

EP.26.110\_FINAL

Approved by EP 03/02/2026

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 12/06/25 6:27 pm

Viewing: **10KR3985BFA : Theatre: Theatre Studies, BFA**

Last approved: 09/30/24 11:40 am

Last edit: 02/26/26 12:20 pm

Changes proposed by: Nicole Turner

Catalog Pages Using [Theatre: Theatre Studies, BFA](#)  
this Program

Proposal Type:  
Concentration (ex. Dietetics)

This proposal is for

a:  
Revision

## In Workflow

1. U Program Review
2. Gen Ed Review
3. 1883-THEAT  
Committee Chair
4. 1883-THEAT Head
5. KR Dean
6. University Librarian
7. COTE Programs
8. Provost
9. Senate EPC

10. Senate
11. U Senate Conf
12. Board of Trustees
13. IBHE
14. HLC
15. Catalog Editor
16. DMI

## Approval Path

1. 12/10/25 9:49 am  
Emily Stuby  
(eastuby): Approved  
for U Program  
Review
2. 12/15/25 12:38 pm  
Melissa Steinkoenig  
(menewell):  
Approved for Gen  
Ed Review
3. 12/16/25 12:54 am  
Jeffrey Eric Jenkins  
(jej): Approved for  
1883-THEAT  
Committee Chair

4. 12/16/25 7:34 am  
Valleri Robinson  
(valleri2): Approved  
for 1883-THEAT  
Head
5. 02/05/26 3:37 pm  
Nicole Turner  
(nicturn): Approved  
for KR Dean
6. 02/10/26 2:55 pm  
Tom Teper (tteper):  
Approved for  
University Librarian
7. 02/10/26 3:37 pm  
Suzanne Lee  
(suzannel):  
Approved for COTE  
Programs
8. 02/11/26 4:01 pm  
Brooke Newell  
(bsnewell):  
Approved for  
Provost

## History

1. Mar 21, 2019 by  
Deb Forgacs  
(dforgacs)
2. Dec 11, 2019 by  
Nicole Turner  
(nicturn)
3. Feb 26, 2020 by  
Cynthia Kocher  
(ckocher)
4. Sep 30, 2024 by  
Nicole Turner  
(nicturn)

## Administration Details

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Official Program Name	Theatre: Theatre Studies, BFA	
Diploma Title	Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre	
Sponsor College	Fine & Applied Arts	
Sponsor Department	Theatre	
Sponsor Name	Cindy Kocher	
Sponsor Email	ckocher@illinois.edu	
College Contact	Nicole Turner	College Contact Email
	nicturn@illinois.edu	
College Budget Officer	<del>Greg Anderson</del>	
College Budget Officer Email	gnanders@illinois.edu	

If additional stakeholders other than the Sponsor and College Contacts listed above should be contacted if questions during the review process arise, please list them here.

KR Dean

Does this program have inter-departmental administration?

No

### Effective Catalog Term

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Effective Catalog Term	Fall 2026
Effective Catalog	2026-2027

### Proposal Title

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Proposal Title (either Establish/Revise/Eliminate the Degree Name in Program Name in the College of XXXX, i.e., Establish the Bachelor of Science in Entomology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, include the Graduate College for Grad Programs)

Revise the Concentration in Theatre Studies in the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre in the College of Fine and Applied Arts

Does this proposal have any related proposals that will also be revised at this time and the programs depend on each other? Consider Majors, Minors, Concentrations & Joint Programs in your department. Please know that this information is used administratively to move related proposals through workflow efficiently and together as needed. Format your response like the following "This BS proposal (key 567) is related to the Concentration A proposal (key 145)"

This Theatre Studies (key 686) concentration proposal is related to the BFA proposal (key 146) and concentration proposals for Acting (key 679), Costume Design & Technology (key 680), Sound Design & Technology (key 684), Lighting Design & Technology (key 681), Scenic Design (key 682), Arts & Entertainment Technology (key 950), Stage Management (key 685), and Scenic Tech (key 683).

## Program Justification

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Provide a brief description, using a numbered item list, of the proposed changes to the program.

1. Eliminate category, "General Non-Theatre Electives" and 9 hours required in category
2. Update THEA 121 requirement, from 3 to 2 hours
3. Reduce degree hours from 128 to 120.
4. Update THEA core hours, from 24 to 23 hours
5. Update Summary of Credits table

Did the program content change 25% or more in relation to the total credit hours, since the most recent university accreditation visit? See the italicized text below for more details.

No

Provide the reasoning for why each change was necessary, using a corresponding numbered item list as it relates to the brief description numbered list above.

1. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Theatre withdrew from National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) Membership during the 2016-2017 academic year. NAST has a specific BFA expectation that states: "Specific Recommendations for General Studies" (pg. 99 NAST Handbook 25-26), which are then detailed for the various concentrations within the theatre concentrations (history, foreign language, media, cultural studies, etc.) Because the department elected to withdraw from NAST and students are free to take any free electives of their choosing to complete the degree, this category is not necessary. Students may elect to take free electives in any area as this category is eliminated.
2. THEA 121 was recently revised and approved to change from 3 to 2 hours (FA 26 approval attached). This updates the POS table.
3. With the reduction of 10 credit hours of specific requirements, there is no need to have a 128 credit hour degree when the campus minimum is 120 hours. The Office of the Provost manages a UI system audit (last conducted June 2025), which asks for a list of and justification for all bachelor's degrees that exceed 120 hours. The response from theatre this year was: "The typical BFA is between 120-130 hours, and in that regard, this program is in align with peer programs. This is actually one of the ways Theatre departments distinguish between BA and BFA experiences. As an intensive, pre-professional training program, this program offers significant, specialized training in each area, which adds to the credit load. The biggest factor that grows the minimum number is that the Department of Theatre gives credit hours for production work. As such, students who act, design, tech, manage, or otherwise work on a performance with the department get credit for that work. Many programs do not give credit for such work, but the UIUC Department of Theatre sees it as fully curricular and do credit it." This proposal makes no changes to the production work students are receiving credit for, but rather have examined the total credit hours for the major and degree and no longer have a justification for needing 128 hours. With the program changes outlined in this proposal, students will complete approx. 35 general education hours, 23 core theatre hours, 49-51 concentration hours, and 10-13 free elective hours to equal 120.
4. Due to the decrease in 1 hour from THEA 121, the THEA core requirements have decreased by 1 hour.
5. The summary of credits table is edited to change the core requirements to 23 hours, eliminate the general non-theatre electives line, and update the total degree hours to 120. This reflects accuracy from the above program changes.

## Instructional Resources

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Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/proposed change?

No

Does this new program/  
proposed change result in the replacement of another program?

No

Does the program include other courses/subjects outside of the sponsoring department impacted by the creation/revision of this program? If Yes is selected, indicate the appropriate courses and attach the letter of support/acknowledgement.

No

## Program Features

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Academic Level      Undergraduate

Is this program part of an ISBE approved licensure program?

No

Will specialized accreditation be sought for this program?

No

Additional concentration notes (e.g., estimated enrollment, advising plans, etc.)

Does this program prepare graduates for entry into a career or profession that is regulated by the State of Illinois?

No

## Program of Study

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Provide detailed information (course rubrics, numbers, and credit hours) of how a student could obtain 40 credit hours of upper-division coursework.

THEA 304 (3 hrs)

THEA 364 (3 hrs)

THEA 404 (1 hrs)

THEA 391 - 2 hrs

THEA 392 - 2 hrs

THEA 400 - 3 hrs

6 hours of 400-level

12 hours of 300/400 level

= 32 advanced hours

Additional advanced hours may come from supporting professional electives (9 hours) or free electives (this concentration assumes 13 hours of free electives).

Revised programs      [Theatre BFA sample schedule Thea studies FA 26.docx](#)  
[THEA 121 Course Credit Hour Change Approved FA26.pdf](#)

## Catalog Page Text - Overview Tab

Catalog Page Overview Text

The theatre studies concentration focuses on the practical applications of theatre and explores theatrical productions as a collaborative art form that is grounded in practice, theory, criticism, history, research and writing. The theatre studies concentration is intended to lay the foundation for students planning to pursue professional careers in the areas of theatre for which advanced training or specialization at the graduate level is normally required. These areas include, but are not limited to: directing, dramaturgy, playwriting, arts management, social issues theatre and theatre history and criticism. Emphasis is given to a comprehensive study of theatre practices of the past, participation in theatre practices of the present and the discovery and development of theatre practices for the future.

Is the overview text above correct?

Yes

Statement for  
Programs of Study  
Catalog

## ~~Graduation Requirements~~ Graduation Requirements

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 ~~128~~ hours.

Twelve hours of 300 and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

## ~~University Requirements~~ University Requirements

Minimum of 40 hours of upper-division coursework, generally at the 300- or 400-level. These hours can be drawn from all elements of the degree. Students should consult their academic advisor for additional guidance in fulfilling this requirement.

The university and residency requirements can be found in the [Student Code](#) (§ 3-801) and in the [Academic Catalog](#).

## ~~General Education Requirements~~ General Education Requirements

Follows the [campus General Education General Education \(Gen Ed\) requirements](#). Some Gen Ed requirements may be met by courses required and/or electives in the program.

Composition I	4-6
Advanced Composition	3
fulfilled by <a href="#">THEA 304</a>	
Humanities & the Arts (6 hours)	6
fulfilled by <a href="#">THEA 122</a> & <a href="#">THEA 208</a>	
Natural Sciences & Technology (6 hours)	6
Social & Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)	6
Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures (1 course)	3
Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures (1 course)	3
Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Cultures (1 course)	3
Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses, at least one course must be Quantitative Reasoning I)	6-10
Language Requirement (Completion of the third semester or equivalent of a language other than English is required)	0-15

### ~~Core Requirements for all Theatre Majors~~ Theatre Studies

### ~~Concentration General Non-Theatre Electives~~ Core Requirements for

## all Theatre Majors

<a href="#">FAA 101</a>	Arts at Illinois	1
<a href="#">THEA 100</a>	Practicum I	2
<a href="#">THEA 200</a>	Practicum II	2
<a href="#">THEA 121</a>	Theatre Foundations: Performance	2
<a href="#">THEA 122</a>	Theatre Foundations: Theory and Practice	3
<a href="#">THEA 123</a>	Theatre Foundations: Production	3
<a href="#">THEA 208</a>	21st Century Dramaturgy	3
<a href="#">THEA 304</a>	Global Theatre Performance	3
<a href="#">THEA 364</a>	Topics in Theatre History	3
<a href="#">THEA 404</a>	Professional Career Development	1
Total Hours		23

## Theatre Studies Concentration

<del>General Non-Theatre Electives</del>		<del>9</del>
<a href="#">THEA 175</a>	Acting 2	3
<a href="#">THEA 211</a>	Introduction to Playwriting	3
<a href="#">THEA 212</a>	Introduction to Directing	3
<a href="#">THEA 220</a>	Survey of Theatrical Design	3
<a href="#">THEA 391</a>	Individual Topics	2
<a href="#">THEA 392</a>	Individual Topics	2
<a href="#">THEA 400</a>	Practicum IV	3
Choose 3 credit hours:		3
<a href="#">THEA 218</a>	Intro to Social Issues Theatre	
<a href="#">THEA 270</a>	Acting 3	
Other 200-level Theatre course (THEA)		
Choose 6 credit hours:		6
<a href="#">THEA 410</a>	Dramaturgs Workshop	
<a href="#">THEA 411</a>	Playwrights' Workshop	

<u>THEA 412</u>	Directors Workshop	
Choose 12 credit hours:		12
Any 300 or 400 level Theatre courses (THEA)		
Supporting Professional Electives: theatre (THEA), dance (DANC) or music (MUS, MUSC) courses, or other courses as approved by Theatre advisor		9
Total Hours		49

## Summary of Credits for ~~for~~ Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, ~~Theatre~~, concentration in Theatre Studies ~~Theatre Studies~~

General Education Requirements	
Core Requirements for All Theatre Majors	23
Theatre Studies Concentration Requirements	49
<del>General Non Theatre Electives</del>	<del>9</del>
Free electives to bring the total hours earned to 120, including a minimum of 40 credits at the 300- or 400-level	
<b>Total Credits for BFA in Theatre, concentration in Theatre Studies</b>	<b>120</b>

### Program Relationships

Corresponding

Program(s):

Corresponding Program(s)

Theatre, BFA

### Program Regulation and Assessment

#### Plan to Assess and Improve Student Learning

*Illinois Administrative Code: 1050.30(b)(1)(D) Provision is made for guidance and counseling of students, evaluations of student performance, continuous monitoring of progress of students toward their degree objectives and appropriate academic record keeping.*

Are the learning outcomes for the program listed in the Academic Catalog?

Yes

### Student Learning Outcomes

#### Student Learning Outcomes

- o Demonstrates a mature, effective ability to analyze, interpret, write critically and creatively, and discuss thoughtfully in the field of theatre and performance.
- o Demonstrates ability to actively engage in the collaborative process in preparation, construction, and performance of works for the stage.
- o Demonstrates comprehension of theory and application of practices in areas of emphasis through production related activities.
- o Demonstrates necessary skills and knowledge to acquire an entry-level position in the theatre showing the capacity to work and solve problems independently and with initiative (demonstrated through participation in a professional internship.)
- o Demonstrates practical application of learned methodologies including the ability to communicate ideas, concepts, and outcomes of creative research (demonstrated in public presentation of a senior thesis project.)

#### Assessment

- o Instructors in each curricular area review the progress of undergraduate students majoring in the areas annually. As part of this review, faculty assess the effectiveness of the curriculum to meet the department's mission, the needs of the field, and to maintain rigor.
- o Semester reviews with each studio student.
- o Annual reviews of progression towards graduation (including course grade reviews.)

Did you make any revisions to the learning outcomes you copied and pasted from the current academic catalog?

No

Describe how, when, and where these learning outcomes will be assessed.

Describe here:

Identify faculty expectations for students' achievement of each of the stated student learning outcomes. What score, rating, or level of expertise will signify that students have met each outcome? Provide rating rubrics as necessary.

Explain the process that will be implemented to ensure that assessment results are used to improve student learning.

Program

Description and

Requirements

Attach Documents

## Delivery Method

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This program is  
available:

On Campus - Students are required to be on campus, they may take some online courses.

## Enrollment

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Describe how this revision or phase down/elimination will impact enrollment and degrees awarded. If this is an elimination/phase down proposal include the plans for the students left in the program.

No impact.

## Budget

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Are there budgetary implications for this revision? No

Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?

No

Additional Budget Information

Attach File(s)

## Financial Resources

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How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

No changes to current operations. ~~The BFA is a professional training program in theatre, and as such it generally includes a mix of small, hands-on courses and larger courses offering history and theory, as well as quite large courses for non-majors. Most of the courses submitted for new consideration or revisions in this set of course revisions are of the smaller nature. We have worked extensively with the College of Fine and Applied to assure a responsible use of departmental resources, to allow us to maintain the integrity of degree programs and, at the same time, operate sustainably.~~

Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources?

No

Attach letters of support

## Faculty Resources

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Please address the impact on faculty resources including any changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

No impact.

## Library Resources

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Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

Library resources, collections, and services are sufficient to meet the needs of the program outlined in this proposal.

## EP Documentation

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EP Control Number    EP.26.110

Attach Rollback/  
Approval Notices

## Non-EP Documentation

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U Program Review

Comments

Rollback

Documentation and

Attachment

## DMI Documentation

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Attach Final

Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook

Name

BFA:Theatre:Theatre Stud-UIUC

Program Code: 10KR3985BFA

Minor Code	Conc Code	3985	Degree Code	BFA Major Code
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0162

Senate Approval

Date

Senate Conference

Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

DOE Approval Date

Effective Date:

Program Reviewer

Comments

**Melissa Steinkoenig (menewell) (12/15/25 12:38 pm):** Gen Ed Table: Good

Key: 686