



June 24, 2015

To: Steve Fink

From: Michael Kelly Bruce, Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair  
Susan Hadley, Department Chair  
Amy Schmidt, Academic Program Coordinator

Re: Program Change Request for the BFA in Dance (DANCE-BFA)

Upon the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee in Dance, the faculty approved the following changes, beginning with the Autumn 2015 incoming class. Dance BFA students must maintain at minimum GPA in the major of 3.0 or higher in order to be in good standing and to graduate. Also, courses in the major must receive a grade of "C-" or higher to count towards graduation; courses with a grade of "D" or lower must either be repeated (e.g. Foundation, required coursework) or not count toward degree requirements (e.g. Focus, elective coursework).

Up to now, Dance BFA students have been required to maintain a minimum GPA in the major of 2.25 or higher in order to graduate. In order to be in good standing within the Department, they needed to earn a grade of "C+" or higher; classes where a grade of "C" or lower was earned put the student on Department probation, but the course could still count toward graduation. On the Department probation, if a second "C" or lower was earned in a two-semester (or three-quarter) time period, the student would be dismissed from the program. Dismissed students could appeal the decision to the Dance Undergraduate Studies Committee or transfer to another major (unless they were also on probation or dismissed from the college due to overall GPA).

The Dance faculty are proposing the change in program to raise the minimum GPA in the major from 2.25 to 3.0 and to remove the Department probation policy. We feel the higher GPA better reflects our high expectations due to the high quality of our students and will be a more efficient way to review student standing at the end of each term. Under the current probation policy, the Academic Program Coordinator reviews individual grade rosters on an eReport, which can be time consuming. With the raised minimum GPA, the Academic Program Coordinator can request a DARS report and review it quickly.

The request for the courses in the major to earn a grade of "C-" or higher to count towards graduation due to the importance of grasping the course content the Movement Practice (both required and additional) coursework, Focus or elective coursework, and especially the required Foundation coursework. As you will see in the data below, most often the lower grades are due to attendance, which can hinder participation and depth of knowledge, so vital to an experiential art form such as dance. While reviewing grade rosters from eReports and Department advising sheets (accessible to faculty and staff) reference – will be time consuming, this feels a more appropriate use of time and effort to keep our students engaged and learning the course content so vital to our program.

We feel that both of these requests are more appropriate for our students, and they will also increase advising efficiency and student progress. Please review the data below, captured from the last five years of Spring quarter/semesters, as support of our request. Thank you for your consideration.

## MAJOR GPA RANGES

Term	Number of Majors	4.0	3.9X	3.8X	3.7X	3.6X	3.5X	3.4X	3.3X	3.2X	3.1X	3.0X	Below 3.0
SP10	90	1	13	28	15	10	10	4	5	3	1	0	0
SP11	91	0	18	22	16	15	3	9	4	2	2	0	0
SP12	96	0	22	30	11	11	8	6	6	0	1	0	1
SP13	93	1	33	23	12	8	8	0	0	4	1	1	2
SP14	91	1	51	22	10	4	5	2	0	0	5	0	1
SP15	91	4	43	20	5	7	4	4	2	0	0	1	0

Note: the four students below a 3.0 also had several Dance courses with a grade of C or lower and were under both college and department probation; they chose not to re-enroll at OSU.

## GRADES IN DANCE COURSES for DANCE MAJORS

Term	Number Enrolled in Courses	Number of Majors	S/U grades	A/A-Grades	B+/B/B-Grades	C+/C/C-Grades	D+/D/D-Grades	E/EN Grades
Spring 2010	473	90	39 (all S)	359	62	8 C+ (4) C (2) C- (2)]	2	2
Spring 2011	488	91	65 (all S)	339	69	5 C+ (2) C (3)	7	1
Spring 2012	448	96	62 (2 - UEN)	313	60	4 C+ (2) C (1) C- (1)	3	3
Spring 2013	472	93	24 (all S)	381	52	6 C+ (4) C- (2)	4	5
Spring 2014	584	101	39 (all S)	501	30	12 C+ (3) C (6) C- (3)	0	2
Spring 2015	458	84	23 (all S)	373	20	6 C+ (2) C (4)	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,923	555	250 – S 2 – UEN	2266	293	41	16	14
<b>AVERAGE</b>	487	93	42	378	49	9	8	7

Note: Under the new grade rule, ten (10) Foundation courses need to be repeated and six (6) Focus courses need to be replaced with another course in the last six years. There are 46 movement practice courses that would require students to take additional movement practice courses to count toward graduation. Of the approximately 2,900 course enrollments in the last six Spring terms, these 62 instances only represent two percent (2%) of our BFA students' courses which justifies that this proposed standard is appropriate and manageable for our excellent students.