



DANCE

General course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims
For teaching in 2027**

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Rationale

The Dance General course provides students the opportunity to explore various forms of dance genres/styles and develop skills in choreography. Dance is a physical art in which students can discover and demonstrate new ways to communicate ideas and emotions through movement. It has been part of human communication, as a means of expression and storytelling, throughout time and in all cultures of the world.

The course explores practical aspects of dance, including choreography, performance and contextual knowledge. Through developing dance skills in different genres/styles, students build their movement repertoire. The theoretical aspect of the course develops students' understanding of the historical, cultural and social aspects of dance.

Students in the course develop a range of physical and creative skills. Importantly, they learn about safe dance practices, including an understanding of injury prevention, while also developing their overall strength and fitness. By exploring the history of dance, students develop their knowledge and critical capacity when reflecting on dance works.

The skills and knowledge gained in the course have practical applications outside of dance, as students experience increased confidence and develop real-life skills in teamwork and collaboration. Beyond the practice of dancing, students will also develop an understanding of design concepts, costume, lighting, props and sets.

Through the course, students acquire lifelong skills that support both personal and professional development, whether pursuing dance or applying its skills in other fields. Although the course can prepare students for post-school opportunities in dance and the performing arts, the course also provides them with valuable transferable skills which can be applied to careers in areas such as education, health sciences and event management.

Aims

The Dance General course aims to develop students':

- ability to articulate and explore ideas
- skills in processes and performance
- ability to create dance for a range of functions, audiences and contexts
- understanding of the contextual relationships of dance
- ability to evaluate dance in performance
- transferable skills in creative problem-solving, collaboration, innovation, flexibility, social skills, self-regulation and leadership.