

UNIT REPORT

Theatre Arts-Academic - APR Self-Study Report by Academic**Unit/Department**

Generated: 3/15/22, 3:28 PM

Program Mission

Department of Theatre Arts Mission Statement

Program Mission Statement:

The University of Idaho Theatre Arts Department offers rigorous training for graduate and undergraduate students through resident instruction and distance delivery. We provide a safe, supportive learning environment where individuals may achieve their full potential as independent and collaborative artists in the areas of acting, directing, design, technology & management, playwriting, pedagogy and dramaturgy.

Program Goal (add a minimum of 3 program goal "plan items")

Theatre Program Goal 1: Compassion

Goal Statement:

The following principles guide us as we fulfill our over goals for our department:

1. Compassion:

- a) We respect the power of theatre to transform, heal and unite. We want our students to embrace this philosophy.
- b) We value generosity and create a safe, supportive environment where all are welcome, genuinely appreciated, and encouraged to contribute to productions in order to foster healthy self-esteem. We want our students to be responsible in helping shape this environment.
- c) We strive to engage everyone in the creative process with honesty, fairness and civility. We hold our students to this standard.

Alignment to UI Strategic Plan Goals:

Transform (Goal 3): Increase our educational impact.

Cultivate (Goal 4): Foster an inclusive, diverse community of students, faculty, and staff and improve cohesion and morale.

Indicators/Metrics to Evaluate Progress:

Metrics for this goal are currently under development by the unit-level assessment committee.

List of Actions the Program Will Take to Achieve Goals :

Develop and deploy department culture and climate survey.

Goal Achievement Level: In Progress

Theatre Program Goal 3: Cooperation

Goal Statement:

The following principles guide us as we fulfill our mission:

3. Cooperation:

- a) We value teamwork and respect; they are critical to the educational process, both in stage and off.
- b) We collaborate to produce excellent theatre that enriches the lives of all participants and audience members that we engage.
- c) We celebrate the gifts and talents of our students and fellow teaching artists.

Alignment to UI Strategic Plan Goals:

Innovate (Goal 1): Scholarly and creative products of the highest quality and scope, resulting in significant positive impact for the region and the world.

Engage (Goal 2): Suggest and influence change that addresses societal needs and global issues, and advances economic development and culture.

Transform (Goal 3): Increase our educational impact.

Cultivate (Goal 4): Foster an inclusive, diverse community of students, faculty, and staff and improve cohesion and morale.

Indicators/Metrics to Evaluate Progress:

We have established a "post-mortem" process that will focus on a variety of production-related issues, including collaboration and communication within the production team. Reports will be generated from these discussions.

List of Actions the Program Will Take to Achieve Goals :

Create Signature Assignments for both undergraduate and graduate-level courses that focus on collaboration and cooperation.

Goal Achievement Level: In Progress

Theatre Program Goal 2: Creativity**Goal Statement:**

The following principles guide us as we fulfill our mission:

2. Creativity:

a) We believe that curiosity, inspiration, and innovation are integral to the creative process. We hope to awaken our students' natural curiosity.

b) We value individualized instruction; it prepares students for self-discovery and creativity.

c) We support professional creative activity and value its impact on all aspects of our program. Hands-on training is at the core of our on-campus program.

Alignment to UI Strategic Plan Goals:

Innovate (Goal 1): Scholarly and creative products of the highest quality and scope, resulting in significant positive impact for the region and the world.

Transform (Goal 3): Increase our educational impact.

Cultivate (Goal 4): Foster an inclusive, diverse community of students, faculty, and staff and improve cohesion and morale.

Indicators/Metrics to Evaluate Progress:

Our production season represents the most direct measure of our program goals.

List of Actions the Program Will Take to Achieve Goals :

Create production survey tool for all students involved in mainstage shows. Also include Signature Assignment data for THE 390.

Goal Achievement Level: In Progress

Student Learning Assessment Report (add one "plan item" for each major, degree, and/or certificate offered by dept)

Theatre, MFA

Assessment Report Contact: Robert C Caisley

Program Changes in Past Year:

N/A

Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Students in Program (check box if true): true

Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Faculty (check box if true): true

Optional: Framework Alignment: N/A

Import Outcomes Data (from Anthology Outcomes):

Unable to import outcomes.

Department of Theatre Learning Outcomes:

All MFAs should be able to:

Demonstrate mastery in understanding of relationship between theatre history, dramatic theory and practice.
 Communicate expertly across the disciplines of playwriting, acting, directing, dramaturgy and design.
 Ability to analyze a play text, understand characterization, and expertly express these ideas through performance, production and written or spoken criticism.
 Self-evaluate, refine and improve performance or production.
 Understand and advocate for the role of theatre and theatre artist within society.

3.

Analytical Skills

Analyze a play text, understand characterization, and expertly express these ideas through performance, production and written or spoken criticism.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Theatre Arts (M.F.A.)

Term: Overview

Exceeded		0%	0
Met		100%	14
Partially Met		0%	0
Not Met		0%	0

4.

Self-evaluation Skills

Self-evaluate, refine and improve performance or production.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Theatre Arts (M.F.A.)

Term: Overview

Exceeded		50%	7
Met		50%	7
Partially Met		0%	0
Not Met		0%	0

5.

Social Integration

Understand and advocate for the role of theatre and theatre artist within society.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Theatre Arts (M.F.A.)

Term: Overview

Exceeded		0%	0
Met		88.89%	24
Partially Met		0%	0
Not Met		11.11%	3

Summary of Student Learning:

About 10% of students did not meet the expectations of Learning Outcome 5 - Social Integration.

Summary of Faculty Discussion:

We have been discussing the natural problems that exists for our distance MFAs. They exist in a silo, as they are not on-campus. We are looking for ways to integrate our remote learners with projects and activities that our on-campus learners also participate in. We are also trying to develop a "residency" program that would more consistently bring distance MFAs to campus for short periods of time to work on productions.

Summary of Changes/Improvements Being Considered:

Beginning last year the department began a complete overhaul of our unit-level assessment process. We have limited data from the Signature Assignment from the most recent past semester. Plans are underway to develop Signature Assignments for additional courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level, including a department "Midterm Report Card." In addition, the instructor for our Senior Capstone course is working with the Unit Assessment Committee to redesign our Graduating Student Survey.

Inter-rater Reliability:**Closing the Loop:**

This is difficult to assess as we have only recently decided to overhaul our entire assessment process. We were ready to deploy it in Spring 2020, but COVID-19 derailed our plans. We are looking forward to gathering data in this current assessment cycle so we can begin to evaluation what measures are working, and what measure need to be refined.

Theatre, BFA**Assessment Report Contact:** Robert C Caisley**Program Changes in Past Year:**

N/A

Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Students in Program (check box if true): true**Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Faculty (check box if true):** true**Optional: Framework Alignment:** N/A**Import Outcomes Data (from Anthology Outcomes):**

All BFAs should be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced understanding of relationship between theatre history, dramatic theory and practice.
2. Communicate confidently across the disciplines of playwriting, acting, directing, dramaturgy and design.
3. Analyze a play text, understand characterization, and proficiently present ideas through performance or production.

4. Self-evaluate, refine and improve performance, production and written or spoken criticism.
5. Understand and advocate for the role of theatre and theatre artists within society.

1.

Knowledge Skills

Theatre Arts students will demonstrate a knowledgeable awareness of the interconnectedness of theatre history, dramatic theory, and production practices. They will distinguish and apply terminologies, processes, and traditions specific to Theatre Arts.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Theatre Arts (B.A., B.S., B.F.A.)

Term: Overview

Exceeded		7.69%	2
Met		61.54%	16
Partially Met		15.38%	4
Not Met		15.38%	4

Summary of Student Learning:

30% of the students either did not, or only partially met the expectations. This represents an unreasonable proportion of students. We need to assess and address why so many of these students are falling short of the mark.

Summary of Faculty Discussion:

The department is involved in an ongoing discussion about how our production work might be integrated more fully into our curriculum. There has been some discussion (especially in light of COVID) that we may be expecting too much from our students. We are going to more carefully scrutinize the number of productions that students can be cast in within a single semester (limiting it to one) and keep the size and scale of our productions within manageable limits.

Summary of Changes/Improvements Being Considered:

Beginning last year the department began a complete overhaul of our unit-level assessment process. We have limited data from the Signature Assignment from the most recent past semester. Plans are underway to develop Signature Assignments for additional courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level, including a department "Midterm Report Card." In addition, the instructor for our Senior Capstone course is working with the Unit Assessment Committee to redesign our Graduating Student Survey.

Inter-rater Reliability:

This is something our department is behind on. The Unit Assessment Committee has been asked to develop a "Core Competencies Rubric" develop in conversation with all faculty members.

Closing the Loop:

This is difficult to assess as we have only recently decided to overhaul our entire assessment process. We were ready to deploy it in Spring 2020, but COVID-19 derailed our plans. We are looking forward to gathering data in this current assessment cycle so we can begin to evaluate what measures are working, and what measures need to be refined.

Theatre, BA/BS

Assessment Report Contact: Robert C Caisley

Program Changes in Past Year:

N/A

Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Students in Program (check box if true): true

Learning Outcomes are Communicated to All Faculty (check box if true): true

Optional: Framework Alignment: N/A

Import Outcomes Data (from Anthology Outcomes):

All BA/BS students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate confident understanding of relationship between theatre history, dramatic theory and practice.
2. Communicate confidently across the disciplines of playwriting, acting, directing, dramaturgy and design.
3. Analyze a play text, understand characterization, and competently present ideas through performance, production and written or spoken criticism.
4. Self-evaluate, refine and improve performance or production.
5. Understand and advocate for the role of theatre and theatre artist within society.

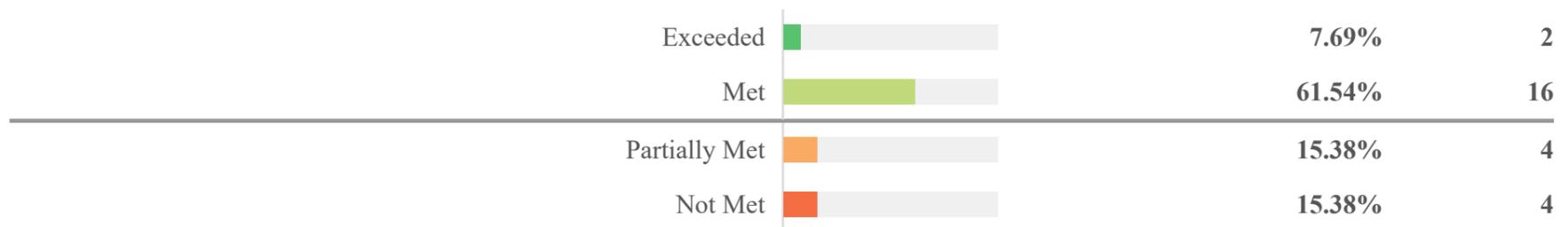
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Knowledge Skills

Theatre Arts students will demonstrate a knowledgeable awareness of the interconnectedness of theatre history, dramatic theory, and production practices. They will distinguish and apply terminologies, processes, and traditions specific to Theatre Arts.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Theatre Arts (B.A., B.S., B.F.A.)

Term: Overview



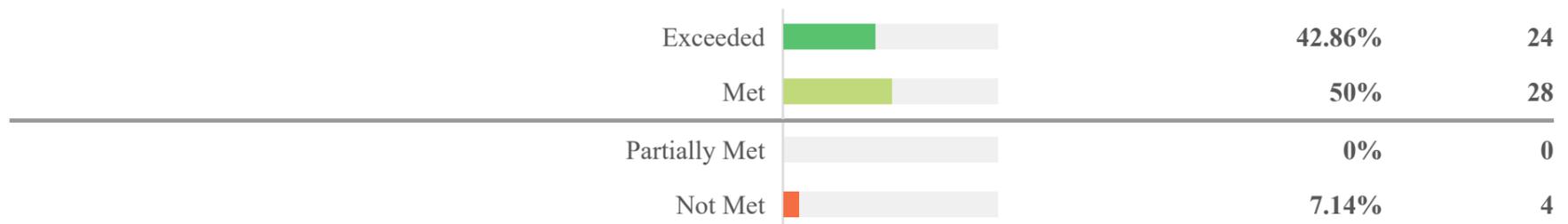
2.

Articulation and Collaboration Skills

BA/BS students will articulate insights about Theatre Arts and specific theatre events. BFA students will also demonstrate collaboration skills in production and performance leadership roles.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Theatre Arts (B.A., B.S., B.F.A.)

Term: Overview



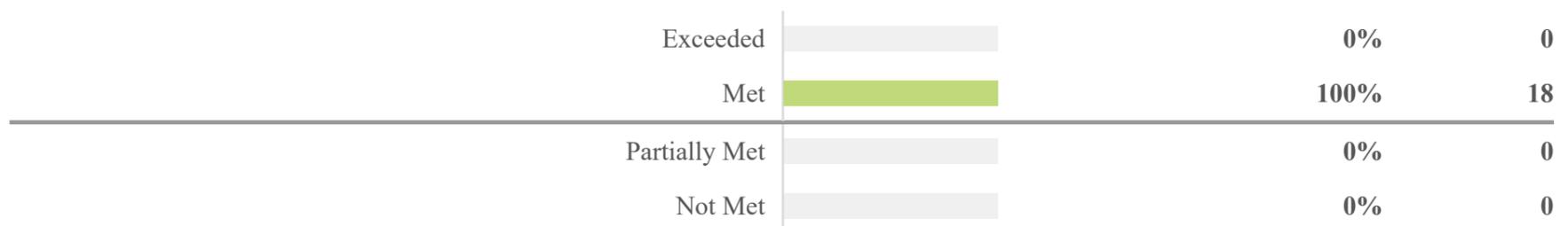
5.

Philosophical Skills

All BA/BS/BFA students will articulate a personal philosophy about theatre practice, its cultural impact on society, and their responsibility as an artist.

Academic Year 2020-2021: Theatre Arts (B.A., B.S., B.F.A.)

Term: Overview

**Summary of Student Learning:**

Almost 30% of students did not meet or only partially met the expectations. We need to address why so many of these students are falling short of the mark.

Summary of Faculty Discussion:

The department is involved in an ongoing discussion about how our production work might be integrated more fully into our curriculum. There has been some discussion (especially in light of COVID) that we may be expecting too much from our students. We are going to more carefully scrutinize the number of productions that students can be cast in within a single semester (limiting it to one) and keep the size and scale of our productions within manageable limits.

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Inter-rater Reliability:

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Closing the Loop:

This is difficult to assess as we have only recently decided to overhaul our entire assessment process. We were ready to deploy it in Spring 2020, but COVID-19 derailed our plans. We are looking forward to gathering data in this current assessment cycle so we can begin to evaluate what measures are working, and what measures need to be refined.

Student Achievement

New Student Achievement Item**Student Retention:**

88.77% of UG Students continued from Spring 2021 to Fall 2021 and 93.46 % of Graduate students continued from Spring 2021 to Fall 2021. Beginning in Spring 2022, the Assessment Committee will work on a midyear "report card" for the department that will assess student retention and attempt to track reasons for non-returning students.

Student Persistence:

Currently, we rely on the enrollment statistics provide by CLASS.

Graduate Enrollment:

Dept	Major	Primary 1 Fa21	Primary 1 Fa20	Change
THEATRE	Theatre Arts	100	64	56.25%
	TOTALS	100	64	56.25%

Undergraduate Enrollment:

Dept	Primary 1 Fa21	Primary 1 Fa20	Change
THEATRE	48	49	-2.04%
TOTAL	48	49	-2.04%

Student Completion:

Over the past 4 semesters, the department has maintained a healthy course completion rate of 93.31%.

Student Postgraduate Success:

The department is behind in tracking our postgraduate success rate. Once students graduate they tend to be "out of sight, out of mind." We are looking for ways to maintain contact with graduates, but it remains one of the areas that is consistently difficult to track. So much energy and time has to be dedicated to our current students, it's hard to find the resources and an efficient methods to track this data. We are trying to create an active alumni association, but it's proven hard to get this off the ground.

Identify Equity Gaps:

There is an equity gap in undergraduate students who identify as Latinx in the average cumulative GPA.

Effective Learning Environment and Closing Equity Gaps:

We are making an attempt to diversify our curriculum to appeal more broadly to our students identifying as Latinx. In the Spring of 2022 we have hire a Latinx professor to teach a course of Latinx Theatre and Playwrights.

Demand and Productivity

New Demand and Productivity Item

External Demand:

We have obviously found a huge external demand for distance education in our graduate programs. I believe we can begin to look for ways to find demands for distance-education also at the undergraduate level. Additionally, we are developing a new Theatre Methods course in conjunction with the College of Education to serve undergraduate students who may wish to pursue their teaching certificate in conjunction with their undergraduate theatre degree.

Internal Demand:

Between Spring 2020 and Fall 2021 our credit hour production within the unit increased from 1,143 to 1,783. 51% of our overall credit hour production serves our graduate program, and 38.6% serves the undergraduate degrees. Only 9.4% of our credit hours serve Gen Ed.

Credit Productivity:

Clearly our credit hour production strengths lie in our distance MFA program. It generates 51% of our overall credit hours. A perceived weakness is that a disproportionate amount of our credit hour production is within the grad program; however, a large amount of this work also fall disproportionately on some faculty and not others.

Financial Health and Resources

New Financial Health and Resources Item

Financial Health:

Our distance MFA program continues to grow. Obviously, this generates revenue for the unit, the college and the university. However, with the rapid enrollment, we are beginning to experience faculty burnout. Some of our faculty are serving as major professor for over 20 graduate students. This requires an awful lot of time to mentor these students. While we have been able to hire temp instructors to help with teaching overloads, those temp instructors cannot serve on graduate committees or be major professors. I anticipate the distance program continuing to grow, but we are looking at ways to enhance our undergraduate enrollment next year.

Efficient Use of Resources:

Our entire production season is funded through the UI Dedicated Student Activity Fee. In other words, our production budgets are determined by the amount of money we received each year based on overall university enrollment. We have historically not gone over budget on our productions. In addition, we generated income from ticket sales. In the past few years, we have been able to use this revenue to acquire important technology and equipment to enhance the student experience.

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