

SACS LEARNING OUTCOMES

Center Stage Series

Program Description

Center Stage is an annual series of lectures, concerts, exhibits, theatre productions, and multicultural evenings, intended to enhance students' understanding and engagement with the fine arts and/or world cultures. The events are paid for with fees assessed to each student; therefore admission is free. Events are publicized on and off campus via email distribution lists to faculty, staff and administrators (faculty then pass information along to students, with several faculty requiring attendance), fliers, announcements and news pages on the TTU website, newspapers (local and Nashville), the University Calendar, the electronic sign in the University Center and the Center Stage website.

Program Outcomes

1. To increase student attendance at Center Stage events.

Assessment: Goal will be measured year to year by tracking the numbers of students attending events. Tracking will be done through the use of card readers, which provide data on the number of ID card "swipes" at each event.

Student attendance for 2004-05 events was 1,638. Due to technical difficulties with the card readers, there was no attendance recorded at some events, one being a theatre production at which approximately 300 students attended. Also, attendance total does not reflect the number of students attending who did not have their ID to be swiped.

Student attendance for Fall 2005 events was 1,239. Total does not reflect the number of students attending who did not have their ID to be swiped.

2. To increase the number of faculty requiring attendance at Center Stage events.

Assessment: Goal will be measured year to year by the number of faculty requiring student attendance. Faculty will receive regular email reminders on the importance of student attendance at Center Stage events as it relates to University Performance Funding.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. To increase students' appreciation of fine arts and/or world cultures.

Assessment: Goal will be assessed from student responses on the ESS (Enrolled Student Survey administered thru 2005). The next survey administered will be the NSSE – National Survey of Student Engagement.), which has questions relevant to the cultural experience at Tennessee Tech University.

Using Assessment Results

Assessment results will be used to decide whether alternative methods should be used to increase student appreciation of arts and culture, student attendance at events, and faculty participation.

Recent results from the Enrolled Students Survey and the Alumni Survey suggested additional efforts needed to be made in the area of fine arts appreciation. In Fall 2005, it was proposed and approved by the Academic Council, “To require all students in UNIV 1020 or equivalent courses to attend at least two events – one Fine Arts and one World Cultures such as those presented by Center Stage.”

NOTE: Less formal assessment activities in the past have resulted in program changes during the early years of the Center Stage series: e.g., email contacts with participating faculty were increased and card readers for monitoring attendance were adopted.