DEPARTMENTAL HONORS PROGRAM
Department of Ballet, University of Utah

The Ballet Department Honors track of study is designed for students who desire intellectually stimulating experiences as well as intensive study in the major program(s). Honors classes are small in size and are taught by top ranked faculty who provide engaging, enlightening, and challenging study in all of the general education areas. We encourage students to take Honors courses to fulfill any unmet general education or University graduation requirements.

A. Guidelines

Ballet Honors Track students must complete a total of 24 Honors credits. At least 12 of the 24 Honors credits must be in Ballet Honors courses. Students may take University Honors courses to fill out the remaining Honors credits.

Honors students must complete an honors thesis with distinction in the area of scholarly or creative research with a grade of A- or A.

B. Admission to the Honors Program

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better in major course requirements and a University of Utah cumulative GPA of 3.4 (3.5 after Jan. 1, 2007) or better. Transfer students need a 3.4 transfer GPA to be admitted to the Department Honors track. Honors students interested in pursuing the Departmental Honors Track arrange to meet with the departmental honors advisor and fill out the application, which will then be forwarded to the University Honors Office in order for the student to be coded into the major track. Faculty who oversee the Department of Ballet honors program including the department chairperson and the honors advisor.

C. Courses required for a Ballet Honors Degree (choose a minimum of 12 hours from the list below):

1. 4821-1, Honors Independent Study – Teaching: Ballet, (1-3): A teaching opportunity or apprenticeship with a written component and assessment. **Honors students** in the teaching emphasis register for 2 credit hours, actively teaching or observing for two hours weekly. Honors students will be required to defend opinions and write on several topics pertinent to teaching ballet for the level(s) determined by the advisor. The quality of the writing, analysis, comparison, and criticism must be high.

2. 4826-1, Honors Independent Study – Teaching, Other, (1-3): This work could be in preparation for the Honors Thesis and would include videotaping a project. **Honors students** are required to register for 2 credit hours and volunteer on average, two hours per week. This student would assist Ballet

West artistic staff or the faculty of a private school of dance in teaching and choreographing for the spring performance and help to plan and organize the event, including business related activities such as advertising and ticket sales. This work relates directly to students who wish to become professional teachers of ballet and other dance styles upon graduation.

3. 4931-1, Honors Senior Capstone – Teaching Practicum (1): **Honors** students will teach a ballet technique class before a faculty jury after having had a minimum of one semester of teaching experience in a private school of dance. The class will be planned and written out in detail in the French language.

4. 4941-1, Honors Senior Capstone – Performance, (2): For **Honors** students in Utah Ballet Company. Students will make a CD with excerpts of a performance in which they have danced and include a photo, résumé, and personal statement. Honors students will also analyze a dramatic or classic role they have danced and present a written description and analysis to the artistic director of Utah Ballet Company.

5. 4951-1, Honors Senior Capstone – Scholarly Research Project, (2): A scholarly research paper or project separate from the Honors Thesis. This research should reflect earlier interests in one or more areas such as dance science, pedagogy, etc., and be of sufficient breadth or depth of inquiry to merit the credit hours. A faculty mentor will be assigned.

6. 4961-1, Honors Senior Capstone – Creative Research Project, (3): For senior Honors students who have created at least one past choreographic work that has had good response from faculty. Students must have the project concept approved by a faculty mentor and will be responsible for the choreography, staging, lighting and costuming. The work must be performed as part of Ballet Showcase I or II and may also be part of the Senior Showcase.

7. Undergraduate Honors students may, with the approval of the instructor, take graduate level courses. Ballet 6750 or 6760, Adv. Choreography (3), offered in fall and spring semester, or 6520, Advanced Music for Dancers offered in fall semester.

8. Senior Honors Thesis, Ballet 4999 (3 cr.) Faculty mentor to be chosen by the by the student and the honors advisor.

Ballet Honors students should be able to complete 12 credit hours of Ballet Honors courses, including the Honors Thesis and the remaining hours (12) in University Honors Courses.

D. **Required University Honors Program Courses**

Students pursuing the Ballet Honors Track also need to complete the following University Honors courses:

- Two Intellectual Traditions Courses: Students can choose from Honors 2101, 2102, and 2103.
- One Honors Writing Course: Students can choose from two courses:
    - Honors 2211 (Writing in Honors) - satisfies the University's lower division writing requirement (WR2)
    - Honors 3200 (Writing in a Research University) – satisfies the University's upper-division communication/writing requirement (CW)
- Honors Core in Fine Arts (Honors 4473): This course may also be offered in summer; please check the class schedule.

All University Honors courses carry three credit hours each.

Optional Honors Course

Honors Tutorial (Honors 3600)**:** The Tutorial is designed to allow students to enrich their experience in the context of their major through unique activities and mentor relationships with faculty. A faculty member in the ballet department will supervise the Tutorial.

Before signing up for the Honors Tutorial, students submit a proposal to the Director of the Honors Program describing what they plan to accomplish during the Tutorial experience. Whatever work students propose, they must complete it during the given semester. The faculty member with whom the student works will assign the student a grade at the end of the semester.

Examples of tutorials in ballet could include the following:

- Scholarly research projects or papers in the area of dance medicine, kinesiology or teaching, history or aesthetics.
- Collaborative projects with elementary schools and Ballet West.
- The creation or performance of a creative work deemed to be of high quality by the faculty (for example, a student work used for Utah Ballet or Ballet Ensemble).
- Outreach activities with Character Dance Ensemble, including lecture/ demonstrations for elementary schools, and national and/or international workshops and performances.

Participation in Undergraduate Research Symposium

Students completing the Honors thesis will be invited to present their work at the Undergraduate Research Symposium schedule in April of each year.