

Statement of Focus 2011
attention...intention...action...reflection

Due Date: September 27, 2011	
Name:	Year:

The dance department is committed to helping all dance majors recognize their abilities and develop them significantly while they are students at St. Olaf College. The dance department believes that the core of dance education resides in a movement intensive environment. This education also must incorporate analytical, creative, interpersonal, and verbal learning modes to move students toward a more complete physical intelligence. And this intelligence is the foundation of the skilled dance artist.

You are committing yourself to a dance major. This commitment carries with it your intention to explore the large world of dance, to investigate its varied content areas, and then to create your specific focus for more intensive research and exploration. As a dance major you will be developing yourself as a dance artist through the lens of performer, creator, educator, researcher. You may even blend these possibilities to create new options. And the options are numerous.

This **Statement of Focus** intends to encourage you to be responsible for your own, individual journey as a dance major. The annual practice of completing this statement of focus in a thoughtful and intentional manner supports the process of creating yourself as a dance artist. The dance faculty has created a dance curriculum that you move through as a dance major. Now we encourage you to frame your intentions for how you will move through *this year*. We hope that this process is directed by *what interests you most* about dance as well as *how you want to grow* as a dance artist. Please address the following questions to help you articulate your focus for the year.

Attention:

1. As a dance major, what is most interesting/ intriguing to you about dance and your participation in it?

Intention:

2. Considering your interests, what will you select this year to focus particular attention on as a dancer?

Action:

3. How might you explore, investigate this interest further?
4. How could you *imagine* developing and shaping this interest to share it with someone else?

Reflection:

1. Reflect on your most significant learning last year in a “movement intensive” environment. This relates to the classes you have taken, but also to the dance/movement projects you have been involved in. *What will you focus attention on this year to grow in this movement intensive environment?*
2. Reflect on your most significant learning last year in a more “language intensive” environment. This relates to classes and situations in which talking, writing, and reading are primary processes. *What will you focus your attention on this year as you work to become more skillful with language in both written and verbal expression?*

Finally:

At this point, how could you imagine your interest/s developing into an Area of Specialty?

3. Detail your current thinking about an Area of Specialty. What are your plans for moving forward in selecting your Area of Specialty or investigating further one you may be considering?
4. If you have other intentions for the year that are not covered above, please detail them.

Please give thoughtful consideration to each of the above as they relate to your individual experience and situation in the dance major. Each of these operates in a feedback loop with the others. Consider the relationships among them as you frame your answers to the questions. Type and submit your response to your faculty group leader.

A copy of your response will be kept on file, for future reference, with the dance department. You are encouraged to keep a copy for yourself that is easily accessible for you to refer to and revise as the school year progresses.

If you would like to type your responses into the electronic *Statement of Intention* word document, you can download it from the ‘Dance Majors’ section of the Dance Department website: <http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/dance/>. Be sure to download the ‘word doc’, not the ‘pdf’ file.