

**Department of  
Higher Education**

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

## REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS TO OR DISCONTINUATION OF A GRADUATE PROGRAM

### ☐ Suspension of Admissions

A university may suspend admissions into a graduate degree program if:

- (1) the institution plans to reactivate admissions into the program within five years of the suspension, or
- (2) the program has existing students that need to complete their degrees prior to discontinuation of the program. If, after suspension of admissions into a graduate degree program, the program is not reactivated within the specified period, the program will be declared permanently discontinued. Reinstatement of a discontinued program will require formal approval as a new graduate degree program.

### ☒ Immediate Discontinuation

An institution may immediately discontinue a program if there are no students currently enrolled in the program, and there is no intent to reactivate the program in the future. Reinstatement of a discontinued program will require formal approval as a new graduate degree program.

**Date of request:** *after Board of Trustees approves*

**Implementation date:** Fall 2020

**Name of institution:** KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

**Degree designation:** M.F.A. degree in Theatre Studies

### **Primary institutional contact for this request:**

**Name:** Cindy Stillings  
**Title:** Dean of Graduate Studies (Interim)  
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**1. Provide a rationale for the suspension of admission or immediate discontinuation of the program.**

Kent State University's School of Theatre and Dance in the College of the Arts proposes to inactivate the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree in Theatre Studies and replace the program with two specific and intentional programs:

Current Program	Proposed Programs for Fall 2020
M.F.A. Theatre Studies <i>with concentrations in:</i> Acting Acting for the Returning Professional Design/Technology - Costume Design Design/Technology - Lighting Design Design/Technology - Scene Design Design/Technology - Technical Direction	M.F.A. Acting for the Returning Professional  M.F.A. Theatre Design and Technology <i>with concentrations in:</i> Costume Design and Technology Lighting Design Scene Design Technical Direction

Due to growth and development of the two areas, the current concentrations no longer share admission requirements, learning outcomes and job opportunities. "Theatre Studies" is considered too broad a term for the discipline and does not identify the high degree of specialization in each program.

Separate proposals have been submitted to establish the two degree programs in theatre design and technical and in acting for the returning professional.

**2. Indicate number of students currently enrolled in the program.**

In fall 2019 (15<sup>th</sup> day census), there were no students declared in the Acting concentration, six students declared in the Acting for the Returning Professional concentration and 13 students declared in the Design/Technology concentrations.

**3. Describe how the suspension of admissions and any plan for discontinuation of program will affect the program and the students currently in the program. Explain plans for notifying current students and assisting them in the completion of their degrees, when applicable.**

Students will be notified of program changes. They will have the ability to change to a new plan of study with minimal effort and graduate with the new degree program, or they may continue in their current program with no impact on their graduation. All the students' courses will continue to be offered to complete their requirements.

**4. Will there be a loss of faculty or staff positions? If so, indicate when the faculty or staff members were or will be informed.**

Current staff and faculty will transition to the two new M.F.A. degree programs. There will be no interruption between the closing of the M.F.A. degree in Theatre and the implementation of the M.F.A. degree in Theatre Design and Technology and the M.F.A. degree in Acting for the Returning Professional.

**5. Describe the plan for communicating the suspension of admissions or discontinuation.**

Once the inactivation is approved, all necessary changes will be made to university websites and materials. Further written concurrent communications will be sent out to key staff in student advising, admission, registrar and financial aid. The School of Theatre and Dance will communicate the changes to all its constituents, including students, faculty and alumni.

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The signature below verifies that this request has received the necessary institutional approval and that this information is truthful and accurate.

Respectfully,

Cynthia R. Stillings  
Dean of Graduate Studies (Interim)  
Kent State University