

Sophomore Review

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Sophomore Review Overview

What is it?

- A pivotal assessment tool for evaluating, advising and mentoring undergraduate students in the Department of Dance.
- Students are evaluated on their individual potential to pursue a professional career as a performer, choreographer, or teacher based on the following criteria:
 - Demonstration of physical, technical and performance skills; creativity, and significant development in all studio classes (technique, improvisation, choreographic process)
 - Performance involvement and an aptitude for performing
 - Maintenance of good health, including the ability to remain free of major injury, and consistency of effort and motivation.
 - Ability to engage in critical self-reflection, and to effectively communicate ideas relating to dance.

Sophomore Review Evaluative Components

1. Personal Assessment Essay

- Using 3-4 pages, 900–1200 words, evaluate and reflect upon your:
 - Work in a) technique, b) composition, and c) performance.
 - Describe your aesthetic values.
 - Evaluate your work ethic.
 - Strengths and weaknesses
 - How do you plan to address your strengths and weaknesses in consideration of future possibilities and preparations for a career in dance?
 - What are your short and long-term goals?
 - Extra-curricular activities
 - In what other activities are you involved outside of the Department?.



Sophomore Review Evaluative Components

2. Dancing Technique Evaluation

- Dance Department faculty will observe you in technique classes.

3. Creative and Performance Work Evaluation

- The student will be evaluated on a newly-created performance piece done in the department (both in classes and in performances). This work can take the form of a choreographed piece or a well-structured improvised work. The work should a) reflect your learning since entering the department, b) demonstrate your artistry, and c) identify how you connect to the art form.



Sophomore Review Advising and Mentoring Components

Following the Sophomore Review evaluative components, each student will meet with a small panel of faculty for in-depth feedback.

This completes the Sophomore Review.



Sophomore Review Advising and Mentoring Components

Upon completion of the Sophomore Review, the student will be sent an official letter assessing the student's potential to successfully complete the program.

Suggestions for improvement and future possible directions will be shared with the student and their advisor for follow up and future planning.

Note that the Sophomore Review is a "Pass/Fail" event: if a student do not pass the Sophomore Review, the student will meet with the Undergraduate Co-Coordinator to make a plan for either dropping out of the department or making a plan to succeed through remedial courses and a second Sophomore Review.



Sophomore Review Schedule/Deadlines

- Mon Nov. 15 – Personal Essay due (submit via Dance Kiosk)
- Mon Nov. 15 through Fri Nov. 19 – Faculty visit technique classes for observations
- Wed Nov. 17, 3 pm – Choreography showing
- Wed Dec. 8, 1 pm – Personal meeting with faculty
- Mon Dec. 13– Results mailed

Questions: email John Toenjes: jtoenjes@illinois.edu

