

Date: March 6, 2007

To: Frances Jackson, Chair
Senate Planning Review Committee

From: Jackie Wiggins, Chair
Department of Music, Theatre and Dance

Re: Questions regarding the Department's proposals for a BFA in Theatre and
a BFA in Dance

I am pleased to provide responses to the committee's questions. Hopefully, my responses will clarify the committee's understanding of the proposal. If not, I am happy to speak with the committee. I grouped your questions into 3 groups to facilitate answering succinctly.

1. It is not clear to someone not a part of MTD what makes the BFA professional over the BA.
4. It would have been very helpful to have had a side-by-side comparison of the BFA vs. the BA. It was difficult to discern what the differences were in the required courses.
5. Are there differences in job expectations for someone who gets a BA vs a BFA?
6. According to the proposal, MTD wants to keep the BA degree. With the BFA degree, who would be in the BA major?
8. With the BFA on board, how will the BA degree change or be adjusted?

Response:

In general, students interested in teaching or other non-performing or nonprofessional design careers earn a BA degree. It is a liberal arts degree with a general specialization in theatre or dance.

Students interested in a professional performing or designing career generally pursue the BFA. It is the more appropriate degree for a student with professional aspirations and also more appropriate for a student who wishes to pursue advanced academic study in the fields (MFA, often leading to a performing career or a career in higher education).

Specific differences are described below.

BA in Dance

A Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Dance offers students a broad general education in dance without a high degree of specialization. Students develop dance skills, capabilities in the use of principles and procedures that lead to an intellectual grasp of the art, and the ability to perform. This program is appropriate for undergraduates who wish to major in dance as a part of a liberal arts program irrespective of specific career aspirations. It serves individuals who seek a broad program of general education rather than intense specialization in the undergraduate years (NASD).

NASD standards for the liberal arts BA degree in dance state that the program should be designed to develop basic competence in performance and dance studies. The program should prepare students to function in a variety of artistic roles. In order to achieve this goal, instruction should prepare students to:

1. Perform in public as dancers;
2. Develop visual and aural perceptions;
3. Become familiar with and develop competence in a number of dance techniques and develop proficiency in at least one;
4. Become familiar with the historical and cultural dimensions of dance, including the works and intentions of leading dancers and choreographers both past and present;
5. Understand and evaluate contemporary thinking about dance and related arts;
6. Make informed assessments of quality in works of dance.

Students should have opportunities in performance and academic studies to work with, study, and/or experience dance from diverse cultural sources and historical periods. General Studies should occupy 50-70% of the total curriculum.

BFA in Dance

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) with a major in Dance is a professional program within a traditional academic framework. It includes intensive technique training along with choreographic and performance opportunities through individual mentoring. Graduates of this program would have a foundation in dance skills and knowledge required for employment at a professional level. Students completing Oakland's BFA in Dance program will have demonstrated advanced technique/performance skills in two dance idioms, ballet and modern (which exceeds NASD standards); will have demonstrated ability not only to choreograph, but also to fully produce and manage a concert; and will have demonstrated ability to analyze, synthesize and communicate (in oral and written form) ideas and concepts in dance.

NASD standards for a BFA in Dance require students to demonstrate achievement of professional, entry-level competence in the area of specialization, including significant technical mastery, capability to produce work and solve professional problems independently, and a coherent set of artistic/intellectual goals which are evident in their work. Students must demonstrate their competence by developing a body of work for evaluation in the major area of study. A senior project or presentation in the major area is recommended. Students must have the ability to communicate dance ideas, concepts and requirements to professionals and lay persons related to the practice of the major field. In addition, students must have had opportunities to build dance skills to an advanced level and to broaden knowledge of dance elements, structure, repertoires, and contexts.

Other recommended goals for the professional undergraduate degree include student orientation to the nature of professional work in their major field, experience with broadly based examples of excellence in various dance professions, and opportunities to explore areas of individual interest related to dance in general or to the major.

BA in Theatre

The Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Theatre is a term applied to a program designed for the study of theatre within a liberal arts curriculum. In the study of theatre under a Bachelor of Arts program, there should be broad coverage of the field rather than heavy concentration on any single segment of the field. Central to the study of theatre under this degree is the affirmation that the burden of study should be upon fundamentals of theatre approached in a way designed to develop basic technique, experience with production, and a set of principles and terms that lead to a fuller intellectual grasp of the art (NAST).

NAST standards state that the study of theatre combines, to some extent, the knowledge and skills required of a performer, creator, teacher, theorist and historian. Undergraduate studies in theatre should prepare students to function in a variety of artistic roles. In order to achieve this goal, instruction should prepare students to:

1. Be involved in the creation and presentation of public performances in theatre;
2. Develop visual and aural perceptions related to theatre performance, as well as a structured approach to the use of language in playwriting and the resultant script;
3. Understand basic production processes such as acting; directing; stage, costume, and lighting design; and basic technical operations related to productions;
4. Become familiar with and develop competence in a number of theatre techniques;
5. Become familiar with the historical and cultural dimensions of theatre, including the works of leading playwrights, actors, directors and designers both past and present;
6. Understand and evaluate contemporary thinking about theatre and related arts;
7. Make informed assessments of quality in works of theatre.

Students should have opportunities in performance and academic studies to work with, study, and/or experience theatre from diverse cultural sources and historical periods.

BFA in Theatre

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is the initial professional degree in theatre. Its primary emphasis is on the development of skills, concepts, and sensitivities essential to the theatre professional. In any of the roles as creator, scholar, or teacher, the theatre professional must function as a practitioner who exhibits technical competence, broad knowledge of the theatre, sensitivity to artistic style, and an insight into the role of theatre in the life of humankind (NAST).

The BFA in Theatre degree develops professional competency through performance, repertory, and theoretical studies. Major objectives for these areas of study as outlined by NAST are as follows:

1. **Performance.** Performance experiences (for example in acting and design/technology) are of prime importance in the preparation of students for professional careers in theatre. Skill in at least one major area of performance must be progressively developed to the highest level appropriate to the particular area of concentration.

2. **Repertory.** Students should have opportunities through performance, academic study, and attendance at productions to become familiar with theatre, to comprehend the quality of productions through comparative exposure, and to be familiar with theatre literature of various historical periods, cultural sources, and modes of presentation.
3. **Theoretical Studies.** Through comprehensive courses in theatre studies, students should learn to analyze plays perceptively and to evaluate them critically. They should be able to place works of theatre in historical and stylistic contexts and have some understanding of the cultural milieu in which they were created. They should be able to form and defend value judgments about theatre.

As explained in the proposals, both current BA programs have been adapted over the years in an attempt to meet the needs of students interested in both liberal arts study and professional study. In actuality, they have become hybrid degree programs—neither fish nor fowl.

If these BFA proposals are approved, the department will submit to the CAS COI the following as amended requirements for the BA in Theatre and the BA in Dance, making them more appropriately liberal arts programs. These requirements can be compared to the BFA requirements detailed in the proposals.

Requirements for the liberal arts major in dance, B.A. program

A. Liberal arts requirements:		Credits
University general education requirements (Courses required for the major may not be used to fulfill the arts category)		40
DAN 180 required as arts general education		
DAN 370 counts as the capstone in the major		
DAN 380 counts as writing intensive in the major		
College distribution requirements: 3 additional courses from any three of the distribution categories except art/literature		12
B. Dance requirements:		
DAN 100-300	Ballet I-III (3 semesters or proficiency)	2-6
DAN 110-310	Modern Dance I-III (3 semesters or proficiency)	2-6
DAN 130	Conditioning for Dance	1
DAN 170	Dance Improvisation/Choreography I	2
DAN 240	Dance Production and Technology	2
DAN 270	Choreography II	4
DAN 330	Kinesiology for the Dancer	4
DAN 350	Creative Dance for Children	4
DAN 380	Contemporary Dance History	4
DAN 425	Issues and Trends in Dance	2
DAN 428	Opportunities and Careers in Dance	2
DAN 441	Dance Pedagogy	4
MUT 109	Basic Musicianship for Dancers	2
DAN 376, 475 or 498	Oakland Dance Theatre or Repertory Dance Company or Dance Apprenticeship	5
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Non-credit requirements:

Major Standing
 Senior interview
 Performance production requirement
 Events attendance requirement

Requirements for the liberal arts major in theatre, B.A. program

A. Liberal arts requirements:

Credits

University general education requirements	40
THA 301 and 302 count as Arts general education and Writing Intensive in the Major	
ENG 105 or 306 counts as Literature general education	
THA 407, 420, 425, 440, 483, 491 count as the capstone in the major	
College distribution requirements: 3 additional courses from any three of the distribution categories except art/literature	12

B. Theatre requirements:

THA 110	Acting: The Instrument	2
THA 111	Acting: The Script	2
THA 120 or 121	Stagecraft or Costume Craft	2
THA 124	Elements of Design	4
THA 301	Theatre History I	4
THA 302	Theatre History II	4
THA 330	Stage Management	2
ENG 105 or 306	Shakespeare or Drama	4
THA 320, 321, 322		
324 or 325	Design Course	4
Theatre Capstone	THA 407, 420, 425, 440, 483, or 491	4
Theatre Electives, chosen in consultation with Theatre Advisor (may include DAN technique, MUA/MUE voice and SA or AH classes)		<u>12</u>
		44

Non-credit requirements:

- Senior interview
- Performance production requirement
- Events attendance requirement

2. How many peer institutions (institutions considered peer to OU) offer both degrees?

Please see attached.

3. We are concerned that only 9 people have graduated from the program which doesn't provide support for the projected numbers of students expected for this degree.

7. Support for additional staff/faculty difficult to understand with 9 graduates from Dance and 18 from theatre.

We are not sure where the numbers 9 and 18 come from. Attached is a list of graduates from these programs.

School	BA in Theatre	BFA in Acting	BFA in Musical Theatre	BFA in Design & Technology
Alma College				
Appalachian State University				
Auburn University				
Baylor University				
Butler University				
Boise State University				
Bradley University				
California State-Fullerton				
Central Michigan University				
Eastern Michigan University				
Florida State University				
Hope College				
Illinois State University				
James Madison University				
Kansas State University				
Kent State University				
Louisiana State University				
Montclair State University				
Michigan State University				
Northern Michigan University				
Ohio State University				
Ohio University				
Olivet College				
Penn State University				
Purdue University				
Rutgers University				
Southern Utah University				
SUNY Brockport				
Towson University				
University of Akron				
University of Alabama				
University of Arizona				
Univ of California-Santa Barbara				
University of Connecticut				
University of Detroit Mercy				
University of Hartford				
University of Illinois				
University of Michigan				
University of Michigan-Flint				
University of Minnesota				
University of Texas-Austin				
UW Stevens Point				
Wayne State University				
Western Michigan University				
Youngstown State University (Ohio)				

School	BA in Dance	BFA in Dance
Appalachian State University		
Butler University		
California State-Fullerton		
California State-Long Beach		
Columbia College (Chicago)		
Denison University (Ohio)		
Florida State University		
George Mason University		
Hope College		
James Madison University		
Kent State University		
Montclair State University		
Ohio State University		
Ohio University (Athens)	in development	
Rutgers University		
San Jose State University		
Southern Utah University		
SUNY Brockport		
Temple University		
Towson University		
University of Akron		
University of Alabama		
University of Arizona		
Univ of California-Santa Barbara		
University of Colorado-Boulder		
University of Hartford		
University of Illinois		
University of Iowa		
University of Michigan		
University of Minnesota		
UNC Greensboro		
University of Texas-Austin		
UW Stevens Point		
Wayne State University	B.S.	
Western Michigan University		

Theatre Graduates

Pre-1995	Nancy Vlassis Angel Maclean (T Perf) F92 Daphne Briggs (T Perf) W93
1995	Corey Skaggs (MT) W95? Ellen Peck (T Perf) Sp95 Brian Claesson-Patten (T Prod) F95 Michael Iacobelli (MT) F95 Guy James Klender (T Perf) F 95 Jennifer Ann Lester (T Perf) F95
1996	Kerri Lee Detmer (T Perf) W96 Amy Therese Vine (T Perf) W96 Julie Van Dusen (T Perf) W96
1997	Jackie Duncan (T Prod) W97 Matt Sidak (T Perf) W97 Nate Topie (T Perf) W07 Brian Dambacher (T Prod) F97
1998	Kerri Dennis (MT) W98 Jackie Floyd (T Perf) W98 Allison Schubert (MT) W98 Liam Walsh (T Prod) W98 Sarah Warren (T Prod) Su98 John Michael Norman (MT) F98
1999	Kimshelley Garner (MT) W99 Matt Hammond (T Perf) W99 Meaghan Hurley (MT) W99 Gerry Kelel (MT) W99 Dan Kondas (T Prod) W99 Chad Kushuba (T Perf) W99 Carolyn Mazurek (T Prod) W99 Chris Nobels (T Prod) W99 Emily Pepper (T Prod) W99 Steve Price (T Perf) W99 Sarah Rosa (T Prod) W99 Karey Hart (T Perf) Sp99 Esau Pritchett (T Perf) Sp99 Stacey Cole (MT) Su99 Kevin Hughes (MT) Su99
2000	Aldrin Arche (MT) W00 Ben Hoogterp (MT) W00 Andrea Smith (T Prod) W00 Brandon Thomson (T Perf) W00 Krystal Kennel (T Prod) Sp00 Sam Newman (T Perf) F00 Jen Price (T Prod) F00 Benji Rakestraw (T Perf) F00 Jen Smith (T Perf) F00

Theatre Graduates Continued

2001	Dawn Borlinghaus (T Perf) W01 Corey Golbke (T Prod) W01 Maureen Hurley (MT) W01 Kim Lucius (MT) W01 Laura Moss (MT) W01 Matt Omans (MT) W01 Corrie Beth Shotwell (T Prod) W01 Emily Wilson (MT) W01 Ellen Konsol (T Prod) Sp01
2002	Amanda Materne (MT) W02 Jen Philp (T Prod) W02 Dave Simpson (T Prod) W02 Bethanne Still (MT) W02 Lyn Tamm (T Prod) W02 Travis Walter (T Prod) W02 Josh Polley (T Prod) F02 Cassandra Svacha (MT) F02 Jessica Wolfe (T Prod) F02
2003	Pat Butcher (T Perf) W03 Dave Hartzel (T Perf) W03 Jenna Kellie (MT) W03 Carrie Laferle (T Prod) W03 Cindy Lim (T Prod) W03 Holly Lloyd (T Prod) W03 Ann Mac Donald (MT) W03 Courtney Presley (MT) W03 Dave Schmidt (T Prod) W03 Drew Starr (T Perf) Sp03 Donna Buckley (T Prod) F03 Harry Carlson (T Perf) F03 My-Ishia Cason-Brown (T Perf) F03 Vanessa Sawson (T Perf) F03
2004	Kirstin Bianchi (T Prod) W04 Ruth Dudley (T Prod) W04 Monika Christiansen (T Perf) Su04 Tim Kennedy (T Prod) Su04 Kelly Plucinski (T Perf) Su04 Jason Beaubien (T Perf) F04 Eric Orive (T Perf) W04 Natalie Rea (T Perf) F04

Theatre Graduates Continued

2005	Heidi Brown (T Prod) W05 Jamie Clausius (T Prod) W05 Jeff Hanna (T Perf) W05 Aaron Hill (T Prod) W05 Catie Lutz (MT) W05 Jenni McEntee (T Prod) W05 Megan Mullinger (MT) W05 Steve O'Brien (T Perf) W05 Amy Thompson (T Perf) W05 Steve Webb (T Prod) W05 Jenny Day (T Perf) W05 Andrea Scobie (MT) Sp 05 Farah El-Khatib (T Prod) Su05 Brian Spurling (T Prod) Su05 Rob Arbaugh (T Pert) F05
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Theatre Graduates Continued

2006	Jessica Elwart (T Perf) W06 Mark McCleese (MT) W06 Lance Mier (T Prod) W06 Joel Trumble (T Perf) W06 Renee Turner (MT) W06 Stephanie Bonin (MT) Sp06 Wendy Lomerson (T Perf) Sp06 Stefan Mantyk (T Perf) Sp06 Liz Michalek (T Perf) Sp06 Meghan Trudell (T Perf) Sp06 Sarah Hilarides (MT) Su06 Ryan Lacey (T Perf) Su06 Jessica Pence (T Prod) F06 Kara Randall (T Prod) F06 Jackie Whitesel (T Perf) F06
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Dance Graduates

Before 2000	Nicole Dettloff, Stephanie Garrisi (Pizzo) Gail Hoekstra Jenefer Stickrad Jeffrey Prall Raegan Riley Kerry McCann
2000	Christina Przywara (Tasco), 2000 Melanie King, Spring 2000 Angela Frabotta, Spring 2000
2001	Melanie Johnson, 2001 Heather Lobbestael, 2001 Nicole Mattioli, Spring 2001 Michelle Strong, 2001
2002	Danna McJames (Town), 2002 Kristen Berger, Spring 2002 Stacey Cierpial, 2002 Lisa Eastwood, 2002 Mary Frechette, 2002 Katie Hermansen, 2002 Jennifer Pierson, 2002 Pamela Walk, 2002

Dance Graduates Continued

2003	Angela Grubb, W03
2004	Stephanie Uhlik, Spring 04 Jacqueline Phaneuf, Spring 04 Mary Bischoff, Summer 04 Carrie King, Summer 04 Lily Star Sloan, F04
2005	Angela Gary, W05 Alexis DeCapua, W05 Katie Deloy, W05 Rodney Brown, W05 Brittany Ebersole, W05 Angela Grubb, W05 Marius Iliescu, W05 Heather Lawrence, W05 Liz Mortens, Summer 05
2006	Scheherazade Berry, W06 Shannon Busse, W06 Marcie Tolbert, W06 Krista Eschbach, W06 Kelly Moretto, W06 Andrea Joy Sherman, W06 Alexandra Toth, W06