

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Baccalaureate Degree in

Theatre

A proposal for the Missouri State Department of Higher Education

3/10/2015



NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM

Sponsoring Institution(s): Missouri State University

Program Title: Bachelor of Science in Theatre

Degree/Certificate: Bachelor of Science

Options: N/A

Delivery Site(s): Missouri State University

CIP Classification: 50.0501

*CIP code can be cross-referenced with programs offered in your region on MDHE's program inventory highered.mo.gov/ProgramInventory/search.jsp

Implementation Date: Fall 2015

Cooperative Partners: N/A

*If this is a collaborative program, form CL must be included with this proposal

AUTHORIZATION:

Dr. Frank Einhelig, Ph.D., Provost Frank Einhelig 3/17/15
Name/Title of Institutional Officer Signature Date

Christopher J. Herr, Department Head 417-836-4400
Person to Contact for More Information Telephone



I. Executive Summary

The proposed BS in Theatre is designed primarily for students who are interested in pursuing a theatre degree in college, but are limited because of the large number of hours required in our BFA programs and the university's BA requirements. The number of hours required in the BFA program makes it very difficult for transfer students to complete the BFA in fewer than three years, which places those students at a distinct disadvantage compared to non-transfer students. It's also often very difficult for transfer students to complete their major requirements in Theatre, their minor requirements, and the university's BA requirements (27 hours in addition to the major and the minor) in two years. Accordingly, we get very few successful transfer students in the BA program. Additionally, there are a great many students who would like to double major in theatre and another discipline; in fact, one of the first questions asked by students in their parents when talking about a theatre major is whether it is possible to double major. Currently, the answer is yes, but with difficulty.

The proposed BS program, which requires the same theatre courses as the BA Theatre major, makes it much easier for both transfer students and double majors to complete the requirements in a timely manner. It maintains the same rigor as the BA program—the only difference is that the university does not have separate requirements for BS majors, so the students in this program will have more flexibility to pursue electives and double majors. The only new course in the program is THE 482, which is a one-credit capstone course to allow closer mentoring of students in individual projects (performances, papers, public presentations, design work) by faculty. This course, which is also being incorporated into the BA program in Theatre, will be taught in load by current faculty, so it will not require additional resources.

It should be pointed out that this program is not designed to replace any of the BFA programs, which provide more intensive training for students who intend to directly pursue theatre as a career. Nor is it designed to replace the BA degree, though it certainly is possible that the number of BA students will diminish slightly as a result of this degree. The BS degree would allow for more flexibility for students who want to maintain and develop their skills and study in theatre and situate themselves on their chosen career path.

An additional benefit to the degree program is better utilization of our faculty resources. By attracting more majors, we could ensure that all levels of our theatre classes were at capacity. The potential costs down the road of adding additional sections of courses with strong demand would only come with additional enrollment, which would more than offset any potential costs. The theatre classes in the BA can absorb additional enrollment in current teaching loads, so these additional costs (either for per course instructors or faculty overloads) would only become an issue a few years into the program's development.

www.dhe.mo.gov • info@dhe.mo.gov

205 Jefferson Street, P. O. Box 1469, Jefferson City, MO 65102 • (573) 751-2361 • (800) 473-6757 • Fax (573) 751-6635



II. Introduction

This proposed degree, a BS in Theatre, is designed in response to demand from a changing student population. It is a 42 hour major that exactly parallels our current BA in Theatre and therefore requires no new resources. Both degree programs give students a breadth of training in theatre, combining classes in acting, history, design and technology and dramatic literature to give graduates needing a flexible skill set the ability to meet the demands of today's marketplace. In addition, because it does not require the 27 hours of arts/humanities courses that the university requires for all BA degrees, this degree will give students from two-year schools (and other transfers) interested in theatre the option to pursue their interests and still complete a degree in a timely manner. It also allows students interested in both theatre and another area to pursue degrees in both.

III. Alignment With Mission and Goals

This degree is very much in alignment with the university's mission and goals, as well as with the department's. It is aimed to use resources more efficiently and to offer students greater access to the department's faculty resources, and to facilitate shorter time to graduation for transfer students Theatre will engage thoroughly in the public affairs mission of the university. Furthermore, it prepares majors for a complex workforce by helping to give them skills employers value highly: problem solving ability, collaboration experience, effective written and spoken communication, and others.

1. Need:

A. Student Demand:

- i. Estimated enrollment each year for the first five years for full-time and part-time students (Please complete table below)

Form SE	Year				
	1	2	3	4	5
Full Time	5	10	15	20	30
Part Time	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	10	15	20	30

- ii. Will enrollment be capped in the future? ENROLLMENTS WOULD ONLY BE CAPPED WHEN/IF FACULTY AND SPACE RESOURCES BECOME MAXED.
- iii. Please provide a rationale regarding how student enrollment projections were calculated: PROJECTIONS ARE BASED ON TRANSFERS FROM 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS, TRANSFERS FROM OUR CURRENTLY OFFERED BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE, AND NEW STUDENTS ENTERING THE PROGRAM.

B. Market Demand:

- i. National, state, regional, or local assessment of labor need for citizens with these skills. THERE ARE FEW THEATRE PROGRAMS NATIONALLY THAT OFFER BOTH BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

www.dhe.mo.gov • info@dhe.mo.gov

205 Jefferson Street, P. O. Box 1469, Jefferson City, MO 65102 • (573) 751-2361 • (800) 473-6757 • Fax (573) 751-6635



AND TRADITIONAL BA DEGREES. THIS PROPOSED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) DEGREE WOULD BE A WAY TO OFFER A MORE CONCISE CURRICULUM AND MORE EASILY ALLOW TRANSFER STUDENTS TO COMPLETE A DEGREE WITHIN TWO YEARS. THE JOB MARKET IS BURDENED WITH BFA STUDENTS FROM PROGRAMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHO HAVE VARYING LEVELS OF SKILL AND TALENT; HOWEVER, THIS PROPOSED BS DEGREE, WHICH WOULD BE OFFERED PARALLEL TO A SIMILARLY REVISED BA DEGREE, WOULD BRING INTO THE MARKET PEOPLE WHOSE SKILLS MAY BE MORE GENERAL BUT WHOSE OPPORTUNITIES COULD BE GREATER.

ii. Support letter(s) from potential employers (optional; append to proposal)

C. Societal Need:

i. General needs which are not directly related to employment. THEATRE IS AN INHERENTLY COLLABORATIVE ART WHICH REQUIRES PRACTITIONERS AND PATRONS ALIKE TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ARTS, SCIENCES, LETTERS, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE. WE HAVE FOUND THAT THERE IS A SIZABLE PORTION OF STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING DEGREES IN THIS FIELD BUT WHO, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, CHOOSE NOT TO ENTER THE PROFESSION; HOWEVER, IT IS EXACTLY STUDENTS LIKE THESE WHO ARE SOUGHT AFTER FOR THEIR COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION SKILLS, IMAGINATION AND INVENTION, AND PATRONAGE OF THIS (AND OTHER) ART.

ii. Support letter(s) from community leaders (optional; append to proposal)

D. Methodology used to determine "A" and "B" and "C" above. THE METHODOLOGY USED TO DETERMINE THE ABOVE IS BASED ON ADVISING CURRENT STUDENTS, DISCUSSIONS WITH THEATRE PROFESSIONALS, AND CONVERSATIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND COLLEGE ABOUT ADDRESSING SPECIFIC NEEDS. SPECIFICALLY WE HAVE FOUND THAT SOME STUDENTS WILL NOT ENTER OUR CURRENT BA, OR ARE NOT RETAINED WITHIN THE DEGREE, BECAUSE OF THE SPECIFIC UNIVERSITY-WIDE BA REQUIREMENTS AT MISSOURI STATE. AT MSU THERE ARE 65 BS PROGRAMS AND 24 BA PROGRAMS. EVEN IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS (COAL), WHERE YOU WOULD EXPECT TO FIND SIGNIFICANTLY MORE BA DEGREES THAN BS DEGREES, THERE ARE 10 BA DEGREES OFFERED AND 9 BS DEGREES OFFERED (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE BFA, BSED OR OTHER DEGREES). THE ONLY DEPARTMENTS IN COAL WITHOUT BS DEGREES ARE THEATRE AND DANCE, ENGLISH, AND MUSIC.

2. Duplication and Collaboration (Form CL):

If similar programs currently exist in Missouri, what makes the proposed program necessary and/or distinct from the others at public institutions, area vocational technical schools, and private career schools? FROM OUR RESEARCH WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANOTHER PROGRAM IN MISSOURI WHICH OFFERS A BS IN THEATRE.

Does delivery of the program involve a collaborative effort with any external institution or organization? If yes, please complete the rest of this section (Form CL. If no, state not applicable and go to item 3. NOT APPLICABLE

Length of agreement (open-ended or limited): _____

- A. Which institution(s) will have degree-granting authority?
- B. Which institution(s) will have the authority for faculty hiring, course assignment, evaluation, and reappointment decisions?



- C. What agreements exist to ensure that faculty from all participating institutions will be involved in decisions about the curriculum, admissions standards, exit requirements?
- D. Which institution(s) will be responsible for academic and student-support services, e.g., registration, advising, library, academic assistance, financial aid, etc.?
- E. What agreements exist to ensure that the academic calendars of the participating institutions have been aligned as needed?
- F. In addition to the information provided by each participating institution regarding Financial Projections (item 4 below), please address the following items:
 - I. How will tuition rates be determined if they differ among the institutions?
 - II. Has a formal agreement been developed regarding cost-sharing policies? If yes, please include it as part of the proposal. If no, please summarize the current understanding between all parties and the plans for developing a formal agreement.
 - III. What arrangements, if any, have been made for exchange of money between participating institutions?
- G. What commitments have been made by all participants to evaluate the program systematically?
- H. If one institution wishes to discontinue the program, what agreements exist for terminating the offering?

3. Program Structure (form PS):

- A. What are the total credits required for graduation? This should match C+D+E below. 125
- B. Are there any residency requirements? RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS EXIST AS A UNIVERSITY WIDE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT BUT NOT AS ONE FOR THIS SPECIFIC DEGREE.

Total Credits by Category

- C. General Education courses: Total credits required: 45-49
- D. List of classes that contribute to this total (an example has been entered).

LINK TO GENERAL EDUCATION WORKSHEET:

http://www.missouristate.edu/assets/gened/GenEdWorksheet_New.pdf

- E. Major requirements: total credits required: 42
THE 122(3), 130(3), 150(2), 151(1), 222(3), 323(3), 430(3), 482(1), 515(3), 541(3), 542(3),
CHOOSE 3 HOURS FROM THE 250(2) AND 251(1), OR THE 255(2) AND 256(1), OR THE 260(2) AND 261(1).
- F. Free elective credits: 34-38 hours
- G. Describe any requirements for thesis, internship or other capstone experience. THE 482 IS A NEW CAPSTONE COURSE WHICH WILL REQUIRE THE STUDENT TO GIVE A PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF A

www.dhe.mo.gov • info@dhe.mo.gov



PERFORMANCE OR PAPER TO DEMONSTRATE THE STUDENT'S MASTERY OF THE SKILLS RECEIVED DURING THE MAJOR. THIS COURSE WILL BE VIEWED AS A FINAL CHECKPOINT FOR ALL BA & BS STUDENTS TO DISPLAY THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIELD THROUGH A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OR PRESENTATION OF THEIR AREA OF INTEREST. THE 515 ALREADY EXISTS AND IS IDENTIFIED AS THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE FOR THE BA; IT WILL BE AS WELL FOR THIS BS DEGREE.

H. Describe any unique features such as interdepartmental cooperation. NONE

4. Financial Projections (for public institutions only; Form FP): Please complete table at the end of this document. Additional narrative may be added as needed. If more than one institution is providing support, please complete a separate table for each institution.
5. Program Characteristics and Performance Goals (form PG). For collaborative programs, responsibility for program evaluation and assessment rests with the institution(s) granting the degree(s).

Although all of the following guidelines may not be applicable to the proposed program, please carefully consider the elements in each area and respond as completely as possible in the format below. Quantification of performance goals should be included wherever possible.

A. Student Preparation

- Any special admissions procedures or student qualifications required for this program which exceed regular university admissions, standards, e.g., ACT score, completion of core curriculum, portfolio, personal interview, etc. Please note if no special preparation will be required. STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO WRITE A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE TO ENTER THE DEGREE. THIS REQUIREMENT IS IN PLACE SO THAT STUDENTS ARE INTENTIONALLY CHOOSING THIS DEGREE AS A MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY AND NOT AS A FALLBACK OR SECONDARY OPTION.
- Characteristics of a specific population to be served, if applicable. WE EXPECT THAT STUDENTS WHO SEEK THIS DEGREE WILL BE GENERALISTS WHO ENJOY THE WORK OF THE THEATRE BUT EITHER HAVE BROAD SKILLS ACROSS THE DISCIPLINE OR WHO HAVE NOMINAL PRACTITIONER TALENT BUT WANT TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AS DRAMATURGES, HISTORIANS, CRITICS, ETC.

B. Faculty Characteristics

- Any special requirements (degree status, training, etc.) for assignment of teaching for this degree/certificate. ALL FACULTY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY HOLD TERMINAL DEGREES WITHIN THEIR FIELD (MFA OR PHD) WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE FOR THIS DEGREE.
- Estimated percentage of credit hours that will be assigned to full time faculty. Please use the term "full time faculty" (and not FTE) in your descriptions here. ALL COURSES EXCEPT THE 482 EXISTS WITHIN THE CURRENT CURRICULUM AND THERE NO REALLOCATIONS ARE EXPECTED. THE NEW COURSE CAN BE DISTRIBUTED TO FACULTY IN LOAD WITHOUT ADDITIONAL EXPENSE.
- Expectations for professional activities, special student contact, teaching/learning innovation. EXPECTATIONS FOR FACULTY WHO TEACH IN THIS DEGREE PROGRAM WILL BE NO DIFFERENT THAN CURRENT EXPECTATIONS. ALL OF OUR FACULTY TEACH ACROSS ALL DEGREE PROGRAMS.

www.dhe.mo.gov • info@dhe.mo.gov

205 Jefferson Street, P. O. Box 1469, Jefferson City, MO 65102 • (573) 751-2361 • (800) 473-6757 • Fax (573) 751-6635



C. Enrollment Projections (repeat section 1.A.i)

Form SE	Year				
	1	2	3	4	5
Full Time	5	10	15	20	30
Part Time	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	10	15	20	30

- 90% full time students

D. Student and Program Outcomes

- Number of graduates per annum at three and five years after implementation. 3-5 PER YEAR WILL GRADUATE BY THREE YEARS. APPROXIMATELY 7-10 EACH YEAR WILL GRADUATE AFTER 5 YEARS, AS A LARGER PROPORTION OF THESE STUDENTS WILL BE JUNIOR AND SENIOR TRANSFER STUDENTS AND SO A STUDENT POPULATION OF 30 STUDENTS WILL LIKELY HAVE 20 JUNIORS/SENIORS. COUPLED WITH THE EXISTING BA PROGRAM, WHO WILL TAKE THE SAME CORE CLASSES, WE WILL HAVE A TOTAL OF 10-15 GRADUATES/YEAR IN THE COMBINED PROGRAMS.
- Special skills specific to the program. AS A GENERAL BS DEGREE, THE PROGRAM REQUIRES STUDENTS TO GAIN A BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THEATRE: ACTING, DIRECTING, HISTORY/LITERATURE, AND PRODUCTION. IN ADDITION, STUDENTS DEVELOP WIDELY APPLICABLE SKILLS SUCH AS COLLABORATION, PUBLIC SPEAKING/PRESENTATION, PROBLEM SOLVING, AND INDEPENDENT WORKING.
- Proportion of students who will achieve licensing, certification, or registration. NOT APPLICABLE
- Performance on national and/or local assessments, e.g., percent of students scoring above the 50th percentile on normed tests; percent of students achieving minimal cut-scores on criterion-referenced tests. Include expected results on assessments of general education and on exit assessments in a particular discipline as well as the name of any nationally recognized assessments used. NOT APPLICABLE
- Placement rates in related fields, in other fields, unemployed. PLACEMENT RATES IN BS AND BA PROGRAMS ARE DIFFICULT TO GAUGE, BECAUSE STUDENTS SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS, SOME IN THE MAJOR, SOME TANGENTIALLY RELATED TO THE MAJOR, AND SOME UTILIZING SKILLS DEVELOPED IN THE MAJOR.
- Transfer rates, continuous study. WE EXPECT THE BS PROGRAM TO BE ATTRACTIVE TO INCOMING TRANSFER STUDENTS BECAUSE OF ITS FLEXIBILITY; WE ALSO EXPECT A MUCH LOWER TRANSFER RATE FROM THE BS PROGRAM THAN WE HAVE IN THE CURRENT BA, BECAUSE IT ALLOWS STUDENTS MORE ELECTIVES AND MORE FLEXIBILITY IN PURSUING OTHER INTERESTS IN ADDITION TO THEATRE. WE EXPECT 30-40% OF THE STUDENTS TO BE TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

E. Program Accreditation



- Institutional plans for accreditation, if applicable, including accrediting agency and timeline. If there are no plans to seek specialized accreditation, please provide reasons. THERE ARE NO PLANS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL ACCREDITATION AS THE DEPARTMENT IS ACCREDITED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE (NAST).

F. Alumni and Employer Survey

- We are developing surveys for alumni in all of our programs to be more systematic in collecting data, but from the responses we get from alumni on a regular basis, their satisfaction for our other programs is high, and we expect that it will continue to be so in the BS degree.
 - We do not currently have a method of collecting data from employers for most of our degrees, in part because employment in the theatre and dance fields is largely self-employment. However, along with our data collection for graduates, we are developing a survey for employers that we will use for those graduates who enter more traditional employment fields
6. No Program Specific Accreditation: If accreditation is not a goal for this program, provide a brief rationale for your decision. If the institution is seeking program accreditation, provide any additional information that supports your program.
7. Will this program be offered primarily at an off-campus location? If yes, complete this section. If no, skip to item 9. NO

Quality Assurance for Off-Site Programs:

- A. General Oversight: Describe the manner in which this program will be managed. How does the management of this program fit within the institution's academic administrative structure?
 - B. Faculty Qualifications: How do the qualifications of faculty at this site compare with those of faculty for this program at the main campus? Please also note the comparable data regarding the proportion of course-section coverage by full-time faculty at each site.
 - C. Support Services: Describe how the institution will ensure that students at this site will be able to access services such as academic support, library, computing, and financial aid, as well as other administrative functions, at a level of quality comparable to that of on-campus programs.
8. Institutional Characteristics: Please describe succinctly why your institution is particularly well equipped or well suited to support the proposed program.



The Department of Theatre and Dance at Missouri State has a long history of producing successful graduates in all areas of theatre, and we are building on a strong regional and growing national reputation. We offer students well-rounded training in theatre, as well as areas of specialization to more directly prepare students for specific careers within the industry, so the department already has a strong infrastructure and institutional support for our programs. We have the facilities and the classroom space/technology to offer students comprehensive training, and the capacity (both in the classroom and in theatrical productions we produce) to accommodate strong transfer students and double majors within our programs.

9. Any Other Relevant Information



STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Full Time	5	10	15	20	25
Part Time	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	10	15	20	25

Please provide a rationale regarding how student enrollment projections were calculated:

Projections are based on transfers from 2-year institutions, transfers from our currently offered Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree, and new students entering the program.

Provide a **rationale** for proposing this program, including **evidence of market demand and societal need supported by research**:

Market Demand: There are few theatre programs nationally that offer both Bachelor of Fine Arts and traditional BA degrees. This proposed Bachelor of Science (BS) degree would be a way to offer a more concise curriculum and more easily allow transfer students to complete a degree within two years. The job market is burdened with BFA students from programs across the country who have varying levels of skill and talent; however, this proposed BS degree, which would be offered parallel to a similarly revised BA degree, would bring into the market people whose skills may be more general but whose opportunities could be great.

Societal Need: Theatre is an inherently collaborative art which requires practitioners and patrons alike to be knowledgeable of arts, sciences, letters, society, and culture. We have found that there is a sizable portion of students who are interested in pursuing degrees in this field but who, for a variety of reasons, choose not to enter the profession; however, it is exactly students like these who are sought after for their communication and collaboration skills, imagination and invention, and patronage of this (and other) art.

www.dhe.mo.gov • info@dhe.mo.gov

205 Jefferson Street, P. O. Box 1469, Jefferson City, MO 65102 • (573) 751-2361 • (800) 473-6757 • Fax (573) 751-6635



Methodology: The methodology used to determine the above is based on advising current students, discussions with theatre professionals, and conversations within the department and college about addressing specific needs. Specifically we have found that some students will not enter our current BA, or are not retained within the degree, because of the specific University-wide BA requirements at Missouri State. At MSU there are about 55 BS programs and 27 BA programs. Even in the College of Arts and Letters (COAL), where you would expect to find significantly more BA degrees over BS degrees, there are 12 BA degrees offered and 10 BS degrees offered (this does not include BFA or other degrees). The only two departments in COAL without BS degrees are Theatre and Dance and Music.



A. Total credits required for graduation: 125

B. Residency requirements, if any: Residency requirements exist as a University wide graduation requirement but not as one for this specific degree.

C. General education: Total credits: 45-49

Courses (specific courses OR distribution area and credits):

Course Number	Credits	Course Title
GEC 101	2	First-Year Seminar
ENG 110	3	Writing I
COM 115	3	Fundamentals in Public Speaking
GEC 104	3-5	Quantitative Literacy
GEC 105	3	Written Comm. & Integrative & Applied Learning
GEC 106/107	3-4	Life Sciences
GEC 108/109	3-5	Physical Sciences
GEC 110	6	Social & Behavioral Sciences
GEC 111	3	Humanities
GEC 112	3	The Arts
HST 121/122	3	Survey of History of the US to 1877/since 1877
PLS 101	3	American Democracy & Citizenship
GEC 115	3	Cultural Competence
GEC 116	3	Public Issues

D. Major requirements: Total credits: 42

Course Number	Credits	Course Title
THE 122	3	The Tools of the Actor
THE 130	3	Introduction to Script Analysis
THE 150	2	Introduction to Theatre Technology
THE 151	1	Introduction to Theatre Technology Lab
THE 222	3	Acting Fundamentals
THE 323	3	Acting-Performance and Literature
THE 430	3	Directing I
THE 482	1	
THE 515	3	Theatre for Social Change
THE 541	3	Theatre History I
THE 542	3	Theatre History II
THE 250/251	3	Stagecraft and Construction I/Lab
THE 255/256		Lighting Design I/Lab
THE 260/261		Costume Construction I/Lab

E. Free elective credits:

34-38

(Sum of C, D, and E should equal A.)

F. Requirements for thesis, internship or other capstone experience:

THE 482 is a new capstone course which will require the student to give a public presentation of a performance or paper to demonstrate the student's mastery of the skills received during the major. This course will be viewed as a final checkpoint for all BA & BS students to display their knowledge of the field through a practical demonstration or presentation of their area of interest. THE 515 already exists and is identified as the Public Affairs capstone experience for the BA; it will be as well for this BS degree.

G. Any unique features such as interdepartmental cooperation:

N/A