

## General Guidelines for BFA Capstone Projects

**Your capstone project should represent the coursework you did at BYU, and be a bridge to your work that you will do after you graduate from BYU.**

### **General Guidelines:**

1. **Before** you begin your proposal work for your 469 Capstone Project you must email Kate Monson at [monson.7@gmail.com](mailto:monson.7@gmail.com) requesting the semester you would like to complete your BFA Capstone Project. Once you have been assigned the semester you **MUST** keep that semester unless you give a full year's notice. We will possibly be hiring a professional/faculty to create a choreographic work for our all BFA candidates as part of their capstone. This takes time and effort—if you fail to do your capstone when you are scheduled it could have dire results. Also because of the sometimes large numbers of students requesting the same semester, there are times that you will not get your first choice of semester and rearrangements may be necessary. These forms are available in the dance office.
2. **All capstones must turn in a written proposal.** Choreographic capstones also require a movement proposal. (specific information below.)
3. **You will not be able to pre-register for this class.** You will receive an add code when your capstone proposal is approved.
4. Your Senior Project should represent 84 hours of work. (2 credit hours is equal to 6 hours per week for 14 weeks.)
5. Plan early so that you can write grants if needed. Do not wait until the last moment to prepare a grant, as you will need letters of recommendation. Please do not request a faculty member to write a letter of recommendation in only one or two days before the grant is due.
6. For the choreography portion, cast your piece from currently enrolled BYU students.
7. For the performance portion of your project, you will be joined by the other BFA students that are enrolled in capstone in the same semester. Rehearsals will happen dependent on the choreographer, plan to be as flexible as possible.
8. Be prepared for your project by taking classes that will support your project.
9. Please understand that in assigning mentors, we will try to honor every request. However, it is impossible to pre-determine what type of teaching, research, and citizenship load a faculty member may be committed to semester to semester. We will do everything that we can to make every student feel good about their mentor.

### **Written Senior Capstone Proposal includes:**

1. A completed Senior Capstone Proposal Form (see previous page)
2. A full progress report on which you will highlight classes completed that have prepared you to complete your capstone successfully.
3. Any required information as designated by your particular capstone (see below)

*All proposal forms must be submitted to the Dance Office in the Richards Building, 294 RB-BYU, Provo, Utah, 84602 by 5:00pm on the date that it is due.*

Faculty members will review your written proposal and decide if you are ready to go forward with your project.

### **In order to proceed with your project, faculty members will be looking for the following:**

1. *Is your project developed, well thought out, and ready to go?*
2. *Have you taken the necessary course work to support the completion of your project?*

## **Requirements for BFA Capstone Projects** **Performance and Choreography**

### **PERFORMANCE**

The performance portion of the BFA Capstone is a performance of a 5-7 minute work, choreographed by a professional dance artist or faculty member chosen by the BFA committee. The expectation for this portion of the capstone project is to fulfill the intent and coaching of the choreographer and additionally to invest in personal performance research by creating 3-5 personal performance goals that you submit in a written proposal before the capstone semester begins. These performance goals must reflect an exploration into new ways of thinking about and executing your performance.

#### **For Your Proposal:**

**Fill out *Senior Capstone Proposal Form*, and include:**

1. A list of 3-5 performance goals. These goals should be specific, varied, and have depth.
2. Explain why you chose those performance goals and how they will inform your ability to perform new ways of thinking and executing during a performance.
3. Attach a full Progress Report printed out (can be found online) with all courses you have taken or are currently enrolled in that will help you to be successful in your project highlighted.

#### **How your proposal will be assessed:**

Following are questions that faculty members will consider as they assess the potential for success in the performance portion of your capstone:

- Are you prepared in terms of experience and understanding of dance as an art form to present a solid performance?
- Are you presenting well thought out performance goals?

#### **Process for completing performance element of the project:**

- You will meet during the first Dance 469 class of the semester. If all of your proposals have been approved you will receive an add code at this time.
- You will be assigned a choreographer and a rehearsal schedule will be created between the choreographer and the BFA students who will be involved in the semester's capstone course.
- You will meet with your mentor the week that you receive approval for your project to discuss your goals and project procedures.
- You will keep a journal during the rehearsal process, including thoughts, questions, discoveries, and challenges of each rehearsal.
- You will take copious notes (handwritten and video) about the choreography and feedback you are given during the setting process. Especially if you are only working with your choreographer for a short period.
- You will have your mentor attend rehearsals or share videos of rehearsal with your mentor so that they can give feedback to increase the effectiveness of your performance.
- You will help organize and produce the concert on which your performance and choreography will be presented.

- You will write a paper of 1250-1500 words in length, analyzing the accomplishment of your own performance goals, as well as the implementation of notes from your choreographer. This paper will be submitted to your mentor. (This paper will also **include** reflection on the choreographic element of your capstone project.)
- Your mentor will determine your grade for your project with input from the dance faculty.

## **CHOREOGRAPHY**

The choreographic component of your capstone should be a 5-7 minute piece of choreography either focusing in the Ballet or Contemporary Modern genre, or when appropriate (including the student having adequate knowledge/experience with both) a fusion of the two. This choreographic work will be presented on the Senior Showcase concert, other approved venue, (such as dE or Ballet Showcase) or approved informal showing when appropriate. Pre-requisites for this portion of the capstone are a 300 level choreographic course, Dance 363, and Dance 462.

### **For Your Written Proposal:**

**Fill out the *Senior Capstone Proposal Form* and include:**

- Title of dance, name of composer(s), number of dancers, and preliminary costume idea.
- You will attach a paper consisting of 500 words or more in length. discussing the concept of your dance. Discuss how this choreographic project will challenge you beyond what you have already done in dance composition. Examples: Will you be challenged by the music? Are you working motif, theme and formal structure? Will you be using a new method of choreographing? Etc.
- A full Progress Report printed out (can be found online) with all courses you have taken or are currently enrolled in that will help you to be successful in your project highlighted.

### **For Your Movement Proposal:**

- You will present 2-4 minutes of *detailed and concrete* movement. This movement does not have to be taught to other dancers (although it can be), nor do movement sequences need to be connected it can be presented in segments, you can also show filmed work. The movement must be developed not improvised or a first draft.

**If you do *not* have at least 2 minutes of choreography to show, do *not* plan to proceed with a choreographic project.**

### **How your proposal will be assessed:**

Following are questions that faculty members will consider as they assess the potential of your project:

- Is the presented movement original and have a clear point of view?
- Is the overall concept of the dance unique and interesting?
- Is the movement itself and the development of movement helpful in projecting the meaning?
- Is there a beginnings of structure and form that could unify the expression of the project?
- Does it appear that the composition will artistically evolve from a strong and defined foundational concept?

Obviously, we realize that you are not showing us a finished piece. However, we wish to see the beginnings of concrete and original work.

Process for completion of the choreographic project:

- You will meet during the first Dance 469 of the semester. If your proposals have been approved you will receive an add code at this time.
- You will have regular rehearsals with your cast outside of class time.
- You will set deadlines with your mentor to show your piece and to receive feedback at least 2 times during the semester.
- You will help organize and produce the concert on which your choreography will be presented.
- You will write a paper of 1250-1500 words in length that includes an analysis of the choreographic process, and evaluation of the final choreography. This paper will be turned in to your mentor and will also **include** similar analysis of your performance experience.
- After your choreography has been presented on a concert, you will meet with your mentor for a final interview and evaluation of your work.
- Your mentor will determine your grade for your project with input from the dance faculty.

