# 3-Year Academic Assessment Plan Cover Sheet

**Assessment plans are due February 16, 2015**

## Program Information:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Assessed</td>
<td>MFA in Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>CFA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department Chair</td>
<td>Brackley Frayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Coordinator</td>
<td>Phil Hubbard</td>
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## Contact Person for This Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phil Hubbard</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>702 895.3869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:philip.hubbard@unlv.edu">philip.hubbard@unlv.edu</a></td>
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Please address the following items:

- What are the student learning outcomes? Please provide a numbered list.
- **Plans must include a curriculum map showing which courses will address which learning outcomes.** Examples can be found here: [http://provost.unlv.edu/Assessment/map.html](http://provost.unlv.edu/Assessment/map.html)
- Which learning outcomes will be assessed in each cycle year (i.e., assessment timeline)?
- How will the learning outcomes be assessed? (Programs must use at least one direct assessment of student learning.)
- Undergraduate programs should assess at least one University Undergraduate Learning Outcome (UULO) each year, which may or may not overlap with a program learning outcome.
- Graduate programs should assess at least one outcome related to one of the following graduate level requirements each year:
student engagement in research, scholarship, creative expression and/or appropriate high-level professional practice.

- activities requiring originality, critical analysis and expertise.

- the development of extensive knowledge in the field under study.

What is your plan for sharing the assessment results and acting on them (i.e., closing the loop)?

Please contact the Office of Academic Assessment if you have questions or need assistance.

**Student Learning Outcomes for the Program**

**Outcome #1 – Advanced Acting Technique.** The MFA performance student will learn Stanislavsky based acting technique. The student will be able to analyze, stage, and perform in scenes selected from the modern American theatre movement of the 20th century.

**Outcome #2 – Acting Styles.** The MFA performance student will be able to act in, and understand the historical context and relevance of a variety of styles & genres of plays including Shakespeare, Comedy of Manners (Moliere, Restoration Comedy, Wilde, Coward) and Modern Styles (Chekhov, Ibsen, Shaw, Strindberg, etc.), Musical Theatre and Acting for the Camera.

**Outcome #3 - Advanced Voice, Movement & Speech Technique.** The MFA performance student will learn and be able to apply advanced technical skills of voice, movement and speech for the stage that will enhance characterization skills necessary for work on a variety styles and genres of plays.

**Outcome #4 - Musical Theatre Skills.** The MFA performance student will learn singing technique for the musical theatre and dance technique in a variety of disciplines including Ballet, Jazz, Modern and Ballroom dancing.

**Outcome #5 - Professional Preparation.** The MFA performance student will learn to audition and market his/her skills at a level appropriate to entering the acting profession.

**Outcome #6 – Principles of dramatic structure and script analysis.** The MFA performance student will be able to analyze a script from any period and style and discern its structure, form, and theme.

**Outcome #7 – Theatre History and Dramatic Literature.** The MFA performance student will be able to draw upon knowledge of theatre history when creating a theatrical performance.

**2. Curriculum Map including Student Learning Outcomes.** Where is the information covered in the courses required in the program?
At what developmental stage is it covered (Beginning, Middle, or End)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses in program (required &amp; electives)</th>
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<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<td>THTR 493 Special Topics: Musical Theatre</td>
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<td>B, M, E</td>
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**B = Beginning, M = Middle, E = End**

B = outcome introduced in beginning of development, such as in introductory course
M = outcome covered in middle stages of development
E = outcome fully developed at the end of career, such as in a capstone course

**ASSESSMENT TIMELINE YEAR ONE 2015**
The first year of this assessment plan (2015) will address:

**Outcome #5 - Professional Preparation.** The MFA performance student will learn to audition and market his/her skills at a level appropriate to entering the acting profession.

As we begin this assessment plan timeline, our students in the MFA Performance program will, after Spring 2015, be entering the final year of the program which contains courses directly related to professional preparation. Starting with Outcome #5 is, therefore pertinent.

This outcome aligns with the graduate level requirements for student engagement in research, scholarship, creative activity, and/or appropriate high level professional practice. Of particular emphasis is the engagement in creative activity as the students are “training” for a life as a performing artist or for eventual employment in academic life (the MFA is the terminal degree in the arts). This outcome is “top of mind” in our area at present as our current 3-year cohort approaches graduation. We recruit and matriculate a 10 student cohort every three years.

**Outcome #5**

The Outcome of Professional Preparation is vital to our curriculum in the MFA Performance Program. To that end, this area is under constant scrutiny, revision, and adjustment with input from the full performance faculty.

There are many key areas to consider in this outcome:
1) Preparation for the professional portfolio demands of the stage actor. (headshot/resume, audition technique, preparation of stage audition materials)
2) Preparation for relocation to performance venues (US Cities which typically contain a critical mass of producing companies in theatre, film, television and voiceover production houses) and a large population of actors. These are typically, but not limited to: NYC, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Seattle, and SF Bay Area.
3) Preparation for entering the market as a film/television or voice over artist.
4) Preparation during the degree plan for auditioning for Nevada Conservatory Productions (UNLV’s on campus professional theatre) and obtaining consistent casting in this “home” venue.

**How will the results be assessed?**

The results of this outcome are difficult to quantify. The data used to indicate success is typically a historical review of the post-graduate employment opportunities offered to our students, the obtaining of industry representation (agents and managers) or their placement in academic positions. Actors do not typically obtain permanent employment as in certain other fields of graduate study.

Some guidelines for determining the efficacy of the program and the questions we will ask:

Is the end of program Industry Showcase effective? Do students obtain agent/personal management opportunities? Casting or callbacks to major companies in the venue? (New York, LA). Is the event well attended by industry professionals. Does the event occur in a calendar period conducive to
industry interest in the showcase location? And finally is the Industry Showcase the best way to bring our students in contact with industry professionals?

*What do we expect to learn from the assessment results?*

A review of our students accomplishments after graduation and the history of students accomplishments from the inception of the program (2001, MFA in Performance) is the best assessment tool in a program of this kind.

Are our students succeeding in “cracking the door” in each area? Are they obtaining agency representation? Are the appearing in professional productions? Have they obtained membership in Actor’s Equity Association and/or The Screen Actor’s Guild? Are they being considered for academic positions? Have they obtained employment in artistic leadership or management?

**ASSESSMENT TIMELINE YEAR TWO 2016**

The second year of this assessment plan will address:

**Outcome #1 – Advanced Acting Technique.** The MFA performance student will learn Stanislavsky based acting technique. The student will be able to analyze, stage, and perform in scenes selected from the modern American theatre movement of the 20th century.

**Outcome #2 – Acting Styles.** The MFA performance student will be able to act in, and understand the historical context and relevance of a variety of styles & genres of plays including Shakespeare, Comedy of Manners (Moliere, Restoration Comedy, Wilde, Coward) and Modern Styles (Chekhov, Ibsen, Shaw, Strindberg, etc.) , Musical Theatre and Acting for the Camera.

**Outcome #3 - Advanced Voice, Movement & Speech Technique.** The MFA performance student will learn and be able to apply advanced technical skills of voice, movement and speech for the stage that will enhance characterization skills necessary for work on a variety styles and genres of plays.

**Outcome #5 - Professional Preparation.** The MFA performance student will learn to audition and market his/her skills at a level appropriate to entering the acting profession.

*A new class will start in Fall of 2016. The above outcomes cover the variety of foundational actor training to be covered in the first year of the program and into the second year. Outcome # 5 is also included as preparation for the profession is a constant factor in the growth and development of the actor’s repertoire of skills. The details of the assessment results and effectiveness will be examined in each yearly assessment report.*

*Results from assessment of the 2nd year learning outcomes will be determined by a variety of factors including but not limited to: level of skills displayed in various performance projects, casting in department productions, quality of the students written oral assignments, interest from guest directors and outside industry professionals brought to UNLV as participants in the Nevada Conservatory Theatre.*
ASSESSMENT TIMELINE YEAR THREE 2016

The third year of this assessment plan will address:

Outcome #4 - Musical Theatre Skills. The MFA performance student will learn singing technique for the musical theatre and dance technique in a variety of disciplines including Ballet, Jazz, Modern and Ballroom dancing.

Outcome #5 - Professional Preparation. The MFA performance student will learn to audition and market his/her skills at a level appropriate to entering the acting profession.

Outcome #6 – Principles of dramatic structure and script analysis. The MFA performance student will be able to analyze a script from any period and style and discern its structure, form, and theme.

Outcome #7 – Theatre History and Dramatic Literature. The MFA performance student will be able to draw upon knowledge of theatre history when creating a theatrical performance.

In the third year, the students work extensively on their oral examination and continue their work in professional preparation. We will consider the success, too, in this year of the revised musical theatre training which has been added to the program.

Results from assessment of the 2nd year learning outcomes will be determined by a variety of factors including but not limited to: exceptional performance demonstrated in the final year oral examinations, level of skills displayed in various performance projects, casting in department productions, quality of the students written oral assignments, interest from guest directors and outside industry professionals brought to UNLV as participants in the Nevada Conservatory Theatre.