

**CREDIT-BEARING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM PROPOSAL  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**I. Background Information**

A. Title of Program: Theatre Arts Certificate

B. Department(s)/Program(s): Department of Music and Theatre Arts

C. Administrative Home: Department of Music and Theatre Arts

D. Division:  **Undergraduate**       **Graduate**  
(Requires approval by APC\*)      (Requires approval by GC\*\*)

E. Effective Year and Term for Implementation of Action: Fall 2020

**II. Unit Approvals**

	Signatures	Date
A. Department Chair(s)/Program Director(s)	<u><i>Cristhen Peters</i></u>	<u>10-18-19</u>
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
B. Dean of College	<u><i>Rodd Freilg</i></u>	<u>10-15-19</u>
C. Chair, Academic Policies Committee	_____	_____
D. Chair, Graduate Council	_____	_____

**III. Certificate program proposals should originate at the department/program level; all affected departments/programs must endorse proposals. Each proposal will include the following:**

**A. Context for the certificate program (any predecessor programs, relationship to existing programs, alignment with university mission);**

Currently the Department of Music and Theatre Arts offers two majors in Theatre (Comprehensive and Liberal Arts) and a minor in Theatre, as well as a certificate in "Arts Administration" which can be completed by music or theatre majors. We would like to offer a 13-credit Theatre Arts Certificate for the varied population of students from outside our theatre majors and minor who enjoy participating in theatre activity and see a supplemental relationship between theatre and their major area of study. In theatre classes and productions, students are given hands-on opportunities to build leadership, problem solving, and creative thinking skills. They develop empathy, deepen their various intelligences, and build inter- and intra-personal communication skills. All of these support the goals of our university mission to educate our students broadly and with a sensitivity to inclusion.

**B. Rationale explaining need for the program (e.g., target audience(s), evidence of long-term need, anticipated enrollment);**

The theatre program has a wide variety of students from other majors who enroll in the minor, participate in shows, or just take a class or two with us. These students tend to want to recreate in theatre and other art forms (which is why they came to a liberal arts university), or they have professional goals for which theatre provides helpful preparation (such as in Communication Arts/Journalism, Psychology, English, teaching fields, and Nursing). Many of these students do not need the full scope of the minor, and could more efficiently achieve time to degree with a theatre arts certificate.

**C. Statement of benefits to students, the department(s)/program(s), college(s), and university;**

Benefits to students: Studying and participating in theatre can be a nice complement to other major areas of study. Students gain many things in theatre that are applicable in other fields, such as leadership, creative thinking, and team-based problem solving skills. Benefits to the department, college, and university: The theatre program supports and serves the liberal arts. In theatre classes and artistic projects, students are asked to make connections between different bodies of knowledge, to learn how to work with different groups of people, and to creatively solve problems as a member of a team on a specific timeline. By offering a 13-credit certificate, students who might not have time to complete a theatre minor, but who would like the benefits of some theatre experiences, have the opportunity to formally complete a curated program. We believe this benefit will boost enrollment in theatre classes, and increase the overall appeal of UW-Eau Claire as a liberal arts institution. Finally, with a theatre certificate on their degree audit, applicants to graduate school from English, Psychology, Social Work, Education Studies (as a few examples) demonstrate an appealing additional depth of knowledge from a field in the creative arts.

**D. Description of the academic component including:**

**i. Learning goals and outcomes for students;**

Learning goals and outcomes (what students should know and be able to do): Upon completion of the Theatre Arts Certificate, students should know the basic introductory formal practices of theatre production (from THEA 121 and THEA 170-179/370-379); the foundational concepts of rehearsing and performing alone and with others (from THEA 130); the foundational concepts of leading actors through a scene and directing a play (from THEA 332); and the foundational or advanced concepts in an area of theatre that best complements the student's other area(s) of study (THEA 3-credit elective). Upon completion of the Theatre Arts Certificate, students should be able to: plan, organize, and execute backstage elements of a production (THEA 121); rehearse and perform a scene and/or play (THEA 130); direct a scene and/or a play (THEA 332); execute the duties of an ensemble member on a fully-mounted production (THEA 170-179/370-379); and draw connections between their other area(s) of study and a selected class in theatre (THEA 3-credit elective).

**ii. Specification of any program admission requirements, minimum GPA requirements for courses, GPA requirements for certificate completion above the university minimum, applicability of the S/U option;**

No GPA requirements above the university minimum.

**iii. Course array, including specification of new, required and elective courses. If electives are allowed within the certificate program, an explanation of the proposed electives in light of the need for program cohesion should be included.**

Theatre Arts Certificate requirements: THEA 121: Introduction to Technical Theatre; THEA 130: Beginning Acting; THEA 332: Directing; one 3-credit THEA elective; 1 credit from THEA 170-179 or THEA 370-379. The purpose of one 3-credit elective is to allow students to tailor the certificate to their area of interest in theatre (performance, technology, design, history, literature, or teaching). We have an array of classes that students can choose from, offered every semester. Courses cannot be counted in both the major and certificate program.

**E. Description of the administration, staffing, and budgeting for the program, including:**

**i. Faculty/staff participating in the certificate program;**

Full time, tentured/tenure track faculty will participate in the program, and teach all of the courses in the Theatre Arts Certificate: Jennifer Chapman, Arthur Grothe, Erin Hisey, Amanda Profaizer, James Zwicky.

**ii. Proposed frequency of offering for courses included in the certificate program;**

THEA 121, THEA 130, THEA 170-179/THEA 370-379 are all offered every semester. THEA 332 is offered every Fall. A variety of 3-credit THEA classes are offered every semester which students could use as the elective credit.

**iii. Proposed arrangements for ongoing advising for students in the certificate program;**

Theatre faculty member Jennifer Chapman will serve as the faculty adviser in the Theatre Arts Certificate program.

**iv. Anticipated need for student support services for students enrolled in the certificate program;**

None.

**v. Identification of an administrative home for certificate programs involving more than one academic department/program;**

The Theatre Arts Certificate will be housed solely in the Department of Music and Theatre Arts.

**vi. Funding needs to initiate and maintain the certificate program, including source(s) of funding and any needed resource reallocation;**

None.

**vii. Impact on existing courses and programs.**

We anticipate the impact of the Theatre Arts Certificate program will be increased enrollment in our classes and the Theatre program. This is viewed as a positive and support-able impact by our department.