

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR BA AND DANCE EDUCATION SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECTS

BA DANCE MAJORS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A SENIOR CAPSTONE, BUT IF THEY CHOOSE TO THIS PACKET HAS DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES

DANCE ED MAJORS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECT THAT IS CHOREOGRAPHED IN THE CONTEMPORARY MODERN DANCE GENRE.

CHOOSING THE TYPE OF CAPSTONE PROJECT THAT IS BEST FOR YOU

YOUR CAPSTONE PROJECT SHOULD BE A BRIDGE TO YOUR WORK THAT YOU WILL DO AFTER YOU LEAVE BYU.

General Guidelines for ALL Capstone Projects

General Guidelines:

1. **All capstones must turn in a written proposal.** Choreographic capstones also require a movement proposal. (specific information below.)
2. **You will not be able to pre-register for this class.** You will receive an add code when your capstone proposal is approved.
3. Your Senior Project should represent 84 hours of work. (2 credit hours equates to 6 hours per week for 14 weeks).
4. **All Dance Education majors are required to do a choreographic capstone.**
5. Choreographic or performance capstones cannot be completed in Spring or Summer Term. You may, however, do a research or pedagogy capstone in Spring or Summer Term.
6. Plan early so that you can write grants. 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.
7. If you are doing a choreographic capstone, cast your piece from currently enrolled BYU students.
8. Be prepared for your capstone by taking classes that will support your project.
9. If you are planning a choreographic or performance capstone, your requested dates on the tracking form may or may not be available. *We will do our best to accommodate every request.* However, because sometimes large numbers of students request the same semester, there are times that rearrangements may be necessary.
10. There are never absolute guarantees that you will be able to present a performance or a choreographic project.
11. 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 5:00 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?*

Four Specific Types of Capstone Projects

Performance, Choreography, Research, Pedagogy

Other projects specialized forms such as dance film, dance therapy, dance administration can be done by gaining approval via the Sr. Capstone Committee.

PERFORMANCE

A performance project is a solo performance of 5-7 minutes choreographed by a professional dance artist, to be presented on the Senior Capstone concert. This performance must be based on goals that will demand your 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 three performance goals. These goals should be specific, varied, and have depth.
2. Provide full profile/resume information about your choreographer.
3. Explain why you chose that particular person to choreograph for you. How will this choreographer help you to meet your goals?
4. 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 capstone highlighted.

How your proposal will be assessed:

Following are questions that faculty members will consider as they assess the potential for 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?
- Is your choreographer experienced and focused enough to address your particular performance goals?
- Is your choreographer well enough established to choreograph a sophisticated piece for you and for a BYU concert?

Process for completing performance project:

- You will meet during the first senior capstone class (DANCE 469) of the semester. If your proposal has been approved you will receive an add code at this time. You will not be required to continue to meet regularly at all class times, except as is necessary to organize and prepare for the concert. (the exact amount is up to the course instructor)
- You will meet with your mentor the week that you receive approval for your project.
- Journal: 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 choreography will be presented.
- You will write a 5 page paper analyzing the accomplishment of your own goals, as well as the implementation of notes from your choreographer. This paper will be submitted to your mentor.
- Your mentor will determine your grade for your project with input from the dance faculty.

CHOREOGRAPHY

All Dance Education Majors must do a Choreographic Capstone

A choreographic capstone is an 8-10 minute piece of choreography to be presented on the Senior Capstone concert, or other approved venue (such as dE or Ballet Showcase) or approved informal showing when appropriate. If you plan to present a choreographic project, you must have completed a 300 level choreography course, Dance 363, and Dance 462 **before** enrolling in Dance 469. If you are Dance Ed. you will also need to complete 355 prior to your capstone semester.

For Your Written Proposal:

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

- Title of dance, name of composer(s), number of dancers, and preliminary costume idea.
- A 2-3 page paper, discussing the concept of your dance. Including how this choreographic capstone 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 creative process? Etc.
- A full Progress Report printed out (can be found online) with all courses highlighted that you have taken or are currently enrolled in that will help you to be successful in your capstone.

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 proposals 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 the 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 469 Senior Capstone class of the semester. If both your written and movement proposals have been approved you will receive an add code at this time. You will not be required to continue to meet regularly at all class times, except as is necessary to organize and prepare the concert. (this is up to the course instructor)
- 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 5-page paper that includes an analysis of the choreographic process, and evaluation of the final choreography. This paper will be turned into your mentor.
- 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.

RESEARCH

A Research Capstone is an 18-20 page well-documented paper, representing research into current subjects, or into challenging historical topics.

For Your Proposal:

Fill out Senior Capstone Proposal Form, and include:

- A statement (1-2 pages) explaining why you have chosen your particular topic.
- An outline of your paper
- 10 references
- An introductory paragraph
- Identify a faculty member who you have previously met with and who will be an appropriate mentor for your project should your proposal be accepted.
- 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 of your project:

- Does your topic present a new dimension in dance information? Or is it something that has been addressed before?
- Will your topic help you to pursue the direction that you want to go in dance?
- Are your ideas innovative and interesting?
- Do you have a genuine curiosity for your topic?
- Is the appropriate mentor available to help you succeed in your research goals?

Examples of Research Projects that have been or could be submitted at BYU:

- Preparation for a college class entitled *Dance in the Mormon Religion*, including course outline, readings, exams, etc.
- Arts Management Intern, NYC, journal of notes on conversations, description of responsibilities, notes from meetings, etc.
- Dance and Politics: When Dance Becomes a Weapon of State
- Dance in current marketing and advertising
- Dance and technology, include visuals

Research can be adventurous and compelling. Use your imagination!

Process for completion of a research capstone:

- After your proposal has been approved you will receive and add code from the Dance 469 instructor.
- You will meet with your mentor the week that your project has been approved.
- You will meet with your mentor at least three times during the semester to receive feedback on your project. Before each meeting, it is your responsibility to submit your writing ahead of time so that your mentor can read and review it. Each time you will set goals to improve your project.
- You should complete and submit your project 2 weeks before the end of the semester.
- You will meet for a final interview with your mentor to discuss the success of the project.
- Your mentor will determine your grade for your project with input from the dance faculty.*

PEDAGOGY

A pedagogy capstone is a project that focuses on teaching in a specific environment, with specific learners, and with specific learning outcomes delineated. These projects are generally tailored to a unique setting with the guidance of a mentor.

For Your Proposal:

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

Pedagogy capstones are diverse, and often tailored to a particular student's interest, and/or to a particular sector of the population. There are, however, some guidelines for the initial shaping of a teaching project:

- Submit a 4-5 page paper describing in detail, the design and organization of your project.
 - a. Describe your learners: age, learning modes, etc.
 - b. Describe the learning environment.
 - c. Include a detailed time-line.
 - d. Submit three learning outcomes that you will be prepared to evaluate in your learners. Explain how you will assess these learning outcomes to know whether or not they have been achieved.
 - e. Submit a page summarizing the research that you will need to do to accomplish this project. List 5 research references.
- Be prepared to identify the name of a faculty member who you have previously met with about this capstone and who would be an appropriate mentor for your project.
- 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:

- Is the project based on current philosophies and methodologies involving lesson plans, analysis and evaluation?
- Is this project designed and organized especially from a Senior Capstone perspective, and will it be executed exclusively for your senior capstone class? (This prohibits using your regular teaching job either here at BYU or at a studio for your senior capstone).
- Have you taken the classes that qualify you for the project that you are proposing?

Process for completion of the pedagogy project:

- After your proposal is approved you will receive an add code from the instructor of Dance 469.
- Meet with your mentor the week that your project is approved.
- Pedagogy projects are often highly individualized, and the number of times the student and mentor will meet, and what material will be assessed will be determined at the time of the definition of the project. Often there is video documentation, lesson plans to be submitted, etc.
- A written paper must accompany this project upon completion. Mentor and student will determine the length and content of the paper.
- Your mentor will determine your grade for your project with input from the dance faculty.*

