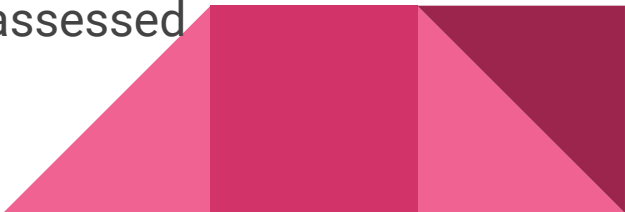




# Why assess acting?

The Theater Arts/Soft Skills Unit Level Assessment

# Fall 2016: What \*else\* do our students learn?

- Collect syllabi from current English, Speech, & Theater fine arts classes (literature, creative writing, theater arts)
  - Compare SLOs against a list of soft skills generated by the 2013-14 Soft Skills Committee
  - Soft skills include Presentation Skills, Teamwork, Dependability, Communication, Effective Expression, Management, & Interpersonal Skills
  - Performance-based Theater Arts course SLOs required minimum mastery of the largest number of soft skills
  - Theater Arts performance-based classes were then assessed
- 

# Initial (week 3) & Follow Up (week 16) surveys

Students filled out an anonymous survey. Questions included:

- Please rate how IMPORTANT IT IS that you have acquired these skills for your intended career (5-point scale from “Very Unimportant” to “Very Important”)
- Please rate how PROFICIENT you are in these skills, as of today (the same 5-point scale)
- A survey of whether students had prior paid, unpaid, or training experience in theater, modeling, or performance



# Instructor Assessment

Based on the student's final performance, instructors ranked student mastery from “Not at all proficient” to “Very proficient” in the following areas:

- Presentation Skills
- Teamwork
- Dependability
- Communication Skills
- Management Skills
- Effective Expression
- Interpersonal Relationships



# Survey Results: Presentation Skills

Week 3: 47% Proficient or Very Proficient (n: 76)

	Proficient (%)	Very Proficient (%)
Week 3	35	12
Week 16	55	33

Week 16: 88% Proficient or Very Proficient



# Dependability

Did students more accurately assess their actual vs. perceived dependability, based on the strict requirements of the course?

	Proficient (%)	Very Proficient (%)
Week 3	30	39
Week 16	37	39



# Communication

Week 3: 66% Proficient or Very Proficient

	Proficient (%)	Very Proficient (%)
Week 3	46	20
Week 16	41	43

Week 16: 84% Proficient or Very Proficient



# Effective Expression

Week 3: 57% Proficient or Very Proficient

	Proficient (%)	Very Proficient (%)
Week 3	37	20
Week 16	47	34

Week 16: 81% Proficient or Very Proficient





# Management

Week 3: 58% Proficient or Very Proficient

	Proficient (%)	Very Proficient (%)
Week 3	42	17
Week 16	45	31

Week 16: 86% Proficient or Very Proficient



# Interpersonal Communication

Week 3: 61% Proficient or Very Proficient

	Proficient (%)	Very Proficient (%)
Week 3	39	22
Week 16	49	38

Week 16: 87% Proficient or Very Proficient



# Teamwork

Week 3: 63% Proficient or Very Proficient

	Proficient (%)	Very Proficient (%)
Week 3	29	34
Week 16	47	35

Week 16: 82% Proficient or Very Proficient




# Instructor Rating: Week 16 (One class sample)

Standard: (n=37)	Exceeded (n)	Met (n)	Approaching (n)	Did not meet (n)
Presentation	20	7	7	3
Teamwork	23	3	9	2
Dependability	14	7	7	9
Communication	19	8	8	2
Management	16	7	7	7

# Instructor Rating (continued)

Standard: (n=37)	Exceeded (n)	Met (n)	Approaching (n)	Did not meet (n)
Effective Expression	21	8	6	2
Interpersonal Relationships	19	6	8	4

# Conclusions & Next Steps

- Performance based theater arts classes can convey valuable, transferable, much needed soft skills to non-theater majors
  - Almost all of the top 15 transfer colleges and universities that our business students attend after HWC accept between 1-4 of our performance-based theater classes, most for Fine Arts and all but one for General Education credit
  - Theater Arts, English, and Business/College to Careers are collaborating on strategies to encourage business majors to select Theater Arts for their fine arts elective, as appropriate
  - Full assessment (all theater courses) will run Fall 2017
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# So.....

What exactly do students DO in an acting class???

