

**The University Senate of Michigan Technological University  
Proposal 6-23**

**Shelve the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Electronic Media Performance (SEMP)**

**Contact: Jared Anderson, Chair, Visual and Performing Arts**

**Date: 24 October 2022**

Voting Units: Academic

1. Full name of program to be shelved: Bachelor of Arts in Theater and Electronic Media Performance
2. Final term program is open for new admits: Fall 2022 (none were admitted)
3. Plan to complete all enrolled students and any returning students:

There are currently six enrolled students in the major, 3 seniors, 2 juniors, 1 sophomore. We have made plans to continue offering the courses necessary for them to graduate. When these students have completed their program of study we will remove the following courses from the catalog, while maintaining a sufficient number of lower and upper division courses to support the minor programs in theater and general education courses in performance:

THEA 2400 Intermediate Acting (we will rename the other two acting courses Acting 1 and Acting 2).

THEA 2600 Intermediate Acting Practicum (Acting Practicum 1 and 2 will remain)

THEA 2690 Dramaturgy Practicum

THEA 3405 Acting for Television and Film

THEA 3601 Audition Techniques

THEA 4400 Period Acting Styles

THEA 4600 Acting Capstone

4. Reason for shelving:

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) proposes to shelve the four-year degree, Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Electronic Media Performance (SEMP). The degree program has existed since 2008, one of four degree programs in VPA. The program has had a total of 7 graduates since 2008. The other degree programs in VPA will continue.

Three minor programs in theatre will continue in the department: Theatre Arts (a general theatre minor), Technical Theatre (focusing on backstage technology), and Theatre Performance (focusing on acting). The Theatre Performance Minor was implemented in Fall 2021 and will provide students across campus an opportunity to pursue training in acting as a supplement to their academic major. Historically many of our most talented actors have been theatre minors, showing a deep commitment to theatre performance, while studying other subjects as majors. We anticipate having strong participation in theatre as we continue into the future and commit to providing coursework in acting

that will support regular theatre productions and student interest in performing on stage and in digital media.

The vision for the SEMP program in 2008 was to create a degree program that would provide training in acting and performance in electronic media, including significant work in voice. This was seen as a fine pairing to our majors in technical areas of sound and entertainment technology. Since 2008 most students enrolled in the major have been internal transfers at Michigan Tech with only a small handful of students initially choosing to attend Tech to study theatre performance. Distance from large metropolitan areas and cost (in comparison to other acting programs) have been factors that have contributed to the difficulty to make enrollment numbers sustainable. There are no incoming students in SEMP for Fall 2022. We do not intend to admit incoming students to this major beginning in Fall 2022.

5. Financial impact to the department and university

Faculty resources in theatre performance have gradually reduced in VPA since the beginning of the degree program. With a recent retirement of a senior faculty member in 2021 the department has determined that future faculty resources should be dedicated to the three remaining degree programs in the department: Sound Design (BA), Audio Production & Technology (BS), and Theatre and Entertainment Technology (BS). We are working towards growth in enrollment in these programs over the next three years. Thus, shelving of the SEMP program will not have a net negative financial impact on enrollment in the future.