

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Resolution

Approving a Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for a Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) Degree in Theatre (CIP Code 50.0501) in the Department of Theatre and Dance

WHEREAS, The Department of Theatre and Dance has a long-standing and successful Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Theatre with increasing enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Department currently offers a wide range of courses in acting, musical theatre, design and production, and other areas of theatre; and

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) will comprise 65-70 hours in the major area of study offering students a deeper experience in their chosen area; and

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) will require no substantial change in current course offerings or resources and will enhance the Department's ability to attract the many students who demand this major; and

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) is a professional degree in high demand nationally that prepares students to enter their commercial fields immediately; and

WHEREAS, the Theatre program at Alabama has distinctive features that provide unique opportunities to students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama that it supports and grants approval of and permission to submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) a Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for a Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) Degree in Theatre (CIP Code 50.0501) in the Department of Theatre and Dance at The University of Alabama.

September 20, 2016

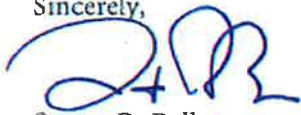
Chancellor Ray Hayes
The University of Alabama System
500 University Boulevard East
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Dear Chancellor Hayes:

I am pleased to endorse the recommendation from Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker and Dean Robert Olin, from the College of Arts and Sciences, for approval of the attached Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for a proposed Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree in Theatre (CIP Code 50.0501). The Department of Theatre and Dance has seen increased enrollment in its B.A. program and intense interest in the professional B.F.A. degree. The B.F.A. will build on this growth and provide students with a unique and deeper experience in Theatre.

If you approve of this NISP, I would appreciate your forwarding this request to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Stuart R. Bell
President

Enclosures

c.: Interim Provost Kevin Whitaker
Dean Robert Olin



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

**NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL (NISP)
FOR A NEW PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION**

1. Institution: University of Alabama
2. Date of NISP Submission: September 15, 2016
3. Institutional Contact Person: Ginger Bishop

Telephone: 205-348-7125
Fax: 205-348-7208
E-mail: vabishop@ua.edu

4. Program Identification:

Title: Theatre
Award: Bachelor of Fine Arts
CIP Code: 50.0501

5. Proposed Program Implementation Date: Fall, 2018
6. Statement of Program Objectives (Objectives should be precise and stated in such a way that later evaluation/assessment of program outcomes is facilitated.):

The Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts degree in Theater will provide professional training to prepare students for immediate entry into the commercial entertainment field upon graduation. As this is a professional degree program, the ultimate assessment will be the number of graduates employed in the field and the quality of those positions.

Potential employment areas include, but are not limited to, Acting and Musical Theatre at the national and regional levels ("Broadway" and regional theatres), national and international tours, television, film, cruise ships, and digitally distributed content, and Design and Production at all levels noted above, as well as manufacturing, management, sales and installation in all areas of entertainment equipment and technology.

Graduates of the University of Alabama, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Theatre and Dance's Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program will have:

- A mastery of skills in Acting

Form Date: 8/20/01

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Acad Policies/
FM-NISP

- A mastery of skills in Musical Theatre
- A mastery of skills in Design and Production

(Each area will have an expected core competency and skill set.)

7. Relationship of program to other programs within the institution.

- a. How will the program support or be supported by other programs within the institution?

This program will both support and be supported by our long-standing BA in Theatre program. Many of the courses already in place will be taken by students in the BFA. For example, in the acting area we offer 13 three-hour courses, covering a wide range of topics (voice, movement, combat, scene study, etc.). A student in the BA typically enrolls in six to seven of these courses, but the breadth of courses in the BFA gives students options within the acting area. A student in the BFA program with an acting emphasis will take all of the acting courses, as well as additional courses in directing, stage management, makeup, etc., all of which are already being offered by the department.

- b. Will this program replace any existing program(s) or specialization(s), options or concentrations within existing programs? Yes: ____ No: X

If yes, please explain.

8. If this program is duplicative of any other programs in the state, please give your rationale for program duplication.

In many universities the BA and BFA are both offered, and the BFA is in high demand nationally. While exact figures are difficult to ascertain, UA loses many potential students each year due to lack of the BFA option. At state, regional, and national recruiting events, as well as on-campus audition days, one of the first questions asked is "Do you have a BFA?" and then "Why not?". UA is at a severe recruiting disadvantage for a substantial number of students looking at theatre programs. The BFA in Theatre is not a new degree program in the classic sense. It is an extension of UA's well-established and long-standing BA degree in Theatre. The BFA will be offered in addition to the existing BA.

The BFA typically comprises approximately 65-70 hours in the major area of study, with those additional 25-30 hours beyond the BA replacing the traditional minor. (In contrast, those students pursuing the BA will have a minor or second major.) The BFA is viewed nationally as a professional degree, providing the student additional skills-based classes not allowed in the BA due to the hour

limitation, and preparing them to enter the profession immediately—in this case, professional theatre and entertainment. The following institutions in Alabama offer a BFA:

- Auburn University has the only full-range (Acting, Musical Theatre, and Design & Production) BFA program accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).
- The University of Alabama at Birmingham has a NAST-accredited BFA in Musical Theatre.
- The University of Alabama at Huntsville has a BFA in Fine Arts with a focus in different areas of studio arts, as well as a BA in Theatre.
- Samford University has a NAST-accredited BFA in Musical Theatre.
- Montevallo University has multi-area BFA programs, but is not NAST accredited.
- The University of South Alabama has a multi-area BFA program, but is not NAST accredited.

The Theatre program at UA has many distinctive features, providing opportunities not available in other BFA programs, including:

- Large and diverse faculty/staff, offering a broad range of specialized training
- Annual showcase in New York City for fourth-year students
- Annual professional summer theatre (SummerTide in Gulf Shores, AL)
- Large number of on-campus performance opportunities, with a minimum of eight full-scale productions per year
- Production of an Off-Broadway show (every other year)
- Collaboration with regional professional theatres
- Wide of array of guest artists and lecturers
- NAST-accredited BA and MFA, as will the BFA. (Note: We were the first Theatre program in the state to receive NAST accreditation in 1986.)

9. Do you plan to explore possible program collaboration with other institutions?
Please explain.

At this time, there are no plans for collaboration with other institutions. However, collaboration with other programs and institutions will be explored in the future.

10. Do you anticipate the use of distance education technology in the delivery of the program? Please explain.

The nature of training in the performing arts dictates live student-teacher interaction, so the majority of courses will not be delivered through distance education. However, some courses such as histories and technology could be delivered online in the future.

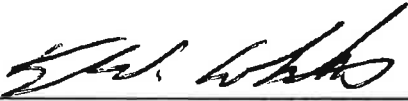
11. What methodology will you use to determine the level of student demand for this program?

We will survey our current students as well applicants in the 2016/17 year.

12. What methodology will you use to determine need for this program?

We anticipate providing job statistics from the Bureau of Labor, and position availability and job placement statistics from professional associations including the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, Southeastern Theatre Conference, United Scenic Artists, Actors Equity and the Screen Actors Guild.

Certification



Chief Academic Officer

Graduate Dean (if this is a graduate program)

Date

10/10/16