

F - New or Revised Minor/Emphasis/Area of Concentration : Entry # 3343**Today's Date**

09/09/2024

Your Name

Jesse Galas

Your Emailjgalas@highpoint.edu**Please select the appropriate school overseeing this proposal:**

Arts & Design

When should this proposal take effect?

Fall 2025

Is this proposal connected to any other proposals currently being submitted? If so, please describe below.

This new emphasis will introduce 5 new courses to the curriculum:

THE 3101 Musical Theater Practicum

THE 2620 Acting on Pitch

THE 3620 Acting on Pitch II

THE 4620 Acting on Pitch III

MUS 3601 History of Musical Theater, which is being created from the revision proposal of MUS 3540/ MUS 3600

Is this submission in response to a "revise and resubmit" decision on a previous proposal?

No

Category of proposal

Emphasis

Is this new or a revision?

New

200 Word Summary of Proposal

This is a proposal for a BA in Theater with an emphasis in Musical Theater, to complement existing emphases in Performance and Technical Theater. This emphasis will build on our existing theater curriculum promoting collaboration, while developing students' skills in acting, singing, and dancing - the "triple threat" abilities essential for a successful career. It includes courses in applied acting theory, voice lessons, dance training, practicum, repertoire building, solo, duet and group performance, dramaturgical study and the creation of original work.

While the Department of Theater and Dance currently offers a minor in Musical Theater featuring courses in voice, acting and dance, we do not offer specialized or upper-level courses that address the specific application of quantifiable acting theory to script and song analysis and performance in musical theater. We propose a 3 part sequence (THE 2620 – Acting on Pitch, THE 3620 – Acting on Pitch II and THE 4620 – Acting on Pitch III) which will specifically remedy that deficiency and provide experiential learning for students in many aspects of musical theater, beyond what is currently offered. An Emphasis in Musical Theater is

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interdisciplinary in nature, and so necessitates collaboration with the Department of Music, in which they are merging (proposing) Musical Theater History MUS 3600 and Musical Theater Literature MUS 3540 into one 4 credit American Context course. The Music Department is responsible for restructuring this new combined course. Students in the MT emphasis would take this course instead of THE 3000 Studies in Theater requirement and Theater Performance & Technical majors would still be required to take THE 3000. We will also be adding a THE 3101 – Musical Theater Practicum with more rigorous learning outcomes and assessment strategies, given the inherently more difficult nature of the art form. The breakdown between MUS/THE/DNC, which are the main components of a BA in Theater with an Emphasis in Musical Theater are as follows:

- THE – 21% of total credits; 50% of Emphasis
- MUS – 12% of total credits; 29% of Emphasis
- DNC – 9% of total credits; 21% of Emphasis

Rationale for Proposed Curriculum

A Musical Theater emphasis would be an invaluable addition to our BA in Theater, providing students with specialized training in this popular and dynamic art form. This emphasis would build on our existing theater curriculum promoting collaboration, while developing students' skills in acting, singing, and dancing - the "triple threat" abilities essential for a successful career. The Musical Theater emphasis would include courses in applied acting theory, voice lessons, dance training, practicum, repertoire building, solo, duet and group performance, dramaturgical study and the creation of original work.

By adding a Musical Theatre emphasis, High Point University can better recruit and serve students passionate about this art form while enhancing the overall strength and reputation of its theater program.

This emphasis would prepare students for professional opportunities in theater, film, television, and other entertainment industries. It would also attract prospective students interested in musical theater, increasing enrollment in our department. By offering this specialized training, we can better serve students passionate about musical theater and produce well-rounded graduates ready to succeed in this competitive field. The emphasis would provide a strong foundation for students interested in pursuing graduate degrees in musical theatre or related fields. The Musical Theater emphasis is a natural extension of our theater program that will enhance our reputation and expand opportunities for our students. Students would gain valuable hands-on experience through participation in musical productions, showcases or cabarets and producing their original work. This practical training is vital for success in the industry. Musical theatre continues to be a thriving and evolving sector of the entertainment industry. Offering this emphasis would ensure the program stays current with industry demands and practices.

What Program(s), Degree(s), and/or Major(s) is this proposal intended to complement?

This emphasis will complement all the existing Theater, Music, Dance Majors and the Musical Theater minor. (Please see attached document of student comments about the Proposal of a Musical Theater Emphasis below.)

Students may not pursue the emphasis and minor in Musical Theater simultaneously.

Students will need to take THE 3101 twice, but only twice, which is why it is repeatable for credit once and adds to the total number of credits needed for the MT Emphasis.

What Academic Divisions, University Officers, Programs, or other stakeholders are involved in, or affected by, this addition or change?

Department of Theater and Dance; Department of Music; School of Arts and Design

Please attach documentation showing support from key stakeholders, if any.

- [MT-Letter-of-Support.pdf](#)
- [Support-Letter-for-Musical-Theater-Major-Proposal.pdf](#)

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Is this proposed curriculum consistent with the University and School Mission?

The David R. Hayworth School of Arts and Design welcomes those who wish to foster their creativity into meaningful careers in the creative arts industries, and our creation of the BA in Theater with an Emphasis in Musical Theater will do just that. We will meet the students where they are, and develop their passion into a diverse skill set which will lead to the professional world. This Emphasis will conform to all High Point University academic standards by requiring that all students maintain 2.0 GPA and above; students will maintain full time enrollment and follow the Honor Code and Integrity principles; and students must still complete their Gen Ed and Core requirements for a BA.

The closest institution offering a similar path is Brevard College, also a private institution offering small class sizes and a very similar curriculum including courses in audition techniques, dance (modern, ballet, tap, jazz), voice/movement for the stage, and musical theatre history. However, most universities tend to offer a BFA in Musical Theater, so our commitment to a Liberal Arts education with a BA in Theater, Musical Theater Emphasis, sets us apart, especially with the ability for students to Double Major.

Does this proposal require an interim or transition plan, or can it be implemented immediately? If a transition plan is required, describe this or attach at the end of the proposal.

TRANSITION PLAN

This new emphasis will introduce 5 new courses to the curriculum:

THE 3101 Musical Theater Practicum

THE 2620 Acting on Pitch

THE 3620 Acting on Pitch II

THE 4620 Acting on Pitch III

MUS 3601 History of Musical Theater

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

During the 25-26 AY, the first freshman cohort of students will be enrolled into this emphasis. Sophomores in AY 25-26 will be allowed to add or switch from THP to this emphasis, which will require no more adjustment to course plan than if students were adding the THP major as a sophomore. This AY will require no additional courses to be taught.

2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

During the 26-27 AY, the second freshman cohort of students will be enrolled into this emphasis, and the first cohort will be in their sophomore years. The emphasis will continue to allow sophomore enrollment and work to advise as needed for minimal course plan adjustments. In the Fall, THE 3101 will be scheduled, and in the Spring, THE 2620 will be scheduled.

2027-2028 ACADEMIC YEAR

During the 27-28 AY, the third freshman cohort of students will be enrolled into this emphasis, and the first two cohorts will be in their sophomore and junior years, respectively. The emphasis will continue to allow sophomore enrollment and work to advise as needed for minimal course plan adjustments. In the Fall, THE 3101 and MUS 3600 will be scheduled, and in the Spring, THE 2620 and THE 3620 will be scheduled.

2028-2029 ACADEMIC YEAR and beyond

During the 28-29 AY, the fourth freshman cohort of students will be enrolled into this emphasis, and the first three cohorts will be in their sophomore, junior and senior years, respectively. The emphasis will continue to allow sophomore enrollment and work to advise as needed for minimal course plan adjustments. In the Fall, THE 3101 and MUS 3600 will be scheduled, and in the Spring, THE 2620, THE 3620, and THE 4620 will be scheduled.

No additional faculty will be required to teach these courses, until such point as course enrollment justifies additional sections of courses.

Assessment Strategy

BA Theater Degree will be assessed consistent with current assessment strategies. Program outcomes are listed below.

In addition, the emphasis will include the following outcomes, which will be assessed through oral and written student reviews, through performance reviews for THE 3101, and through artifacts at each level of the Acting on Pitch sequence:

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Learning outcomes include:

1. Students will define and apply advanced techniques to challenging musical theater repertoire.
2. Students will perform advanced musical theater repertoire with professional-level skill and artistry.
3. Students will create original musical theater material, showcasing creativity and industry understanding.

Existing BA Theater Program Outcomes:

Upon completing the Theater Program at High Point University, students will:

1. Describe and critically analyze a play, performance, work, or production, both verbally and in writing.
2. Synthesize research, textual analysis, and theory to create original understandings of plays and productions in relation to various historical contexts and contemporary developments.
3. Demonstrate awareness and proficiency in multiple elements of theatrical production and explain how each element affects an interpretation of a theater artist's work.
4. Effectively use a range of strategies, including collaborative techniques, for creating original work and rehearsing existing plays.
5. Display awareness of professional practice and model life skills of work ethic and project management in active theatrical production work.
6. Articulate their personal, aesthetic, and social/political ideas in relation to their developed and sustained body of classroom and production work, and the work of their fellow artists.

Please attach department approval page and any other supporting documents. If this proposal requires additional resources beyond normal operating expenses of department, school, or University, attach Provost's Provisional Willingness to Consider.

- [THE-3101-Musical-Theater-Practicum.pdf](#)
- [THE-4610-Acting-on-Pitch-III.pdf](#)
- [THE-3610-Acting-on-Pitch-II.pdf](#)
- [THE-2610-Acting-on-Pitch-.pdf](#)
- [HPU-Student-Interest-in-a-BA-in-Theater-Musical-Theater-Emphasis.pdf](#)

For Deans:

Does this proposal connect solely to programs in one school (Intra-Collegiate), or does it have connections to broader university programs and requirements (Inter-Collegiate)? Note that all proposals connected to University Academic Programs or within the General Education should be considered Inter-Collegiate proposals.

Intra-collegiate

Is this proposal consistent with the school and university mission?

Yes

Are necessary resources available to support this proposal?

Yes

[DEAN] I approve/deny this proposal for further advancement

Approve

Today's Date (REQUIRED)

09/11/2024

F - New or Revised Minor/Emphasis/Area of Concentration : Entry # 3343**For the School Curriculum Committee Chair****Is this proposal consistent with the mission and requirements of your school?**

Yes

Does this proposal reflect a course that is rigorous, current, and reflects best practices and highest academic standards?

Yes

[SCHOOL COMMITTEE] This committee approves/denies advancement of this proposal

Approve

Today's Date (REQUIRED)

10/22/2024

For APIRC:**Is this proposal consistent with the history and mission of the university?**

Yes

Does this proposal reflect a course that is rigorous, current, and reflects best practices and highest academic standards?

Yes

[APIRC] This committee approves/denies advancement of this proposal

Approve

Today's Date (REQUIRED)

05/09/2025