APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College: Arts & Sciences
Department: Communication

Contact Person: Matthew Webb
Mail Stop: 9574
E-mail: mwebb@comm.msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Minor Modification
Date Initiated: 10/1/2022
Effective Date: Fall 2023

Current Degree Program Name: Minor in Communication with Theatre concentration

Minor: Communication
Concentration: Theatre

New Degree Program Name: Minor in Communication with Theatre concentration (no change)

Minor: Communication (no change)
Concentration: Theatre (no change)

Summary of Proposed Changes:
Modifying minor to meet current industry standards and to reflect modifications to the Theatre concentration

Approved:	Date:
Terry Likes Department Head	12/15/2022
Diana Pomykal - Dir Acad. Qual. Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	12/13/22 1/23/2023
Dean of College or School	1/23/23
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)	
Chair, Deans Council	

1. Catalog Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication is offered. The department offers concentrations in Broadcast and Digital Journalism, Communication and Media Studies, Print and Digital Journalism, Public Relations, and Theatre. Students may choose more than one concentration. Minors are available in all areas. In addition, the department offers numerous courses online throughout the year. Contact specific advisors for additional information.

The total major consists of 48-49 semester hours in Communication courses: 12 hours of the departmental core; and 36-37 hours of additional specified work in the concentration area(s). In addition, students complete the Arts & Sciences core curriculum and electives for a total of 124 semester hours leading to the B. A. Degree.

A minimum grade of C in all Communication courses (or approved substitutes) is required. Students earning a grade lower than C in a Communication course must retake that course.
Incoming freshmen must earn a score of 20 or higher on the ACT Enhanced English sub-scale before entering the major. Students who believe that the ACT does not accurately assess their language ability and who can present evidence of above average language skills (excellent English grades, extensive writing samples, etc.) will be given the opportunity to satisfactorily complete a screening test and gain admission to the major.
No transfer student, either from another institution or within the university, will be accepted who has not earned a minimum 2.0 GPA on all college work attempted prior to entering the major.

Prospective students are reminded that Communication is a language intensive discipline. Students with only minimal oral and written language competency should expect to be at a competitive disadvantage in classes as well as in careers after graduation. Transfer students with less than a C in English composition courses may have difficulty with the advanced writing courses required in this major.

Computer and Camera Requirements
The Department of Communication requires incoming B.A. Communication majors to purchase certain technology and equipment necessary for production and presentation of projects within departmental courses. All incoming students are required to purchase a personal laptop computer and software. Each concentration in the Department provides specific guidelines for hardware and software and a suggested timetable for purchases. The required computer and software must be selected from an approved departmental list of minimum hardware and software requirements available on the Department of Communication web site.

Financial aid that includes this requirement may be available by contacting the MSU Student Financial Aid and Scholarship office.

Additionally, upon enrollment in CO 3403 Photographic Communication, students will be required to purchase a digital single-lens reflex (dSLR) camera. The required camera must be selected from an approved departmental list of minimum specifications. The approved list is available on the Department of Communication web site.

Communication Lab Fees
Additional fees associated with class materials and technology are associated with certain classes in the Department and are automatically assessed to the students upon enrollment in those courses.

Broadcast and Digital Journalism
The Broadcast and Digital Journalism concentration prepares students for work in television, radio, multi-media and other areas. Graduates work in front of and behind the camera. In addition to the expected journalistic jobs, graduates also find positions in extension service, university relations, government, and industry.

Communication and Media Studies
Communication and Media Studies trains students to understand and investigate how humans use symbols to make meaning in interpersonal, mediated, professional, public, and political contexts. This concentration prepares students for careers in professional and public communication roles and with the research, writing, and presentation skills needed for graduate study.

Print and Digital Journalism
In addition to filling positions for newspapers, magazines, and digital publications in the state and around the country, graduates of the Print and Digital Journalism concentration obtain news-related jobs in universities, business, and industrial relations.

Public Relations
The Public Relations concentration prepares students for a variety of professional positions. In addition to work with public relations and advertising firms, graduates are employed by colleges and schools, newspapers and broadcasting organizations, banks, churches, hospitals, insurance companies, businesses and corporations, charitable and political groups, and state and federal governments.

Theatre
The Theatre concentration prepares well-rounded artists for performance or production careers in theatre, film, and education.

Communication Minors
Minors in each of the concentration areas (Broadcast and Digital Journalism, Communication and Media Studies, Print and Digital Journalism, Public Relations, and Theatre) are available. Because of the differences between and among the disciplines in the department, students considering a minor are advised to meet with the department head or advising coordinator prior to making a decision regarding a minor. The Department of Communication endeavors to work with individual students so that the minor field combines appropriately with his/her major field of study. Students with majors in business, agriculture, social sciences, and the humanities are especially encouraged to consider a minor in one of the related areas.

Professional Societies and Scholarships
Students in any of the departmental concentration areas with superior averages after completing certain courses may qualify for membership in the Theta Alpha Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the official honor society of the National Communication Association. Students in Theatre may be tapped for Alpha Psi Omega honorary after completing certain work in theatrical productions.

Numerous scholarships are available in the Department of Communication. See the department's website for a complete list of available scholarships.

Professional societies are available for students in most of the concentration areas. The Public Relations Student Society of America, the Public Relations Association of Mississippi, and the Southern Public Relations Federation provide pre-professional experience and contacts for students of Public Relations. Blackfriars is available to students of Theatre. The Student Broadcasting Association services students in the Broadcast and Digital Journalism concentration; this group is directly involved in the production of several television programs.

2. Proposed Curriculum Outline

CURRENT Degree Description		PROPOSED Degree Description	
Degree: Minor in Communication Concentration: Theatre		No change	
CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours	**PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE**	Required Hours
Required: CO 1503 Introduction to Theatre	3	Required: CO 1503 Introduction to Theatre	3
Choose one: *CO 2013 Voice and Articulation* *CO 2503 Acting* *CO 2613 Introduction to Oral Interpretation*	*3*	**CO 2503 Acting** **or CO 2523 Introduction to Stagecraft**	**3**
Choose one: *CO 2524 Stagecraft and Lighting* *CO 2544 Makeup and Costuming*	*4*	**Choose 3 hours:** **CO 1542 Technical Theatre Practicum** **CO 2512 Introduction to Theatrical Design** **CO 2531 Voice and Articulation** **CO 2551 Sound for the Stage and Screen** **CO 2561 Makeup for the Stage** **CO 3541 Theatre Performance Practicum**	**3**
Choose one: *CO 3543 Improvisation* *CO 3563 Voice and Movement* *CO 3/4000 Upper Division Theatre Elective*	*3*	**Choose 2 hours:** **CO 3502 Costume Design** **CO 3512 Scenic Design** **CO 3522 Lighting for the Stage and Screen** **CO 3532 Theatre for Change** **CO 3552 Professional Practice for Theatre**	**2**
Choose one: *CO 4504/6504 History of the Theatre* *CO 4524/6524 Directing*	*4*	**Choose 3 hours:** **CO 3573 Script Analysis** **CO 3583 Theatre for Young Audiences** **CO 3593 Drawing for the Stage** **CO 4503 History of Theatre I: Classical** **CO 4513 History of Theatre II: Contemporary**	**3**
Choose one: *CO 4533/6533 Advanced Acting* *CO 4573/6573 Theatre Management* *CO 4583/6583 Playwriting*	*3*	**Choose 6 hours:** **CO 4523 Directing** **CO 4533 Advanced Acting** **CO 4563 Stage and Production Management** **CO 4583 Playwriting**	**6**
Total	20	**Total**	20

3. Justification and Learning Outcomes

As part of the Theatre Concentration's modification of its major, it is also necessary to revise the Department's Minor in Theatre to reflect changing careers and adjusted curriculum offerings. This revision allows more flexibility for a student's Minor path, allowing them to focus on performance, technology, or direction and theatre education, to better complement their major of choice. The total hours required to Minor in Theatre is unchanged at 20 hours.

4. Effective Date

Fall 2023

5. **Four-Letter Abbreviation**
   THEA

6. **Letter of Support**
   See attachment.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Communication

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December 15, 2022

Dear Curriculum Committees:

The curriculum committee of the Department of Communication has met and approved the degree program modification (concentration and minor) along with the following courses (below) for the Theatre concentration. This degree modification aligns the Concentration's curriculum with industry standards and expectations and includes a broader use of technology with many more specific career tracks.

Course Additions
CO 2551 Sound for the Stage and Screen
CO 2561 Makeup for the Stage
CO 3512 Scenic Design
CO 3522 Lighting for the Stage and Screen
CO 3541 Theatre Performance Practicum
CO 3583 Theatre for Young Audiences
CO 3593 Drawing for the Theatre
CO 4563 Stage and Production Management
CO 4591 Theatre Capstone

Course Modifications
CO 1542 Technical Theatre Practicum
CO 2011 Voice and Articulation
CO 2523 Introduction to Stagecraft
CO 2591 Auditioning and Monologues
CO 3502 Costume Design
CO 4523 Directing

Faculty Member	Approve	Faculty Member	Approve
Wendy Roussin, MFA *Associate Professor & Chair*	X	Heesook Choi, PhD *Assistant Professor*	X
Kevin William, PhD *Associate Professor*	X	Matthew Webb, MFA *Assistant Clinical Professor*	X
Melody Fisher, PhD *Associate Professor*	X	Josh Foreman, MFA *Instructor*	X
Holli Seitz, PhD *Associate Professor*	X		