

DATE: January 26, 2017

SUBJECT: New Academic Program
Middle Tennessee State University
Dance, Bachelor of Science

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The proposed baccalaureate program in Dance at Middle Tennessee State University seeks to expand the highly successful Dance minor that has been in existence since 1999, and the Dance emphasis within the Bachelor of Science in Integrated Studies. Currently, the Dance minor program is already an active participating member of the American College Dance Association, the Society of Dance History Scholars, and Congress on Research in Dance, the most prestigious national and international organizations for the presentation of creative and academic research in the field of dance.

The proposed degree will foster the development of students interested in a variety of approaches to dance including, performance, choreography, dance education, history and theory and dance science with coursework meeting standards outlined by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) within a liberal arts degree.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Fall 2017

1.1.20A MISSION: As a comprehensive university, Middle Tennessee State University embraces its role to generate, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and innovation using scholarship to enhance teaching and public service. The university is committed to preparing students to thrive in their chosen professions in a changing global society. The proposed degree program will promote academic quality by enhancing learning, teaching, scholarship, and service and by celebrating MTSU's distinctive strengths. The proposed Dance program will increase the level of commitment to the Internship/Guest Artist program in Dance.

It will foster the development of the creative, technical and critical skills necessary for success in a range of dance and dance-related professions including choreography, performance, dance education, dance therapy, dance research and scholarship, and arts administration, as well as successful acceptance to graduate dance programs.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed program will prepare students to become visionary and ethical leaders in the field of dance, engaged locally, regionally, nationally and globally in the field and beyond in the specific areas of performance/ choreography or dance pedagogy. The curriculum is based on a scholar-artist model in which student complete a core of technique, theory and composition classes as well as dance and general electives as a compliment to general education requirements. The program will require completion of 120 credit hours which consists of 41 credit hours in general education, 38 credit hours in the major field core, 15 hours in specialization, and 26 hours in general electives.

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: The admission, readmission, retention, and graduation requirements are the same as those described in the MTSU *Undergraduate Catalog*. In addition to the general admission requirements, students will be required to complete a brief audition for placement purposes in technique courses.

Projected Program Enrollment and Productivity

Enrollment projections were developed based on student interest surveys and students who had declared a Dance minor at Middle Tennessee State University. Students with an Associate of Arts/Associate of Science (A.A. /A.S.) degree from any Tennessee community colleges can transfer into the proposed program. The proposed program will accept 41 semester credit hours in General Education requirements plus 19 semester credit hours in an area of emphasis from the following Tennessee Transfer Pathways: Early Childhood Education, English, Exercise Science, Kinesiology, and Theatre Arts. The proposed program will not have discernable effects on other programs within the institution or other Tennessee Board of Regents institutions in the Middle Tennessee area.

Year	Headcount	Graduates
2017	14	--
2018	29	--
2019	45	5
2020	54	9
2021	61	11

1.1.20D FACULTY: The instructional workload for this program will be continued by the current two full-time tenure-track faculty and one full time lecturer plus six adjunct faculty. One additional faculty member will be hired in year four.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: The University has significant library holdings via collections, instructional support, databases, and extensive streaming video resources for the proposed Dance program.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: No new organizational unit will be required. The proposed Dance program will be housed in the Department of Theatre and Dance within the College of Liberal Arts. A half-time staff member will be hired in year four to support the program coordinator in administrative responsibilities.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: The proposed Dance program will utilize faculty and the twelve college-wide advisors through the College of Liberal Arts to counsel students on curricular and career issues.

1.1.20H FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: Existing Instructional facilities meet national standards for dance studios as outlined in the guidelines of the National Association of Schools of Dance. Recently, MTSU renovated space in Murphy Center to accommodate a new dance facility. This renovated space functions as a dance studio with split level flooring for traditional and percussive dance as well as an informal performance venue.

1.1.20I NEED AND DEMAND: The need for the proposed Dance BS program is aligned with the growth of the Middle Tennessee's population and Tennessee's growth in the arts and entertainment industry. The occupational outlook for careers in arts and entertainment industries is increasing based on several sources. The U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics states that employment of dancers is projected to grow 6 percent from 2012 to 2022. Employment of choreographers is projected to grow 24 percent for this same time period, much faster than the average for all occupations. According to the Tennessee Department of Labor, a 1.3 percent annual growth rate in arts and entertainment occupations is projected for 2008-2018. These projections indicate a growth of an additional 4,380 jobs in the sector over the ten-year period. The proposed Dance BS program will serve the needs of students from Tennessee and generate a wide range of new jobs as well as meet current employment needs throughout the region.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: No other public institutions in Tennessee offer dance as a major. Middle Tennessee State University anticipates offering the proposed Dance BS program in the Academic Common Market upon approval.

1.1.20K COOPERATING INSTITUTIONS: None at this time.

1.120L DIVERSITY AND ACCESS: Middle Tennessee State University embraces diversity as a core value and the proposed Dance BS program is consistent with the institution's Diversity Statement with a focus on student success, faculty recruitment, curricular content, and co-curriculum programmatic events and activities. The Dance program at MTSU is committed to multi-cultural dance education. The Dance program will continue to promote art that is inclusive and as a discipline that will foster an appreciation for and greater understanding of diversity.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The Dance program will be evaluated on student success indicators including major technique evaluations, choreographic dance projects, capstone projects, and exit interviews. Additionally, the proposed degree is designed to meet the national standards established by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD). NASD established national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees for the purpose of examining and improving practices and professional standards in dance education and training. The faculty will conduct a self-study of the program over summer/fall 2018 with a fall 2019 NASD site visit with anticipated accreditation in spring 2020.

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGEMENT: External review of the proposed program was conducted during an institutional site visit on September 27, 2016. Dr. Ivan Pulinkala, Professor and Department Chair of Dance at Kennesaw State University, served as the external reviewer. He recommended approval of the program stating “MTSU is well positioned and equipped to successfully launch and establish dance as a major field of study...I was impressed by the support this program has garnered within the faculty and administration, and look forward to watching the discipline of dance thrive at MTSU”.

Dr. Pulinkala highlighted the following strengths of the proposed Dance program:

- Proposed curriculum has all the necessary components necessary for success;
- Program is strongly rooted in the hands of an impassioned dance faculty; and
- Learning outcomes directly align with national standards.

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT: The proposed Dance program will be funded through additional tuition revenues generated by the program. No institutional reallocation of funds is necessary for program implementation.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following program approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved proposal. At the end of this period, the campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, and other metrics set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. If benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the institutional governing board terminate the program. If additional time is needed and requested by the institutional governing board, the Commission may choose to extend the monitoring period.