

# National Association of Schools of Theatre

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April 22, 2022

Joseph Price  
Head, Department of Theatre and Dance  
Missouri State University  
901 South National Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65897

Dear Professor Price:

Thank you for submitting your application for review by the NAST Commission on Accreditation. The Commission, at its March 2022 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 Missouri State University according to the NAST accreditation standards in effect in March of 2022.

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:jrk  
Enclosure

cc: Clif Smart, President  
Missouri State University



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**COMMISSION ACTION REPORT**

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

**April 22, 2022**

**MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Department of Theatre and Dance**

**Actions:**

**Action 1 of 4: Application for renewal of Membership – Response**

The Commission voted to accept the Response and 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.

Bachelor of Science-4 years: Education (Speech and Theatre); Theatre.

Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Musical Theatre (Interdisciplinary); Theatre (Design/Technology/Stage Management).

*Bachelor of Arts-4 years: Education (Speech/Theatre).*

*Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Acting.*

**Next Full Review:**

2029-2030 Academic Year

**Items for Progress Report:**

1. It is noted that the institution has renewed its lease pertaining to the Credo space. The Response (p. 2) indicates that there is an initiative to “purchase this space before the end of the current lease.” The institution is asked to provide an update on this initiative, along with details of any plans being developed for renovation and further upgrades.
2. Regarding the needs of the Cogger space, the Response (p. 3) indicates that the institution “cannot share any concrete plans at this time.” Assuming this issue will be advanced, the institution is asked to provide an update with further detail on the potential timeline for any planned renovations, and

whether any plans have been developed to determine the funding level needed to move this project forward.

**Action 2 of 4: Application for Plan Approval – Response**

The Commission voted to accept the Response and grant Plan Approval for the following degree:

Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Acting.

When three transcripts are available for this degree, the institution should submit an application for Final Approval for Listing. Instructions for submitting Final Approval for Listing applications may be found in the NAST documents *Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula* and *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NAST Format*, which may be downloaded from the NAST website at <https://nast.arts-accredit.org> (see “Accreditation,” beneath that “Accreditation Materials,” beneath that “Procedures,” and beneath that “New Curricula”).

**Action 3 of 4: Application for Final Approval for Listing – Original**

The Commission voted to grant Final Approval for Listing for the following degree, Bachelor of Science-4 years: Theatre with a request for a Progress Report addressing the issue cited below.

**Item for Progress Report:**

Regarding the Bachelor of Science-4 years: Theatre degree, in the transcripts provided it appears that THE 125 is missing but that THE 122 appears in all three. Given this, it is not clear whether this is a regular substitution, and if so, whether this substitution has been implemented to improve student outcomes, to address the scheduling availability of THE 125, or in anticipation of a change in curricular structure. The institution is asked to provide further information explaining the reasons for these substitutions. Should this substitution become the institution’s *de facto* approach, the institution may wish to evaluate whether the substitution should be embraced as a regular occurrence and therefore, the coursework requirements amended to align.

**Action 4 of 4: Application for Final Approval for Listing – Original**

The Commission voted to grant Final Approval for Listing for the following degree, Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Theatre (Design/Technology/Stage Management) with a request for a Progress Report addressing the issue cited below.

**Item for Progress Report:**

The institution’s materials refer to the Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Theatre (Design/Technology/Stage Management) degree in various ways such as: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design/Technology/Stage Management, and Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in three distinct areas. The degree reviewed, approved,



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and listed by NAST is “Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Theatre (Design/Technology/Stage Management)”; therefore, the institution is asked to amend all published materials, whether internal or external facing, to ensure that the degree is listed consistently throughout all of the institution’s writings and publications (see NAST *Handbook 2021-22*, Standards for Accreditation IV.C.2.e.).

**Due Date:**

February 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of March 2023.

The procedures for submitting Responses and Progress Reports may be downloaded from the NAST website at <https://nast.arts-accredit.org> (see “Accreditation,” beneath that “Accreditation Materials,” and beneath that “Procedures”).

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Karen P. Moynahan  
Executive Director

KPM:jrk

**NAST Handbook 2021-22**

**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 1.).

**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.