

Victorian College of the Arts

Postgraduate Diploma in Dance Science

1 Background

Over the past five years, the School of Dance has been developing an increased awareness of the applications of dance science to dance practice in the Undergraduate program. This new course will serve to educate health professionals, exercise and movement practitioners, dance researchers, dance educators, and dance artists about all aspects fundamental to the science of movement for dance.

At the present time, there is no post-graduate course with a specialization in dance science in Australia, and few exist internationally. Increased demand for study in this field is due to a variety of influences, including the explosion of research in this area, the increased infusion of dance science principles in studio practice, and the expanding interest in the wider community in health and well-being, generating demand for a range of alternative methodologies such as Pilates, Feldenkrais, and yoga. It is becoming imperative for dance educators and health professionals to have expertise in the dance sciences, and knowledge of practical application specific to dancers' needs. The introduction of a course in dance science would potentially draw students from Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific region, and North America, and would place the VCA at the forefront of developments in this field.

2 Course/Program Objectives

This course is designed to facilitate an understanding of all aspects fundamental to the science of movement for dance, and to develop practitioners who will contribute through leadership, research, pedagogy, and health practices in Australia and internationally.

On completion of the course, students will:

- understand the underlying principles related to health practices and psychology in the treatment and training of dancers;
- understand the underlying anatomical, biomechanical and motor learning principles related to dance training;
- develop research skills at both a theoretical and practical level appropriate to postgraduate study;
- be familiar with the literature and research currently available in the movement science field;
- incorporate conditioning and somatic practices into their chosen field of working with dancers;
- acquire a spirit of inquiry and initiative towards the development of dance science.

3 Entry Requirements

To be recommended by Academic Board at a later date.

4 Course/Program Structure

Semester 1

- 756 xxx Research Methods 6.25 pts
- 756 xxx Dance Anatomy 6.25 pts
- 756 xxx Dance Kinesiology 12.50 pts
- 756 xxx Conditioning & Somatic Practice 6.25 pts
- 756 xxx Motor Learning 6.25 pts
- 756 xxx Independent Project 1A 12.5 pts

Semester II

756 xxx Nutrition & Physiology 12.5 pts

756 xxx Biomechanics 6.25 pts

756 xxx Dance Psychology 6.25 pts

756 xxx Independent Project 1B 25 pts

5 Availability of Course

The course will be available from semester 1, 2008 to fee-paying Australian and international students on a full-time basis.