

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 10-22

(Voting Units: Academic)

Minor in Theatre Performance

1. October 21, 2020

2. Proposer Contact Information:

Patricia Helsel, Associate Professor of Theatre, helsel@mtu.edu, (906) 487-3283

3. General Description:

- a. The Theatre Division of the Visual and Performing Arts Department (within the College of Sciences and Arts) proposes a new minor called Theatre Performance. The minor is intended to serve students interested in specific curriculum and experiences in acting. The minor would complement both the Theatre Technology minor, which (as the title suggests) focuses more specifically on technology in the theatre and entertainment industries, and the more general Theatre Arts minor which provides a much broader curriculum. The Theatre Performance minor is designed to provide foundational skills in acting and allows students to choose introductory courses geared toward skills in voice and movement. The minor requires experiential/practical courses that allow students to practice the skills learned through coursework. A choice of advanced classes provides further exploration of specific acting genres. The Theatre Performance minor will be available to any undergraduate student with an interest in acting (except those already enrolled in the Theatre and Electronic Media Performance major).
- b. The proposed program leverages existing faculty and resources in theatre and music.

4. Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this minor, students will be able to:

- *Identify the factors that define the role of the actor as a creative collaborator in the context of the theatre and media industries.*
- *Employ a variety of acting techniques appropriate to diverse theatrical styles and genres*
- *Create dynamic characters through complex script analysis.*
- *Perform with confidence.* Rationale:

Participation in Visual and Performing Arts ensembles, and the opportunity to study performing arts minors, has provided many Michigan Tech students an outlet for creativity, enrichment, and scholarship. Many other schools do not offer a performance minor (*see **Related Programs***) due to insufficient acting opportunities for non-majors, as preference is given to majors in production casting.

At Michigan Tech, non-majors regularly have performance opportunities, and adding this minor would encourage more of those students to take a few additional credits to complete the more rounded experience of a minor. Prospective students have often enquired about a performance minor during campus visits--offering this minor may be a recruitment advantage with students for whom this type of experience is desirable.

Michigan Tech would be the only university in the Michigan system to offer the option of a minor specializing in Theatre Performance that incorporates theatre and multimedia performance styles and genres.

5. Related Programs:

Benchmark Institutions -

Half of our benchmark institutions offer a minor similar to our current Theatre Arts Minor. (Carnegie Mellon University, Lehigh University, the University of Missouri – Rolla, California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo.) These minors are traditional, providing a largely rounded curriculum in theory with some opportunities to take a couple of specialized courses in performance or technology. Three institutions offer no theatre degrees. Rensselaer Polytechnic University offers a unique minor in Video, Performance, and Social Practice that combines theory and practice in movie making.

Michigan Public Universities

Half of the Michigan public universities offer a broad minor in Theatre, similar to our Theatre Arts minor. The University of Michigan and Wayne State University offer the largest and most comprehensive theatre programs in the state with highly specialized minors in areas such as Global Theatre and Ethnic Studies, Performing Arts Management, Africana Theatre and Dance, etc. Eastern Michigan University offers the most comprehensive array of minors: Three Musical Theatre minors specifically for majors (Dance, Theatre, Music) used as an optional extension for specialization; Arts and Entertainment Management; Communication Media and Theatre Arts Comprehensive; Drama/Theatre for the Young; Electronic Media and Film Studies; Entertainment Design and Technology; Theatre Arts.

6. Curriculum Design

Title of Minor: Minor in Theatre Performance

Catalog Description: Acting is not just for the entertainment industry. Today's actors are hired to perform in all manner of advertising and media platforms, as well as in media-based activities such as video gaming, audiobooks, training videos, website tutorials, etc. Students will learn to produce their own audio and video with industry-standard software, hardware, and facilities.

List of Courses:

Foundation Course -- Required (3 Credits)

THEA 1400 Beginning Acting (3)

Introductory Courses: Choose 2 (6 Credits)

MUS 1580 Group Voice (3)

SND 1102 Introduction to Audio Production (3)

THEA 1170 Voice and Articulation (3)

THEA 2400 Intermediate Acting (3)

THEA 2470 Fundamentals of Voice Acting (3)

Experiential Courses (2 Credits)

THEA 2600 Intermediate Acting Practicum (1)*

THEA 3600 Advanced Acting Practicum (1)

Advanced Courses: Choose 3 (9 Credits)

THEA 3400 Advanced Acting (3)

THEA 3405 Acting for Television and Film (3)

THEA 3470 Voice Acting Styles (3)

THEA 3475 Acting with an Accent (3)

THEA 3490 Puppetry (3)

THEA 3601 Audition Techniques (3)

THEA 4100 Period Acting Styles (3)

THEA 4402 Musical Theatre Performance (3)

Prerequisite Courses:

SND 1102	None
MUS 1580	None
THEA 1170	None
THEA 1400	None
THEA 1600	None
THEA 2400	THEA 1400
THEA 2470	THEA 1170, SND 1102
THEA 2600	THEA 1600 OR THEA1400 (allowed to be taken concurrently).
THEA 2663	None
THEA 3400	UN 1015, UN 1025, THEA 1400, THEA 2400
THEA 3405	THE 1400, THEA 2400 (C-can be taken concurrently)
THEA 3470	THEA 1170, THEA 1400, THEA 2470, SND 1102
THEA 3475	THEA 1170
THEA 3490	None
THEA 3601	THEA 1400, THEA 1600, THEA 2400
THEA 4400	THEA 1000, THEA 1400, THEA 2400, THEA 3400
THEA 4402	UN 1015, UN 1025

7. Restrictions: No SEMP-Theatre and Electronic Media Performance majors.
8. Program Costs: No additional costs are anticipated with the creation of the minor. The number of Minor in Acting students can expand to a 10-20 range with our current faculty and facilities. Beyond that number, there may be a need for further instructional staff.
9. Planned Implementation Date: Spring 2022