

## Performing Arts Program Learning Outcomes Assessment Project 2006-2007

The Performing Arts Program at California State University Channel Islands offers a broad, integrated undergraduate experience in music, drama, and dance, with attention to the relatively new fields of audience and performance studies. The core courses provide the base necessary for building an educational and professional career in the Performing Arts. Students take basic core courses in each of the three major areas of the performing arts—Dance, Music and Theatre—and choose an emphasis to follow through one of these areas. The Performing Arts program has several goals, the primary of which is meeting the philosophical, educational and cultural objectives of the university mission statement. Within this overarching goal, the program will stress interdisciplinarity and the multicultural, global perspective that is the hallmark of Channel Islands programs. In addition to gaining expertise and experience in their chosen fields of theatre, dance or music, students will gain interdisciplinary experience in the performing arts, with education and experience in the intersections between the fields. They will also develop their abilities to think critically, analyze written and visual texts, express themselves effectively in written, physical and spoken forms, and to apply multiple theoretical perspectives. The Performing Arts major will prepare students for further study and for entry into the performing arts professions.

The CSUCI Performing Arts program embraces the institutionally based mission outcomes of the university:

*CSUCI graduates will possess an education of sufficient breadth and depth to appreciate and interpret the natural, social and aesthetic worlds and to address the highly complex issues facing societies. Graduates will be able to:*

- *Identify and describe the modern world and issues facing societies from multiple perspectives including those within and across disciplines, cultures and nations (when appropriate).*
- *Analyze issues, and develop and convey to others solutions to problems using the methodologies, tools and techniques of an academic discipline.*

## The Performing Arts Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

During AY 2006-2007, the Performing Arts program is concentrating on the following goals and outcomes:

- students will be familiar with the major theoretical approaches, findings and historical trends in the performing arts;
- students will be able to express themselves effectively in written and oral communication; and
- understand themselves and others in a cultural context and develop interpersonal as well as professional skills

Performing Arts is a new program at CSUCI. We have not yet determined a *primary* outcome to assess this year; however, we have determined a number of items that we will be investigating during the coming year to get a better grasp of our program's success and to make our program stronger.

1. We have hired a consultant, the Artistic Director of Pilobolus Dance Company, to assist us in developing a collaborative as well as integrative Performing Arts program. He will be working with PA faculty as a group as well as working (with support from the Center for Integrative Study) with faculty across the university to generate ideas and plans for truly collaborative learning.
2. We have developed a strong working relationship with Rubicon Theatre, a regional professional theatre company. They will work with us on educational outreach, provide internships for our students in all three emphases, and they will work with us on joint productions. We have also

begun developing relationships with other theatre, music and dance groups in our extended community.

3. We have begun advertising for an additional faculty member in Performing Arts, and we have prepared a long range budget for equipment needs.
4. We have ascertained a need for classes in Technical Production, and we are currently working on those course proposals.
5. We are replacing Acting II in the Theatre emphasis with the interdisciplinary course, History of Theatre.
6. Toward the end of this semester, students will be surveyed to determine levels of interest and progress within the degree. The survey instrument will be devised with assistance from professionals in the field of assessment.
7. Additional assessment information will be available at the end of the academic year, when some of our students will have finished internships and/or performed in productions.