry.
- d) The vision of the dance faculty to prepare students for employment within a highly competitive industry.
- e) Curriculum which is recognized as one of the most diverse dance programs in the state, allowing students both classical and commercial dance education.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) Administrative review and support of improved teacher-to-student ratio as it pertains to all levels of dance classes.
- b) Continued emphasis on curriculum development pertaining to commercial dance skills, Pilates training and video for choreography.
- c) Continued emphasis on curriculum development pertinent to classical dance technique.
- d) The establishment of a touring dance ensemble.
- e) The development of a stronger relationship with four-year institutions and conservatories to better articulate literature requirements for matriculation.

## **FEASIBILITY:**

### COMMENDATIONS:

- a) Maximum use of existing facility space is a constant priority.
- b) Full-time dance faculty provides quality classroom experiences, course guidance and recommendations as well as inter-disciplinary involvement.

- c) Part-time dance faculty contribute their professional skills, work ethics and academic experiences in an exemplary manner.
- d) Both full and part-time faculty in this department continue to maintain a high profile in the professional arena, guaranteeing a balance of academic and practical educational experience for the student.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the dance program be expanded. In doing so, the following needs should be addressed.

- a) A 400 seat lecture/lab/performance facility and one additional dance rehearsal space with mirrors, ballet barres, concealment curtains and state-of-the-art digital video equipment.
- b) A fully-equipped Pilates conditioning lab, perhaps in connection with the Physical Education Department and the Life-Long Learning Center.
- c) A state-of-the-art video production facility, perhaps for inter-disciplinary utilization with the Recording Arts Department.
- d) Sound and lighting equipment to augment and enhance touring company/secondary education outreach programs.
- e) Additional full-time instructors to help facilitate the goals and objectives of the dance department as set forth in on-going curriculum development.
- f) Additional part-time faculty to expand our availability to meet an ever-increasing student demand.

**COMPLIANCE:**

All courses are in compliance with State, District and agency regulations. Courses that are designed for transference have never been challenged by universities with regard to acceptance. Our curriculum is consistent with accepted methods of instruction while implementing the highest innovative professional standards.