

UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE FORMS

Academic Program Approval

This form is a routing document for the approval of new and revised academic programs. Proposing department should complete this form. For more information, call the Faculty Senate Office at 831-2921.

Submitted by: JOANN BROWNING, ASSOCIATE CHAIR_phone number_X1084_____

Department: THEATRE DEPARTMENT_____email address_JBROWNIN@UDEL.EDU

Action: DELETE THEATRE PRODUCTION MAJOR (THPR)

(Example: add major/minor/concentration, delete major/minor/concentration, revise major/minor/concentration, academic unit name change, request for permanent status, policy change, etc.)

Effective term: 08F_____

(use format 04F, 05W)

Current degree: BA_____

(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed change leads to the degree of: N/A_____

(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed name: N/A_____

Proposed new name for revised or new major / minor / concentration / academic unit
(if applicable)

Revising or Deleting:

Undergraduate major / Concentration: B.A. THEATRE PRODUCTION

(Example: Applied Music – Instrumental degree BMAS)

Undergraduate minor:_____

(Example: African Studies, Business Administration, English, Leadership, etc.)

Graduate Program Policy statement change:_____

(Must attach your Graduate Program Policy Statement)

Graduate Program of Study:_____

(Example: Animal Science: MS Animal Science: PHD Economics: MA Economics: PHD)

Graduate minor / concentration:_____

Note: all graduate studies proposals must include an electronic copy of the Graduate Program Policy Document, highlighting the changes made to the original policy document.

List new courses required for the new or revised curriculum. How do they support the overall program objectives of the major/minor/concentrations)?

(Be aware that approval of the curriculum is dependent upon these courses successfully passing through the Course Challenge list. If there are no new courses enter "None")

NONE

Explain, when appropriate, how this new/revised curriculum supports the 10 goals of undergraduate education: <http://www.ugs.udel.edu/gened/>

N/A

Identify other units affected by the proposed changes:

(Attach permission from the affected units. If no other unit is affected, enter "None")

NONE

Describe the rationale for the proposed program change(s):

(Explain your reasons for creating, revising, or deleting the curriculum or program.)

Over the past few years, the Theatre Department and the University administration have been discussing some internal restructuring of the department and how the department and its programs will serve the University and the broader community beginning with the next cycle of the Professional Theatre Training Program which begins in the fall of 2008. (The PTTP is the Theatre Department's three-year MFA training program which admits a class of graduate students only once in every four year period.) These discussions were precipitated by several factors: 1) impending faculty retirements; 2) faculty workload issues; 3) the opening of the Louise and David Roselle Center for the Arts; and 4) future plans for the graduate Professional Theatre Training Program and the Roselle Center for the Arts. As a result of this internal review and in concert with the University administration's support, the departmental restructuring includes the following proposals:

1. Elimination of the small undergraduate Theatre Production major (THPR);
2. The elimination of the current Theatre Minor (THE) and the simultaneous creation of three new Theatre Minors with three separate emphases – Performance Studies Minor (THPS-MIN, Theatre Production Minor (THPR-MIN), and Theatre Studies Minor (THST-MIN) – all rubrics have been confirmed with the Registrar's Office; and
3. The implementation of a resident professional acting company at the Louise and David Roselle Center for the Arts.

Since 1989, the Theatre Department's strength and focus has been the Professional Theatre Training Program and its national reputation for excellence in graduate theatre training. The department has always had great difficulty meeting even the minimum curricular needs of the undergraduate major in Theatre Production due to the necessary teaching and production demands of the PTTP on faculty workload, space, and budget. Because workload for PTTP faculty includes not only their teaching but their production assignments as well, producing in the two new performance spaces in the CFA in addition to continuing to produce in the Hartshorn Theatre has further increased the demand on our faculty's time.

The undergraduate Theatre Production major has averaged around 30-35 majors at any given time since its implementation in 1993-94. Many of the students who have chosen this major have, by their own admission, been more interested in the performance side of theatre, which is not a part of the major. Students have selected the production major as a way to be involved with theatre even though many have not been particularly interested in its behind-the-scenes focus.

The department's largest contribution to undergraduate education at the University of Delaware has been through its service classes in performance. Because all Theatre Department undergraduate classes are open to any student at the University of Delaware, majors make up a very small percentage of the students who enroll in our courses. There has always been a demand for more courses in performance-related subjects. Many students at the University of Delaware, while majoring in other fields, wish to study acting and its related subjects (i.e., voice, speech, movement) more than the one introductory level course we currently offer. However, because most members of the department faculty who teach in the performance area have 100% of their teaching and production load assigned to the PTTP, offering additional courses in undergraduate performance subjects has not been possible.

With the opening of the Louise and David Roselle Center for the Arts, the department and the University administration began to look at how this new facility could serve the campus, the community, and the surrounding region. The possibility of having a resident professional theatre company, comprised of alumni from the PTTP, which would regularly offer a full season of professionally produced plays of the acknowledged masterpieces of dramatic literature, was explored. It was noted that particularly during the first half of the PTTP training cycle when graduate student productions are fewer in number, having a professional company in residence at the University of Delaware would ensure a steady diet of offerings for our loyal audience. Additionally, the Center for the Arts with a resident professional theatre company would have the potential of becoming a major theatre venue on the East Coast corridor.

In developing the idea of the resident professional company, the department and the administration began to look for additional ways in which the professional actors and professional stage manager (all of whom would be PTTP alumni), could, in addition to their performance contract with the resident company, serve the undergraduate population. Because of the ever growing demand for undergraduate performance-based courses, the department proposed that the professional actors and stage manager would all teach one course per semester – thereby increasing the department's offerings by a minimum of 13 additional courses per semester. The addition of at least 26 additional undergraduate course sections per year would amount to a 73% increase over our current offerings in performance-based courses. Further, because of the demand not only for more courses in performance but for sequential coursework in performance subjects as well, the department proposed that the current Theatre Minor be eliminated while simultaneously creating three new Theatre Minors, each with its own distinct emphasis – a Performance Studies Minor for those students who wished to have a sequential curricular experience in performance courses; a Theatre Production Minor for those few students who have a genuine interest in the behind-the-scenes part of theatre; and a Theatre Studies Minor for those students who wish to have a variety of theatre coursework, drawing from performance courses, production courses, historical courses, etc. The workload demands on the department's production faculty in offering undergraduate production courses as part of a minor as opposed to a major was deemed to be manageable with the added support of the professional stage manager and professional production staff who could also contribute to those course offerings.

The Theatre Department is committed to providing opportunities which have the general student body fully appreciate the theatre as an art form in a way that promotes their lifelong participation as audience members. With the creation of these three new Theatre Minors Performance Studies, Theatre Production, and Theatre Studies, and the simultaneous discontinuation of the small major in Theatre Production and the current general Theatre Minor, and with the implementation of a resident professional theatre company at the University of Delaware with company members serving as teachers and mentors to undergraduate students, the department and its faculty and staff can contribute more fully to the undergraduate interest in theatre that exists on this campus.

Therefore, the curricular changes being submitted on **five separate Academic Program Approval Checklist Routing Forms** as part of the department's restructuring, include the following actions:

- 1) elimination of the current Theatre Production Major (THPR);
- 2) elimination of the current Theatre Minor (THE-MIN);
- 3) creation of a new Performance Studies Minor (THPS-MIN);
- 4) creation of a new Theatre Production Minor (THPR-MIN); and
- 5) creation of a new Theatre Studies Minor (THST-MIN).

This particular Academic Program Approval Checklist Routing Form relates to action #1 above – the elimination of the Theatre Production Major (THPR).

Your support of all of our proposals is appreciated.

Program Requirements:

(Show the new or revised curriculum as it should appear in the Course Catalog. If this is a revision, be sure to indicate the changes being made to the current curriculum and **include a side-by-side comparison** of the credit distribution before and after the proposed change.)

N/A

ROUTING AND AUTHORIZATION: (Please do not remove supporting documentation.)

Department Chairperson <u>S. Robbins</u>	Date <u>10/5/07</u>
Dean of College _____	Date _____
Chairperson, College Curriculum Committee _____	Date _____
Chairperson, Senate Com. on UG or GR Studies _____	Date _____
Chairperson, Senate Coordinating Com. _____	Date _____
Secretary, Faculty Senate _____	Date _____
Date of Senate Resolution _____	Date to be Effective _____
Registrar _____	Program Code _____
Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Planning _____	Date _____
Provost _____	Date _____
Board of Trustee Notification _____	Date _____

Revised 5/02/06 /khs