

**DATE:** April 24, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Austin Peay State University, Theatre/Dance, Bachelor of Arts  
Theatre/Dance, Bachelor of Fine Arts

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The proposed baccalaureate programs in Theatre/Dance at Austin Peay State University are in response to the recommendations from the 2010 Academic Audit of the Performance Funding program. The Academic Audit team recommended “the university re-examine and re-design the administrative structure of the communication and theatre department in order to maximize the development of the theatre program, better serve the needs of students, and improve the collaborative efforts among faculty.” The establishment of transparent degrees for Theatre/Dance adds credibility and visibility to these areas. This structure will also aid the students’ successful application for employment. Employers in the performance industry recognize the standard designation for students of students of Theatre/Dance as Theatre/Dance majors, as opposed to Communication majors. This clarification is also strongly suggested by the national accrediting bodes for Theatre and Dance.

Additionally, the inclusion of the Dance concentration in these programs, addresses an economic need for Tennessee’s students who have utilized the Academic Common Market for the Dance program. Increased degree production is an important component of the THEC 2010-15 Public Agenda for Higher Education.

The Theatre/Dance, Bachelor of Arts (BA) program will prepare students for the professional worlds of both disciplines in a liberal arts training environment. In contrast, the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Theatre/Dance will prepare students admitted via audition and interview for professional practice in the worlds of Theatre and Dance. For both programs, the theoretical, pedagogical, and historic aspects of Theatre/Dance will be stressed.

**PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Fall 2015

**1.1.20A MISSION:** The proposed programs in Theatre/Dance will strengthen the liberal arts and creative arts mission of the university. Austin Peay State University has been designated as Tennessee’s liberal arts institution and home to Tennessee’s only Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts. Additionally, the area of Theatre/Dance has been the beneficiary of the Acuff Chair of Excellence in the Creative Arts.

**1.1.20B CURRICULUM:** The proposed programs will prepare students in the theoretical, pedagogical and historical aspects of theatre and dance studies and require completion of 120-121 credit hours distributed as follows:

**Theatre/Dance, BA**

*(Concentrations in Dance, Design, and Acting/Directing)*

The program will require completion of 120 credit hours, including 41 hour general education core, 6 hours of a foreign languages, 1 hour student success course), 36 hours in the concentrations and 36 hours devoted for a second major or 1-2 minors.

**Theatre/Dance, BFA**

*(Concentrations in Musical Theatre Dance, Design, and Acting/Directing)*

The program will require completion of 121 credit hours, including 41 hour general education core, 1 hour student success course and 79 hours in the concentration area.

**1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS:** The admission, readmission, retention, and graduation requirements are the same as those described in the APSU *Undergraduate Catalog*. Additionally, admission requirements for the Theatre/Dance, BFA include an audition and/or portfolio review and interview.

**Projected Program Enrollment and Productivity**

Enrollment projections were developed based on current enrollments in the existing Theatre concentration. Projections were further developed based on enrollment comparison at public institutions in Tennessee as well as participating institutions in the Academic Common Market that offer Theatre/Dance programs.

Year	Headcount		Graduates	
	Theatre/Dance BA	Theatre/Dance BFA	Theatre/Dance BA	Theatre/Dance BFA
2015	16	19	--	--
2016	31	37	--	--
2017	46	55	--	--
2018	61	73	14	11
2019	61	73	14	11

**1.1.20D FACULTY:** The instructional workload for this program will be continued by eight full-time, tenured/tenure-track faculty and five adjunct faculty members. In addition, searches will be conducted for three additional full-time faculty members over the next five years.

**1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES:** Library resources are adequate for program implementation. To ensure that necessary resources are maintained, \$1,000 has been budgeted annually during the five-year monitoring period.

**1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION:** This program will be offered through the newly established Department of Theatre and Dance in the College of Arts and Letters. The Department Chair will be assisted by one full-time and two part-time staff members. The proposed budget projects the part-time administrative assistant position to be allocated to a full-time position.

**1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES:** The Theatre/Dance programs will utilize faculty and the college-wide advising coordinator to advise students on curricular and career issues.

**1.1.20H FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT:** Instructional facilities and equipment are adequate to support both programs. Theatre/Dance faculty and students will use the Margaret Fort Trahern Building with a 200-seat theatre, scene shop, costume shop, and lighting booth. Two large dance studios are also available in the Memorial Health Building. In anticipation of future instructional equipment (e.g., sound components, lighting), funds have been budgeted for these needs.

**1.1.20I NEED AND DEMAND:** Graduates with a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre/Dance from Austin Peay State University will have a world of careers and opportunities awaiting them in various venues. For dancers in performing arts, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a 13 percent employment increase from 2012 to 2022. Employment projections for occupations in theatre companies and the dinner theatre industry are projected to grow by 11.4 percent over the next 10 years.

In Tennessee, our capital city serves as a major center for the television, stage and film industry. Prominent talent and casting agencies are located in Nashville, TN. These agencies regularly seek performing artists and technicians for national and regional employment. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Nashville ranks as the 4<sup>th</sup> largest metropolitan area with the highest concentration of jobs in the theatrical/performance area.

**1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION:** Program duplication among traditional liberal arts majors is common in higher education. Public institutions in Tennessee that offer Theatre programs are East Tennessee State University, University of Memphis, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and University of Tennessee, Knoxville. APSU's Theatre/Dance program will be the only public institution in Tennessee that will seek accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Dance.

**1.1.20K COOPERATING INSTITUTIONS:** None at this time.

**1.1.20L DIVERSITY AND ACCESS:** Austin Peay State University embraces diversity as a core value and these proposed programs in Theatre/Dance will seek to increase the University's efforts to attract, admit, retain and graduate a diverse student population. Additionally, this program will foster a campus community that encourages positive interactions among diverse groups.

**1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION:** APSU will seek accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) and the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) after successfully graduating the first students within the new department. APSU anticipates the first Theatre/Design

graduates in 2017, with site visits in 2018 and accreditation affirmed from both NAST and NASD in 2019.

Additionally, the Theatre/Dance programs will continuously monitor program and student learning outcomes using multiple evaluation tools. Program faculty will participate in regular meetings and retreats to make on-going improvements in curriculum, programs and practices to ensure compliance with accreditation standards and APSU policies.

**1.1.200 EXTERNAL JUDGMENT:** THEC policy does not require external evaluators for a proposed new undergraduate degree program.

**1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT:** The proposed programs generate tuition and fees to cover the operating costs. Program costs are limited to faculty and staff salaries, library, equipment and accreditation expenditures.

**1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING:** An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following program approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved proposal. At the end of this period, the campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation and other metrics set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. If benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. If additional time is needed and requested by the governing board, the Commission may choose to extend the monitoring period.