

National Association of Schools of Theatre

11250 ROGER BACON DRIVE, SUITE 21
RESTON, VIRGINIA 20190-5248

Telephone: (703) 437-0700
Facsimile: (703) 437-6312
Email: info@arts-accredit.org
Web Site: nast.arts-accredit.org

April 14, 2017

Annmarie Duggan
Chair, Department of Theatre Arts
University of Pittsburgh
1617 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear Professor Duggan:

Thank you for submitting your application for review by the NAST Commission on Accreditation. The Commission, at its March 2017 meetings, took action on the institution's application.

Please find enclosed a Commission Action Report describing this action in detail. This Report contains information of note and, if applicable, any requests for further information from the Commission. Please note the Association's policy regarding *Disclosure and Confidentiality*, a copy of which has been enclosed.

This action is taken based upon a review of the University of Pittsburgh according to the NAST accreditation standards in effect in March of 2017.

As an accredited institutional member of NAST, the institution is reminded of its responsibility to participate in reviews and revisions to the NAST *Handbook*, and to maintain its operations and programs current with NAST standards as these are developed and approved.

The Commission on Accreditation and the Association appreciate the institution's efforts with regard to its application, and its careful consideration of and attention to NAST accreditation standards and guidelines. Further, the Commission and Association appreciate the work accomplished by the institution and its theatre unit on behalf of theatre and higher education.

Please contact the NAST National Office staff if you have questions, or need assistance with regard to this action or any other aspect of the work of the Association.

We offer congratulations on your achievements and best wishes for the continuing success of the institution.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director

KPM:bt
Enclosure

cc: Patrick Gallagher, Chancellor
University of Pittsburgh

National Association of Schools of Theatre
 11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21
 Reston, Virginia 20190-5248

COMMISSION ACTION REPORT

This document provides the official action of the Commission as indicated in the cover letter of the same date.

April 14, 2017

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Department of Theatre Arts

Action:

Action 1 of 1: Application for renewal of Membership – Original

The Commission voted to grant renewal of Membership with the degree listing indicated below.

The Commission requests a Progress Report addressing the issues cited below.

NAST Degree Listing:

Bachelor of Arts-4 years: Theatre Arts.

Master of Arts-2 years: Theatre and Performance Studies.

Master of Fine Arts-2 years: Performance Pedagogy.

Doctor of Philosophy-3 years: Theatre and Performance Studies.

Next Full Review:

2026-2027 Academic Year.

Items for Progress Report:

1. The institution's Self-Study notes the existence of three areas of emphasis (Performance/Production, Design/Technology, History/Dramaturgy/Literature) which are offered within its Bachelor of Arts in Theatre degree (see Self-Study, p. 51). The Self-Study also describes these areas of emphasis as having functioning and identifiable sub-populations in the department (see Self-Study, pp. 63-64). As specific information regarding the requirements for these areas of emphasis was unable to be found in the Self-Study or university catalogue, the institution is asked to provide for each emphasis further information including the purpose, coursework required, competencies expected of students enrolled, relationship of the emphasis to the major, and advising guidelines. The institution may wish to prepare and offer curricular charts in the NAST format for each area of emphasis.
2. The Self-Study indicates the need for additional design/technology faculty to alleviate work-load challenges and ensure the delivery of design and technology coursework (see Self-Study, p. 108). In

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Department of Theatre Arts

NAST Commission Action Report

April 14, 2017

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particular, the theatre unit has identified a need for a faculty position in Sound (see Self-Study, p. 22). The Commission asks the institution to provide an update on its efforts to address these workload challenges and ensure the effective delivery of required coursework.

3. The Commission notes that consideration is being given to the need for additional performance faculty with specialization in voice and movement (see Visitors' Report, p. 12). The Commission asks the institution to study this issue and the adequacy of current faculty resources, and to share the results of this study, including any plans to expand the faculty.

Due Date:

February 1 for consideration at the Commission meeting of March 2018.

The Procedures for Submitting Responses and Progress Reports may be downloaded from the NAST website at <https://nast.arts-accredit.org/accreditation-materials/> (see "Procedures" and beneath that, "Responses and Progress Reports").

Commendation:

The Commission commends the institution for its demonstrated commitment to the process of focused self-study and planning.

Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director

KPM:bt

NAST Handbook

RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

PART II: ARTICLE XIII

DISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Section 1. NAST provides numerous services that include the publication of policy statements, reports, and surveys. These are available to the public, some for a fee. Upon request, NAST will provide the academic and professional qualifications of the members of its policy and decision-making bodies and its administrative personnel.

Section 2. Upon request, NAST will make publicly available all information about an institution that is published in NAST literature (see Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II., Article XI., Section 3.). NAST will also indicate whether or not an institution holds or has held accredited Membership.

Section 3. NAST will not make publicly available any information supplied by the institution or by representatives of NAST in the course of the accreditation process. This includes Self-Study Reports, Visitors' Reports, and correspondence. While NAST encourages institutions to make publicly available information about their accredited status and to share accreditation materials with individuals and agencies having legitimate claim to information beyond that available to the general public, the Association regards all accreditation materials as the property of the institution. Therefore, release of these materials is either through the institution or by its permission.

Section 4. NAST will not make publicly available any information provided in third-party comment or an institution's response to third-party comment or any correspondence related to third-party comment. See Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II., Article IV., Section I.

Section 5. If an institution releases information that misrepresents or distorts any action by NAST with respect to any aspect of the accreditation process, or the status of affiliation with NAST, the chief executive officer of the institution and the program director, where applicable, will be notified by the NAST Executive Director and informed that corrective action must be taken. If the misrepresentation or distortion is not promptly corrected, NAST, at its discretion, may release a public statement in such a form and content as it deems necessary to provide the correct information.

The same rule and sequence are applied to individuals and organizations misrepresenting or distorting accreditation actions of NAST.

NAST reserves the right to correct false or misleading information at any time.

Section 6. Certain relationships yield information which legally cannot be disclosed without the consent of the person who provides it—for example, the relationship between physician and patient, between attorney and client, between clergy and penitent, etc. Should such information, or other information that is protected under law by a comparable privilege or safeguard, come into the hands of NAST or an NAST evaluation team, its disclosure to persons other than the immediate recipients is forbidden.



University of Pittsburgh

*Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Department of Theatre Arts*

1617 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-6568
Fax: 412-624-6338

Dear Members of the NAST Accreditation Committee,

Please find the University of Pittsburgh Theatre Department’s response to the committee’s action report dated April 24, 2018. In the action report, it was requested that the department provide further information clarifying the curricular requirements of the 3 emphases (Performance, Design/Tech, and History/Literature/Criticism) and a 4th titled “The First Year Academic Community, Inside the Theatre” noted in the self-study. In working to clarify the curricular requirements of the BA offered, we provided advising documents to the committee that are used to help students navigate the curriculum while focusing on a specific area of interest within theatre. After further discussions with NAST representatives we realized that in describing our program as having separate “emphases” we were misrepresenting our current program and the documents provided made it appear as though we had multiple curricular plans.

The areas of emphasis as described in the self-study are not a prescribed course of study rather a path that students might follow if they have an interest in a specific topic in theatre. The documents provided by the department are not curricular in nature, but are used as advising tools to help students navigate the liberal arts program while focusing on interests they have. All students who graduate with a Major in Theatre Arts follow the same core structure as they take required classes in performance, design/tech, and theatre history, but to help the more focused student, we have labelled a series of paths through the major as “emphases.” A student with a design emphasis would have the same requirements as a student with performance emphasis, but the flexibility in the major’s electives allows them to take classes within the core curriculum that more closely follows their stated interests. To help illustrate our program, we’ve laid out the theatre major below, then listed three typical students (performer, lighting designer, and playwright) with the classes they would take following this method.

Theatre Arts BA (42 required credits)

Core Introductory classes	
3 cr	THEA 0804: Theatre and Collaboration
3 cr	THEA 0810: Introduction to Dramatic Art
Core Performance Classes	
9 cr	Choose 3 classes from the below list
	Introduction to Performance; Voice and Movement 1; Voice and Movement 2; Acting 1; Acting 2; Acting 3; Directing 1; Directing 2; Stage Management; Musical Theatre Performance; Special Topics
Core Design/Tech classes	
3 cr	THEA 0842: Introduction to Stagecraft
3 cr	THEA 0880: Theatrical Production (a 1 credit course taken 3 times)
3 cr	THEA 1240: Costume Production and Technology
Design Elective Classes	
3 cr	Choose 1 course from the below list:



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	Introduction to Theatre Design; Stage Lighting 1; Scenic Design 1; Costume Design
Core History/Literature/Criticism classes	
6 cr	Choose 2 of the 3 World Theatre classes listed below
	World Theatre: 500 BCE-1640; World Theatre: 1640-1890; World Theatre: 1890-Current
3 cr	THEA 1903 Theatre Seminar
3 cr	Hist/Crit/Lit elective: Choose 1 from the below list:
	Enjoying Performances, Contemporary Global Stages, remaining 3 rd World Theatre class; Playwriting 1; Playwriting 2; Special Topics
Theatre Elective	
3 cr	3 credits from among the Theatre Arts offerings in any area or concentration that does not already fulfill a requirement above. Independent studies and directed projects cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.
42 cr	Total

Typical classes by student's focus following the laid out "Emphasis" within the BA:

Performer		Lighting Designer		Playwright	
Core Introductory Classes					
3 cr	Theatre Collaboration	3 cr	Theatre Collaboration	3 cr	Theatre Collaboration
3 cr	Intro to Dramatic Art	3 cr	Intro to Dramatic Art	3 cr	Intro to Dramatic Art
9 credits of Performance classes					
3 cr	Intro to Performance	3 cr	Intro to Performance	3 cr	Intro to Performance
3 cr	Acting 1	3 cr	Stage Management	3 cr	Acting 1
3 cr	Voice and Movement 1	3 cr	Directing 1	3 cr	Directing 1
Core Design/Tech Classes					
3 cr	Intro to Stagecraft	3 cr	Intro to Stagecraft	3 cr	Intro to Stagecraft
3 cr	3 classes of THEA 0880	3 cr	3 classes of THEA 0880	3 cr	3 classes of THEA 0880
3 cr	Costume Production	3 cr	Costume Production	3 cr	Costume Production
Design/Tech Elective					
3 cr	Intro to Theatre Design	3 cr	Lighting Design 1	3 cr	Intro to Theatre Design
Core Hist/Lit/Crit Classes					
6 cr	2 classes of World Theatre	6 cr	2 classes of World Theatre	6 cr	2 classes of World Theatre
3 cr	Theatre Seminar	3 cr	Theatre Seminar	3 cr	Theatre Seminar
Hist/Lit/Crit Elective					
3 cr	Contemporary Global Stages	3 cr	Contemporary Global Stages	3 cr	Playwriting 1
Theatre Elective					
3 cr	Acting 2	3 cr	Lighting Design 2	3 cr	Playwriting 2



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Total Credits		
42 cr	42 cr	42 cr

The same is true for the University initiated First Year Academic Community: Inside the Theatre. This program is designed to help incoming students navigate their transition from high-school to college and is not a curricular

program. The first-year academic communities allow interested students to take up to 3 classes in the first term with the same small group of students. These classes focus on a specific area of study that speaks to their shared

interests and goals. The university offers academic communities in a variety of areas of study, one of which is the “Inside the Theatre” community. The courses taken as part of this community do not culminate in a Minor, Certificate, or Major but may be used as part of the university’s general education requirements and/or towards a Major or Minor in theatre if the student chooses to pursue them.

We hope this helps clarify the use of the term “emphasis” within our NAST documents, and apologize for the confusion surrounding our use of the term. We understand that many other BA programs offer similar paths, but are actually separated out into separate BA degrees (BA in Theatre Performance, BA in Theatre Design, etc.). It is not our intent to confuse the committee or incoming students, but to offer a selection that shows the flexibility students do have within our foundational degree. Thank you for your time and consideration as we work to solve this issue.

Sincerely,

Annmarie Duggan