

LONG SIGNATURE SHEET



UNC CHARLOTTE

Proposal Number: THEA 11-05-09

Proposal Title Curriculum Revision of B.A. degree in Theatre, B.A. degree in Theatre Education and Minor in Theatre

Originating Department Department of Theatre

TYPE OF PROPOSAL: UNDERGRADUATE X GRADUATE _____ UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE _____
 (Separate proposals sent to UCCC and Grad. Council)

DATE RECEIVED	DATE CONSIDERED	DATE FORWARDED	ACTION	SIGNATURES
				DEPARTMENT CHAIR <i>Janus Vesce</i>
	1/27/10 and 2/11 - 2/22/10	2/22/10	approved	COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR <i>Cecilia Brunner</i>
				COLLEGE FACULTY CHAIR NA
				COLLEGE DEAN <i>Ken Lambler (LG)</i>
		7/21/10	approved	UNDERGRADUATE COURSE & CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR (for undergraduate courses) <i>Kim Harris</i>
				GRADUATE COUNCIL CHAIR (for graduate courses)
				FACULTY GOVERNANCE SECRETARY (noting Faculty Council approval on Consent Calendar)
				FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (if decision is appealed)

REVISION OF B.A. IN THEATRE

PROPOSAL

The Department of Theatre proposes to make several changes in the requirements for a B.A. degree in Theatre. The faculty, having recognized a need for rigor, better sequencing, and clearer assessment propose to:

- increase the number of required hours from 40 to 50 for the B.A. in Theatre, from 85 to 87 for Theatre Education, and from 22 to 23 for the Theatre Minor
- add several foundation courses leading to assessment at the end of the sophomore and senior years
- restructure the sequencing of courses with the addition of appropriate prerequisites and course numbers reflecting the level of academic advancement

Also included in this revision are changes in the B.A. in Theatre Education and the Minor in Theatre that are concurrent with the new Theatre Major format. Please see the following attached short form memos for specific change proposals:

- Addition of new required courses (THEA 1140, 1201, 1202, 2141, 2200, 3600, 4231)
- Addition of new elective courses (THEA 3203, 3205, 3206, 4205, 4234, 4235, 4236, 4670)
- Renumbering, restructuring existing courses (THEA 1210, 2208, 2210, 2230, 2250, 2270, 3210, 4600)
- Deletion of courses not being taught and changes to course rotations, removal of Writing Intensive designation, and change to Minor
- Introduction of a Pre-Theatre Education status and changes in the B.A. in Theatre Education Degree requirements

JUSTIFICATION

1. Our present curriculum structure (a BA via 40 credit hours of study in the major) offers very little in the way of logical sequencing and assessment. This new curriculum works to rectify that. We have created a series of required courses in the Freshman and Sophomore level that not only give students a firm foundation in the major but through a second semester Sophomore review allows equal assessment of their progress midway through their undergraduate careers. While increasing the required credit hours to 50, these courses act as logical prerequisites to more specific emphases of study in Performance, Design, Theatre Studies (i.e. History/Dramaturgy) and Education in the Junior and Senior years, and the addition of a capstone Senior Thesis creates a final avenue of assessment.

2. A major motivation for the creation of a new curriculum in the Theatre Department is the improvement of our course sequencing. In its present state our curriculum offers, for example, more than a few 2000 level courses in the Junior and Senior years. With the addition of basic foundation courses in the Freshman and Sophomore years, prerequisites for upper level courses now follow a more logical progression of study. Additionally, the new curriculum creates a series of prerequisites throughout all areas of study that can be easily understood by both students and faculty.
3. The new curriculum for the Department of Theatre offers three 1000 level (Freshman) courses that must be passed before students can advance to their Sophomore year. These courses offer a remedial understanding of basic theatrical elements integral to the student's matriculation into the four more specific 2000 level Sophomore courses. These courses include one that fulfills the writing intensive requirement and one that fulfills the oral intensive.
4. Upon completing these foundation level courses, students go through a faculty-wide assessment. This assessment is used not only to check the progress of our curriculum but also to better able us to guide students toward areas of study that best fit their talents and interests. Between the junior and senior year, students may choose an emphasis of study within the following areas: Performance, Design, Theatre Studies, and Education. For the next two years, students then travel a logical progression through this emphasis. For example, students who choose a Design/Tech emphasis would be required to take four 3 hour 3000 level courses (such as Lighting Design I) as well as at least two 4000 level courses (such as Lighting Design II) which require a prerequisite of a companion course.
5. If a student chooses not to concentrate in a specific area of study, they can choose to take any 3000 and 4000 level courses (provided they have completed any prerequisites). Whether a student chooses a specific emphasis or not, the new curriculum requires all students to have taken two 4000 level elective courses and at least one elective in each area (Design/Production, Performance or Theatre Studies) in order to receive a degree in the major. Through these requirements, we propose students should have both a breadth and depth of knowledge upon completing the program.
6. The curricular revision has been designed with careful consideration of faculty resources. The foundational courses *Introduction to Technical Theatre* and *Introduction to Design for the Stage*, while new titles, represent reconstitutions of existing classes (Introduction to Stagecraft and Elements of design, respectively) that will not impact faculty workload. Faculty will simply be assigned to the new designations. A third introductory course, *Theatre Experience*, will be taught by our existing LBST instructor and the LBST course will be taught using part-time instruction. The other remaining new courses, *Theatre Collaboration* and *Introduction to Dramaturgy* will be offered through the hiring of a new tenure-track position in Directing and Dramaturgy currently in progress. The final capstone course, *Senior Thesis*, will be taught as a directed study course in rotation among all tenure-line faculty. This course will contribute to an increase in faculty workload but only in a mentoring and advising capacity. *Senior Thesis* is a self-directed course that will not

involve classroom instruction but individual guidance of 1-2 students per faculty member per year. Beyond these additions no new courses will be offered that impact teaching workload.

IMPACT

1. *What group(s) of students will be served by this proposal?*
Undergraduate majors and minors will be directly impacted by this proposal as it changes their requirements.
2. *What effect will this proposal have on existing courses and curricula?*
 - a. *When and how often will added course(s) be taught?*
The "foundation courses" required for all majors will be taught each year, in fall or spring, with extra sections offered of Acting I (UNCC Oral requirement) and Dramaturgy I (UNCC W requirement) to keep enrollment at 15 or less. Advanced "core courses," which are electives available in each of the Department's four areas (Performance, Design/Technology, Theatre Studies and Education), may be offered less often, depending on student interest.
 - b. *How will the content and/or frequency of offering of other courses be affected?*
Required courses in the current Theatre curriculum, which are not required in the new curriculum (e.g., Directing I, Performance Theory) will not be offered as often once the students who are in the present major are scheduled to complete the four-year program. If a required course can't be offered, appropriate substitutions will be offered. Students may also be permitted into courses for which they don't have the newly installed prerequisites.
 - c. *What is the anticipated enrollment in course(s) added?*
Performance courses: 15 (except for Directing I: 25)
Design/Technology courses: 15
Theatre Studies courses: 25 (except for Dramaturgy I: 15)
Education Courses: 15
 - d. *How will enrollment in other courses be affected? How did you determine this?*
Only courses currently required in the major that will not be required under the new curriculum will be affected and they will be offered less often if fewer students choose them as electives. These courses will continue to be taught in their present configuration until current majors and minors have graduated.
 - e. *If course(s) has been offered previously under special topics numbers, give details of experience including number of times taught and enrollment figures.*
Please see separate short form memos for this information for each proposed new course.
 - f. *Identify other areas of catalog copy that would be affected.*
Other than the catalog copy for the individual courses (see attached short form memos), the catalog will need to reflect the new degree requirements, including the additional hours. New copy for the catalog is attached. Also the Academic Plan of Study will need to be updated.

RESOURCES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL

1. *Personnel*
 - a. *Specify requirements for new faculty, part-time teaching, student assistant and/or increased load on faculty.*
See #6 above under JUSTIFICATION.
 - b. *List by name qualified faculty members interested in teaching the courses.*
All faculty will be involved in implementation of curricular instruction
2. *Physical Facility*
No new space is required.
3. *Equipment and Supplies*
Additional safety equipment. Some materials for specific courses may require an additional student fee.
4. *Computer*
Scheduled hardware software upgrades and increased data storage
5. *Audio-Visual*
Scheduled hardware software upgrades and increased data storage
6. *Other Resources*
None
7. *Funding for new resources*
None

CONSULTATION WITH THE LIBRARY AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

1. *Library Consultation*
Please see attached Library Evaluations for each proposed new course.
2. *Consultation with Other Departments*
Two years ago, the Department of Dance and Theatre split. However, both Departments still share a unique interdependency in a variety of areas. This includes the instruction of Dance majors in lighting design by Theatre faculty. On November 5th, the Chair of the Theatre Curriculum Committee met with the Chair of the Department of Dance to gather input and discuss options. The results of that meeting were placed before the Dance faculty for review and it was decided to continue the status quo of offering Lighting Design I taught by faculty members of the Department of Theatre to Dance majors. Below is the complete text outlining that decision sent on November 12th from the Chair of Dance to the Chair of the Theatre Curriculum Committee.

Lon,

The Department of Dance voted unanimously to continue our course structure as it is. We wish to require Lighting I as our technical requirement. We also need it to be offered every semester. If, as you are planning schedules, you will not offer the course, we will have to pick it up as a part of Rick's load, and release him from some of the Production Practicum responsibilities.

The new courses in Technical Theatre or Composition for the Stage at the moment, will not fulfill the need we have to inform dancers of the unique and exciting elements of dance lighting that they will need as choreographers and teachers in the future.

Also if you are going to use the new courses as prerequisites for the Production Practicum, we will need to revise our requirements so that dancers take only DANC 2401 and do not take the THEA 2401 because they will not have the prerequisite.

Lon, I believe the unsuccessful attempts to create team taught classes in the past have made us very gun-shy. Also there is nothing in most of the courses that relate to dance production therefore, we feel dance students are better served in the specific Lighting course and then participating in running crew as practice.

As the faculty decision was unanimous, I think we need to stay with our current program.

Thank you,

P. Sofras

Chair, Department of Dance

INITIATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL

1. *Originating Unit: Briefly summarize action on the proposal in the originating unit including information on voting and dissenting options.*

This curriculum revision development was coordinated by a four-person committee and unanimously passed on October 8th to the entire Theatre Faculty for review in two phases. The first phase outlining sequencing, the creation of Freshman and Sophomore foundation courses, the creation of mid-career student assessment, and a Senior Thesis was discussed and unanimously adopted on October 23rd. The second phase which specified course content and new course syllabi was passed on a vote of 13 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

2. *Other Considering Units: Briefly summarize action on the proposal by each considering unit including information on voting and dissenting opinions.*

Minus the Department of Dance this curriculum revision affects only the Department of Theatre. Please refer to pages 6-7 for the reaction of the Department of Dance.

Catalog Copy for Overall Curriculum Change to be updated on Department Page in catalog:

MISSION: The Department of Theatre strives to inspire our students to expand their vision of the world and themselves through the study and practice of the craft of theatre, preparing them for leadership as practitioners, educators, and artists.

The mission is accomplished in a two-fold manner. First, we promote creativity, inquisitiveness, critical thinking, communication skills (oral and written), and cultural appreciation through the study of theatre. Second, we teach the specific craft of theatre-making through classroom experience, individual and collaborative study, and actualized stage productions, all emphasizing the particular skills necessary for the generation of high-quality stage performance. Students learn to participate in current critical discourse while engaging with the theory, history and material conditions of performance, and broaden their personal horizons as they encounter a range of ideas and issues – political, social, and aesthetic – through the unique art form which is theatre. The program thus creates a rigorous intellectual environment firmly rooted in the theatrical art form.

From this broad-based grounding in the fundamentals of the medium, students can then opt to specialize in one of the component subfields: history and theory, dramaturgy, playwriting, acting, directing, production, and design. In addition these fundamentals will also prepare students who so wish to specialize in theater education with the goal of obtaining a North Carolina teaching license. Throughout their training, students work both as faculty-mentored individuals and in collaborative groups, so that in addition to making significant contributions to the cultural life of the campus through departmental productions, they emerge ready for theatrical internships, graduate programs or for any profession which places value on independent thinking, confidence, and communication skills.

The department awards the Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre and Theatre Education. A minor in Theatre is available, and North Carolina K-12 teacher licensure can also be earned. In conjunction with the College of Education, the Department also offers a Master of Arts in Teaching Theatre.

The department presents a season of mainstage and lab theatre (blackbox) productions as well as a second “shoestring” series of performances and events, classroom projects, student-driven works, and original collaborations. Auditions are open to all members of the University community. Productions and classes are held in Robinson Hall, which contains three performance spaces and specialized rehearsal, design, and construction laboratories, as well as additional classrooms and department offices.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEATRE

A major in Theatre leading to the B.A. degree consists of 50 semester hours including:

32 hours in the departmental core:

- THEA 1140 The Theatre Experience
- THEA 1201 Theatre Collaboration
- THEA 1202 Introduction to Technical Theatre
- THEA 2140 Play Analysis
- THEA 2141 Dramaturgy I (W)
- THEA 2200 Introduction to Design for the Stage
- THEA 2201 Acting I (O)
- THEA 2401 Production Practicum (two of these)
- THEA 2402 Performance Practicum: Theatre **OR** a third THEA 2401 Production Practicum
- THEA 3130 Ancient and Medieval Theatre **OR** THEA 3131 Renaissance Theatre
- THEA 3132 17th to Early 20th Century Theatre **OR** THEA 3133 Contemporary Theatre
- THEA 3600 Junior Seminar
- THEA 4600 Senior Project

Plus 18 hours of electives (THEA XXXX). Of these electives, there must be one in each area of Performance, Theatre Studies and Design or Production. At least two of the courses must be at the 4000-level. Students may choose to follow a prescribed emphasis in Design, Production, Performance or Theatre Studies.

MINOR IN THEATRE

A minor in Theatre requires 23 semester hours including:

- THEA 1202 Introduction to Technical Theatre
- THEA 2201 Acting I (O)
- THEA 2140 Play Analysis
- THEA 2200 Introduction to Design for the Stage
- THEA 2401 Production Practicum
- Choice of: THEA 2402 Performance Practicum: Theatre **OR** a second THEA 2401 Production Practicum
- Choice of: THEA 3130, THEA 3131, THEA 3132, **OR** THEA 3133
- THEA XXXX (6 hours of theatre electives)

Students enrolled in the major or minor are required to register for THEA 1600 Majors and Minors Seminar every semester. All the above requirements must be completed with no more than one grade of D and a GPA of at least 2.5 in the major or minor.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEATRE EDUCATION (K-12)

Admission to the Theatre Education Program. Students entering the Theatre Education Program will be admitted as Pre-Theatre Education (PTED). Students wishing to major in Theatre Education (TEDU) must be approved for admission to the major by meeting

department and statewide teacher education program admission requirements. The criteria for admission include 45 earned credit hours, a GPA of 2.75 or higher, a grade of C or better in MDSK 2100, passing scores on the SAT, ACT, or Praxis I tests, and the recommendation of their Theatre Education advisor. Students should apply for admission to the Theatre Education program during their sophomore year, and they must complete the admissions process in order to enroll in any upper level education or Theatre Education courses at the 3000 level or higher. Once students are admitted to the Theatre Education Program their major designation will change from PTED to TEDU.

The major in Theatre Education consists of 87 semester hours and leads to (K-12) teacher licensure. In addition to completing the core coursework for the major in Theatre, Theatre Education majors must take a performance practicum and a total of three production practicum (one each in costumes, scenery and lighting) and complete the following professional education requirements:

- THEA 1160 Creative Drama for the Classroom Teacher
- THEA 1860 Preliminary Experience in Student Teaching
- THEA 2215 Stage Make-up
- THEA 2460 Practicum in Creative Drama: K-8
- THEA 2640 Stage Management
- THEA 3221 Directing I
- THEA 3230 Scenic Design I
- THEA 4160 Theatre for Youth
- THEA 4165 Methods of Facilitating Learning in Theatre Arts (W)
- THEA 4460 Practicum in Secondary School Play Production: 9-12
- THEA 4467 Student Teaching/Seminar: K-12 Fine and Performing Arts: Theatre (in lieu of THEA 4600 Senior Project required for the B.A. in Theatre)
- MDSK 2100 Diversity and Inclusion in Secondary Schools
- ELED 3120 The Elementary School Child
- EIST 4100 Computer Applications in Education
- EDUC 4290 Modifying Instruction for Learners with Diverse Needs

Students are required to register for THEA 1600 Majors and Minors Seminar every semester, except the semester they are student teaching. Students must complete all the above coursework with a grade of C or better and a GPA of 2.75 in the major.

Students seeking theatre licensure should plan to apply to the Theatre Education major by the end of the sophomore year. A later decision to seek licensure may result in a delayed graduation date. A GPA of 2.75 is required for admission to student teaching. Licensure applications are the responsibility of the student and the Teacher Education, Advising, and Licensure (TEAL) Office in the College of Education.