



**Department of
Higher Education**

John R. Kasich, Governor
John Carey, Chancellor

**INITIAL INQUIRY
REQUEST TO OFFER A NEW PROGRAM**

Date of submission: *Date to come (sent after EPC)*

Name of institution: Kent State University

Primary institutional contact for this request:

Name: Therese E. Tillet
Title: Executive Director of Curriculum Services
Office of the Provost
Phone: 330-672-8558
E-mail: tillet1@kent.edu

Name of new programs: Musical Theatre major, Bachelor of Fine Arts degree
Theatre Design, Technology and Production major,
Bachelor of Fine Arts degree
The two majors will replace the Theatre Studies major, Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New degree designation | <input type="checkbox"/> New technical certificate program |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New program within existing degree
(e.g., major, minor, concentration) | <input type="checkbox"/> New licensure/endorsement area
(educator preparation) |

Delivery options (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Campus-based | <input type="checkbox"/> Offering the program at new offsite location |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online/hybrid delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Offering the program at existing offsite location |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flexible or accelerated delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Program contains off-campus experiences
(e.g., internship, clinical, practicum, student teaching) |

The institution will be seeking specialized accreditation for the program:

- No Yes

The theatre programs in the university's School of Theatre and Dance are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Provide a brief description of the request.

Kent State University proposes establishing two majors—Musical Theatre and Theatre Design, Technology and Production—within the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree. The proposed majors are currently concentrations in the BFA degree in Theatre Studies.

With the elevation of the two concentrations into separate degree programs, the BFA degree in Theatre Studies major will be inactivated. The existing BA degree in Theatre Studies will continue to be offered.

Background on the programs.

Theatre has had a place at Kent State for more than 100 years, with the founding of a drama club in 1913 and the offering of drama classes in 1926. In the late 1930s, the university formed an academic theatre division and began offering a bachelor's degree in dramatic arts. In 1963, the BFA degree in Theatre was established.

In 1981, the Musical Theatre program was established. The intention by faculty in proposing Musical Theatre was to create a separate degree program. However, Musical Theatre was never implemented as such and, instead, became a concentration within the Theatre major.

The Design/Technology concentration was established in 1989, and the major's name was revised to Theatre Studies for both the BA and BFA degrees.

Explain the academic unit's rationale for making the request.

Through the years, the dissimilar nature between the Musical Theatre and Design/Technology programs has become visibly apparent. The two concentrations do not share admission criteria, curricular requirements, learning outcomes or career objectives.

Admission into the Musical Theatre program is selective, requiring an audition in dance, singing and acting. The program prepares students for life as working artists in the musical theatre field. Practical training and creative experiences are coupled with an interdisciplinary liberal arts curriculum, in conjunction with the School of Music. In the senior year, students are given the opportunity to participate in Kent State's annual New York City Musical Theatre Showcase, which allows students to perform for prospective casting directors, talent managers and theatrical and commercial agents. In fall 2016, 67 students were enrolled in the Musical Theatre concentration.

The Design/Technology program fosters the study of traditional theatre practices and new methods, materials and technologies. The program prepares students for such occupations as scenic designer, costume designer, lighting designer, sound/projection designer, prop master, scenic artist, stage manager, production manager, wardrobe supervisor, technical director, and stage technicians. It also prepares students for graduate study. In fall 2016, 48 students were enrolled in the Design/Technology concentration.

As concentrations, the programs are limited in curriculum advancement as they should share a major core. Per the Ohio Department of Higher Education, concentrations must include a minimum of 50 percent of the curriculum within the major. Presently, the concentrations each comprise approximately 18 percent of the major's curriculum, sharing only 15 credits (out of 85) of major coursework.

Elevating the two concentrations into defined majors will allow students to find their desired program more easily on the university's website and on the admission application. Separate majors also will more fully differentiate the highly specialized BFA degree from the BA degree in Theatre Studies. While both degrees provide students with a foundation in theatre history, analysis and criticism, the BFA degree requires more practical application and training in students' chosen field than the BA degree. The BA degree allows students to study all aspects of theatre with a wider range of possibilities to fulfill career and professional goals.

Indicate whether additional faculty and staff will be needed to support the proposed request.

Need for additional faculty and staff is not anticipated as the two programs are existing, and current staffing is sufficient. The School of Theatre and Dance comprises 24 full-time faculty members and 10 full-time staff members, overseeing 240 courses, four bachelor's majors (BA, BFA), one master's major (MFA) and 10 undergraduate minors. Approximately, 345 students were enrolled in the school's programs in fall 2016.

Indicate whether additional resources (e.g., facilities, technology) will be needed to support the proposed request.

Existing resources are sufficient. In 2010, the building on the Kent Campus housing the dance and theatre facilities were extensively renovated and enlarged. These improvements resulted in the Center for the Performing Arts, which houses more than 70,000 square feet of performance, rehearsal, design and classroom space. The center includes three theatres, costume shop and laboratories for costumes, drafting, lighting and scenery. In addition, the school oversees the outdoor venue, Porthouse Theatre, in Cuyahoga Falls.