

ST. OLAF COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE
Department Statement on Significant Professional Activity
November 3, 2004

The Dance Department emphasizes excellent teaching and the professional engagement that enhances teaching. Every member of the Dance Department is expected to show excellence in teaching and a commitment to developing the program of the Department in concert with significant professional activity.

Each faculty member undertakes an intentional and thoughtful plan for his or her professional development from the areas listed below. This plan is in consonance with the individual faculty's personal plan for their growth and development and the mission and vision of the department.

Dancing as a Performing Art

- ◆ Performing
Practice; study; and rehearsal that may lead to live, film, or video performance of solo or ensemble dances
- ◆ Creating new work
Study; research; and synthesis that lead to an original work of dance
- ◆ Reconstructing a work of dance
Study; research; and collaborating and connecting that lead to a reconstructed work of dance
- ◆ Directing
Study of repertory; directional techniques; and approaches that advance creative capabilities in dance
- ◆ Integration with the other arts
- ◆ Producing

Advancing the Teaching of Dance

- ◆ Developing new technologies, techniques, and approaches that advance creative capabilities in dance
- ◆ Innovating in dance/movement training
Investigating relationships among function; expression; and creation as basic components of human movement experience
- ◆ Collaborating with other fields

Studying Dance and its Influences

- ◆ Analyzing works of dance as artistic and aesthetic entities
Dance aesthetics; critical theory; movement analysis
- ◆ Researching dance

Repertory; studies and analyses from historical, geographical, cultural, anthropological, religious, and other perspectives; history of dance ideas; performance practices; bibliography

- ◆ Researching the inherent physiological and psychological aspects of dance
Anatomy and kinesiology; therapeutic applications; somatic studies
- ◆ Creating and assessing ideas and values about dance
Dance and the human condition; dance and society; ethnographic and demographic studies; marketing

Advancing the Field and Being Intentionally in the World of Dance

- ◆ Presenting and/or attending at National and International conferences
- ◆ Serving in Professional Organizations
Memberships, offices held, committee assignments and other recognized leadership in a professional organization
- ◆ Producing
Taking dance out into the world

Receiving Honors, Awards, and Grants

- ◆ Public recognition of achievement in the field through external international, national, regional, state, or association-based grants and notices of merit.
- ◆ The acquisition of grants, stipends and the like available through St. Olaf

Developing Cross-Discipline Initiatives

- ◆ Both Fine-Arts based and fields outside of the Arts

Connecting Into Other Communities

- ◆ Engaging with other educational communities, social communities, etc.

General Criteria for Evaluation:

1. Creative and scholarly work must be evaluated within the context of the individual's current status and long-term professional growth. For example, when working on a major dance or on a book, consideration must be given to the length of time required for ideas to germinate, take shape and undergo refinement before the finished product is ready for public scrutiny. Further, when a faculty member chooses to move into another area of specialization within the field of dance, consideration must be given to the time spent in learning new content or methodology.

2. A faculty member's creative and scholarly efforts must also be evaluated within the context of the individual's role in the department. Some faculty loads are primarily in theoretical areas and others primarily in performance of studio areas. Some faculty may teach in both theory and performance. Professional activity will follow logically from the individual's teaching expertise, area of responsibility, and plan for their growth and development.