

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE**

## **Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula**

- 1. Consultative Review (*optional*)**
- 2. Plan Approval (*required*)**
- 3. Final Approval for Listing (*required*)**

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**Applicable for Reviews:  
2016-2017 through 2023-2024**

## **National Office**

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In addition to the NAST *Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula*, the following are necessary: (1) *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NAST Format*; and (2) the latest edition of the NAST *Handbook*, including any current addenda. These texts are available on the NAST Web site.

Information contained herein concerning programs, procedures, requirements, standards, and fees is subject to change without notice by the appropriate body of NAST.

Permission is hereby granted to copy this document for use in the accreditation process.

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**Required Curricular Tables for  
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As indicated in question 2 under all sections of this document titled “Application for Consultative Review” or “Application for Plan Approval,” a curricular table in the NAST format for each track/concentration/area of emphasis within every major of each theatre curriculum submitted must accompany all such applications.

To ensure consistent review, these must be prepared in accordance with the specific instructions and examples provided in a separate document entitled *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NAST Format*.

In preparing applications for Plan Approval and/or Consultative Review, please download the most recent version of this document from the NAST Web site.

# **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWS OF NEW CURRICULA**

## **Consultative Review – Plan Approval – Final Approval for Listing Commission on Accreditation**

### **I. Policies**

As stated in Article VI of the NAST “Rules of Practice and Procedure,” all new or substantially revised curricula must be approved by the NAST Commission prior to the time the new program is publicized or ready to accept students.

Recognizing the wide variety of procedures used by institutions for developing and ratifying the new curricula, NAST uses the following format for its reviews of new curricular programs:

#### **A. Consultative Review – *Optional***

1. A consultative review by the Commission may be requested by the institution at any time prior to final institutional commitment to admit students to the degree or program. However, it is recommended that a consultative review be sought after the theatre unit has agreed upon the curricular plan and, in multipurpose institutions, when the curricular plan has received endorsement from the next level of administration above the theatre unit. If other instructional units are involved, as in the case of combined curricula, the consultative review normally would not take place until agreement was reached on the program among the cooperating units.
2. Consultative review is strongly recommended for institutions that must undergo a lengthy series of steps at the campus level and beyond before new degrees or programs receive formal ratification, and for institutions planning offerings at new degree levels.
3. To initiate the consultative review process, an institution prepares materials following the outline provided in this document under the heading “Application for Consultative Review or Plan Approval for New Non-Degree-Granting Programs,” “Application for Consultative Review or Plan Approval for New Undergraduate Curricula (Associate and Baccalaureate),” or “Application for Consultative Review or Plan Approval for New Graduate Curricula,” as appropriate. Such documentation is submitted according to the procedures outlined below.
4. The Commission will review these materials and offer consultative advice about the program as measured against NAST Standards. The Commission itself will take no official action. A report of the findings will be sent to the theatre executive and any other individual designated by the institution requesting the optional consultative review.
5. These findings do not constitute official accreditation action; therefore, no listing of the curriculum will appear in NAST publications.

6. Institutions may apply for a consultative review of new curricula concurrent with an application for Membership or renewal of Membership. Institutions requesting a review of both applications must submit the application for a consultative review following the outline provided in this document. The application for Membership or renewal of Membership should follow the outline provided in the NAST membership *Procedures* documents.

## **B. Plan Approval – Required**

1. An official request for Plan Approval is required after institutional approval and before students are admitted into the new degree or program. If institutional approval is imminent, a curricular program anticipating institutional approval at all levels may be submitted for Plan Approval. However, Plan Approval may be granted only upon demonstration of compliance with applicable standards and confirmation of institutional approvals. Materials are submitted to the Association according to the format and under the conditions outlined in this document. The Plan Approval format for new non-degree-granting programs is found on pages 7-8; the Plan Approval format for new undergraduate curricula (associate and baccalaureate) is found on pages 9-11; and the Plan Approval format for new graduate curricula is found on pages 11-14.
2. Institutions submitting applications for Membership or renewal of Membership may also apply for Plan Approval and/or Final Approval for Listing for new curricula by following only the format provided in the NAST *Procedures for the Self-Study Document* (for Format A and Format B, see Section II, *Instructional Programs*; or for Format C, see Section I, *Instructional Programs*).
3. **Possible Commission Actions on Applications for Plan Approval:**
  - a. The application for Plan Approval is approved.
  - b. The application for Plan Approval is approved with a request for one or more progress reports confirming implementation of plans and/or attention to continuing developmental issues as outlined by the Commission.
  - c. Action on the application for Plan Approval is deferred pending one or more of the following:
    - (1) Receipt of additional information necessary to determine whether the program meets NAST Standards;
    - (2) Response to the stated concerns of the Commission about failure to meet NAST Standards; or
    - (3) Response indicating the correction of deficiencies as outlined by the Commission.

**Responses may be requested in the form of written submissions.**
  - d. The application for Plan Approval is denied with notice of rights to request reconsideration or to appeal.
4. The action of the Commission on a formal application for Plan Approval represents an official accreditation decision.

5. When Plan Approval is granted by the Commission, the degree or program will be listed in NAST publications in italics.

### **C. Final Approval For Listing – Required**

1. When transcripts or other written evidence of program completion for at least three students are available for each new non-degree-granting program, the Commission on Accreditation will review an application for Final Approval for Listing based on materials submitted in the format outlined on page 16.
2. When three transcripts are available for each new associate or baccalaureate curriculum, and/or two transcripts are available for each graduate curriculum, the Commission will review an application for Final Approval for Listing based on materials submitted in the format outlined on page 17.
3. **Possible Commission Actions on Applications for Final Approval for Listing:**
  - a. The application for Final Approval for Listing is approved.
  - b. The application for Final Approval for Listing is approved with a request for one or more progress reports confirming implementation of plans and/or attention to continuing developmental issues as outlined by the Commission.
  - c. Action on the application for Final Approval for Listing is deferred pending one or more of the following:
    - (1) Receipt of additional information necessary to determine whether the program meets NAST Standards;
    - (2) Response to the stated concerns of the Commission about failure to meet NAST Standards; or
    - (3) Response indicating the correction of deficiencies as outlined by the Commission.

**Responses may be requested in the form of written submissions.**
  - d. The application for Final Approval for Listing is denied with notice of rights to request reconsideration or to appeal.
4. The action of the Commission on a formal application for Final Approval for Listing represents an official accreditation decision.
5. When Final Approval for Listing is granted by the Commission, the degree or program will be listed in NAST publications in regular type.

### **D. Commission Review**

1. All applications will be reviewed by the Commission on Accreditation.
2. The Commission on Accreditation reviews associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree programs offered by institutions offering the four-year baccalaureate and/or graduate degrees; associate degree programs offered by community/junior colleges; postsecondary non-degree-granting programs offered by baccalaureate and graduate degree-granting institutions; and community education programs in all types of institutions (preparatory programs, continuing education programs, etc.); and free-standing non-degree-granting institutions at the postsecondary, professional level.



3. The Commission on Accreditation meets annually in March.
4. Following the meetings, a written communication describing Commission action based on the application materials for Plan Approval and/or Final Approval for Listing is transmitted to the applicant institution's theatre executive, president or chancellor, provost, and dean. The letter of transmittal will contain a clear statement of accreditation action and may contain recommendations. However, the text of the letter distinguishes between accreditation actions and other matters.
5. With respect to materials submitted for optional Consultative Review by the Commission, the theatre executive and any other individual designated by the institution requesting consultative review will receive a letter from the NAST Executive Director reporting the Commission's findings and advice regarding the proposed new program(s). Letters transmitting Commission advice concerning curricula submitted for consultative review do not represent accreditation action by the Commission.

#### **E. Deadline**

Requisite materials must reach the NAST National Office no later than February 1 for consideration at a March Commission meeting.

*Please note: Failure to submit material by the deadline noted above may postpone a review of the materials until the following meeting of the Commission.*

#### **F. Number of Copies**

Materials for each new curriculum should be submitted in two (2) copies.

#### **G. Format**

1. A cover sheet should be provided with the following information:
  - a. Name and address of institution
  - b. Name of president or chief executive officer
  - c. Theatre executive's name and title
  - d. Program(s) or degree(s) to be considered, named by level, major, and track/concentration/area of emphasis (if designated)
  - e. Submitted for:
    - (1) Consultative Review
    - (2) Plan Approval
    - (3) Final Approval for Listing
    - (4) Plan Approval and Final Approval for Listing
2. Only standard 8½ x 11-inch letter-size paper should be used.

3. Each set of materials should be punched to fit a standard three-ring notebook (i.e., centers of holes should measure  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches from the bottom of the page).
4. Non-standard-size materials (transcripts, programs, etc.) should be enclosed in labeled, unsealed manila envelopes. Please include any supporting materials (e.g., handbook, promotional materials), including oversized or undersized items in a separate reclosable envelope labeled with the institution's name and the envelope's general contents.
5. Each copy of the materials should be held together with a paper clip in the upper left-hand corner.

#### **H. Institutional Catalogs**

Two (2) copies of the latest edition of all pertinent catalog materials, along with the materials for new curricula, should be submitted; or the institution may provide the direct URL to its online catalog.

#### **I. Mailing Address**

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

## **II. When to Apply for Consultative Review or Plan Approval**

### **A. Consultative Review**

1. A consultative review may be requested at any time prior to final institutional commitment to admit students to the new degree or program. However, it is recommended that the consultative review be sought after the theatre unit has agreed upon the curricular plan and, in multipurpose institutions, when the curricular plan has received endorsement from the next level of administration above the theatre unit.
2. If other instructional units are involved, as in the case of combined curricula, the consultative review normally would not take place until agreement was reached on the degree or program among the cooperating units.

### **B. Plan Approval**

1. It is required that Plan Approval be sought after institutional approval and before students are admitted into the new degree or program and before the new degree or program is listed in the institution's catalog.
2. If institutional approval is imminent, a curricular program anticipating institutional approval at all levels may be submitted for Plan Approval. However, Plan Approval may be granted only upon demonstration of compliance with applicable standards and confirmation of institutional approvals.
2. Institutions with programs in place that have the appropriate number of graduates but that have not received Plan Approval may apply for Plan Approval and Final Approval for Listing at the same time.

### III. Application for Consultative Review or Plan Approval

#### A. New Non-Degree-Granting Programs

*Before proceeding with Section III.A., please review the following notes:*

- In response to each question, the text should reflect thorough consideration of the standards outlined in the most recent NAST *Handbook*, including applicable appendices and any current addendum. Deviations from those standards should be clearly identified and explained.
- Please address all items below for each new instructional program or course offering.

**For each new instructional program or offering, please provide:**

1. The title of the instructional program or course offering, followed by a statement of purposes (for example, the program's intended contribution to the field of theatre, for whom the program is intended, its preparational emphasis, its aspirations for student achievement, etc.) and if a credential is awarded (certificate, diploma, etc.), a statement regarding any specific requirements for completion, including the level(s) of competency expected. Titles must be consistent with content requirements.
2. A curricular table in the NAST format. Further instructions are provided in a separate document entitled *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NAST Format*.
3. An assessment of compliance with NAST standards applicable to the new program, and a statement explaining how achievements of students and the program will be evaluated. Refer to the NAST *Handbook*, all applicable curricular standards outlined in Standards for Accreditation III., XVI. through XVIII., and applicable appendices.
  - a. Required levels of achievement may be documented in many ways, including but not limited to admission criteria, program expectations, course syllabi, graduation regulations, examination guidelines, grade level requirements, and so forth.
  - b. If the program is partially or entirely delivered by *distance learning*, it must be thoroughly analyzed taking into account specific NAST standards in this area. Refer to the NAST *Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation III.H.
  - c. If the program is explicitly designed as a *multi- or interdisciplinary combination*, and in which the discipline of theatre is either the primary or home discipline or constitutes over 25% of the requirements to complete the program, it must be thoroughly analyzed taking into account specific NAST standards for disciplines in combination. Refer to the NAST *Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation III.I.
  - d. If the program is focused on *electronic media*, it must be thoroughly analyzed taking into account specific NAST Standards in this area. Refer to the NAST *Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation III.J.

4. Information concerning faculty documenting that teaching responsibilities are commensurate with background and preparation.

**Current Faculty**

- ◆ Create a table or other format and use it to provide the following for each full-time and part-time member of the theatre faculty concerned with the new program:
  - a) Name; b) year hired; c) rank; d) tenure status; e) degrees or credentials earned with institution, majors, and emphases; f) if theatre education faculty, Pre-K–12 teaching experience; g) current areas of teaching; h) specific responsibilities for the new program.
- ◆ Please separate full-time and part-time faculty with a tab; and
- ◆ Provide short summary biographical information for the director and/or major professor(s) of the program. These materials must indicate areas of creative work and research.

**Faculty to be Hired**

- ◆ If faculty are to be recruited, specify the number of new positions with qualifications and ranks for each.
5. The present and projected fiscal resources relevant to the new program. For example, specify a budgetary commitment that states sources of revenue as well as expenditures for all aspects of the program including personnel, financial aid for students, physical plant, library, and equipment.
  6. Available and/or projected facilities relevant to the new program.
  7. A description (or listing) of current and/or projected library holdings and learning resources (including electronic access) relevant to the new program.
  8. A rationale for the new program including the following points:
    - a. Reasons for adding this program.
    - b. Unique aspects of this program as distinguished from other programs or courses presently offered.
    - c. Number of students expected to be served.
    - d. Expectations for placement of graduates (*not applicable to non-professional programs*).
  9. The relationship between the new program and ongoing programs with special attention to the effects on existing academic, financial, or physical resources. Note whether the proposed program will replace any existing program(s).

**B. New Undergraduate Curricula (Associate and Baccalaureate)**

*Before proceeding with Section III.B., please review the following notes:*

- In response to each question, the text should reflect thorough consideration of the standards outlined in the most recent *NAST Handbook*, including applicable appendices and any current addendum. Deviations from those standards should be clearly identified and explained.
- Please address all items below for each track/concentration/area of emphasis of every new undergraduate curriculum (e.g., Associate of Science in Theatre, Bachelor of Arts in Theatre; Bachelor of Arts in Theatre [with an emphasis in Theatre History]; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Education; etc.).
- Community/junior college programs should refer to the *NAST Handbook*, “[Standards for] Two Year Degree-Granting Programs” in preparing responses to questions below.

**For each track/concentration/area of emphasis within each new undergraduate curriculum (associate or baccalaureate), please provide:**

1. The degree title, with emphasis if applicable, followed by a statement of purposes (for example, the degree’s intended contribution to the field of theatre, for whom the degree is intended, its preparational emphasis, its aspirations for student achievement, etc.). Please review the *NAST Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation IV., “Undergraduate Programs in Theatre,” and ensure that the titles of the degree and any emphases are consistent with content requirements.
2. A curricular table in the NAST format. Further instructions are provided in a separate document entitled *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NAST Format*.
3. An assessment of compliance with NAST standards for the new degree. (*Refer to the NAST Handbook, all applicable instructional standards outlined in Standards for Accreditation III. through XI., and appropriate Handbook appendices.*)
  - a. This assessment must address the competencies required by applicable standards in terms of specific content, expectations for knowledge and skills development and levels of achievement required for graduation as determined by the institution, and means for evaluating student and program achievement.
  - b. Required levels of achievement may be documented in many ways, including but not limited to admission criteria, program expectations, course syllabi, graduation regulations, examination guidelines, grade level requirements, and so forth.
  - c. Institutions offering professional degrees as defined in the *NAST Handbook* give special attention to common standards and goals for all professional degrees and to essential competencies, experiences, and opportunities for various theatre major programs. Refer to the *NAST Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation VIII. and IX., and appropriate *Handbook* appendices.
  - d. Institutions offering liberal arts degrees as defined in the *NAST Handbook* give special attention to common standards and goals for all liberal arts degrees. Refer to the *NAST Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation VII., and appropriate *Handbook* appendices.)

- e. If the program is partially or entirely delivered by *distance learning*, it must be thoroughly analyzed taking into account specific NAST standards in this area. Refer to the *NAST Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation III.H.
  - f. If the program is explicitly designed as a *multi- or interdisciplinary combination*, and in which the discipline of theatre is either the primary or home discipline or constitutes over 25% of the requirements to complete the program, it must be thoroughly analyzed taking into account specific NAST standards for disciplines in combination. Refer to the *NAST Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation III.I.
  - g. If the program is focused on *electronic media*, it must be thoroughly analyzed taking into account specific NAST standards in this area. Refer to the *NAST Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation III.J.
4. Information concerning faculty documenting that teaching responsibilities are commensurate with background and preparation.

#### **Current Faculty**

- ◆ Create a chart or other format and use it to provide the following for each full-time and part-time member of the theatre faculty concerned with the new program:
  - a) Name; b) year hired; c) rank; d) tenure status; e) degrees or credentials earned with institution, majors, and emphases; f) if theatre education faculty, Pre-K–12 teaching experience; g) current areas of teaching; and h) specific responsibilities for the new program.
- ◆ Please separate full-time and part-time faculty with a tab; and
- ◆ Provide short summary biographical information for the director and/or major professor(s) of the program. These materials must indicate areas of creative work and research.

#### **Faculty to be Hired**

- ◆ If faculty are to be recruited, specify the number of new positions with qualifications and ranks for each.
5. The present and projected fiscal resources relevant to the new curriculum. For example, specify a budgetary commitment that states sources of revenue as well as expenditures for all aspects of the program including personnel, financial aid for students, physical plant, library, and equipment.
6. Available and/or projected facilities relevant to the new curriculum.
7. A description (or listing) of current and/or projected library holdings and learning resources (including electronic access) relevant to the new curriculum.

List expenditures for theatre library acquisitions as documented by the institution—ideally, a breakdown with expenditures (a) the year before last, (b) last year, and (c) budgeted for this year in the following categories: books, periodicals, audiotapes/recordings, videotapes/films, scripts, images, microfilm/microfiche, electronic access, other holdings (specify). Also provide a total for each year.

8. A rationale for the new curriculum including the following points:
  - a. Reasons for adding this program.
  - b. Unique aspects of this program as distinguished from other programs or courses presently offered.
  - c. Number of students expected to be served.
  - d. Expectations for placement of graduates.
9. The relationship between the new program and ongoing programs with special attention to the effects on existing academic, financial, or physical resources. Note whether the proposed program will replace any existing program(s).

#### D. New Graduate Curricula

*Before proceeding with Section III.D., please review the following notes:*

- In response to each question, the text should reflect thorough consideration of the standards outlined in the most recent NAST *Handbook*, including applicable appendices and any current addendum. Deviations from those standards should be clearly identified and explained.
- NAST strongly recommends that institutions planning to offer degrees at the initial or terminal graduate level for the first time request an on-site review by NAST evaluators as part of the application for Plan Approval.
  - ◇ The procedures will be essentially the same as those for accreditation reviews except that the Plan Approval document outlined below will serve as the Self-Study and the same outline will serve as the basis for the evaluation report.
  - ◇ Please refer to the evaluation calendar on page 19 of this document. Also provided is a Notice of Request for On-Site Evaluation form to be used in conjunction with an application for Plan Approval for the first degrees in theatre at the master's level offered by an institution.
- Please address all items below for each track/concentration/area of emphasis of every new graduate curriculum (e.g., Master of Arts in Theatre; Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Technology; Master of Fine Arts in Design [with emphases in Lighting, Scenery]; Doctor of Philosophy in Theatre History and Criticism; Doctor of Education in Theatre Education, etc.).

**For each area of emphasis within each new graduate curriculum, please provide:**

1. The degree title, with emphasis if applicable, followed by a **statement of purposes** (for example, the degree's intended contribution to the field of theatre, for whom the degree is intended, its preparational emphasis, its aspirations for student achievement, etc.).
2. A curricular table in the NAST format. Further instructions are provided in a separate document entitled *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NAST Format*.
3. An assessment of compliance with NAST Standards for the new graduate degree. (*Refer to the NAST Handbook, all applicable instructional standards outlined in Standards for Accreditation III. and XII. through XV., and appropriate Handbook appendices.*)



III. APPLICATION FOR CONSULTATIVE REVIEW OR PLAN APPROVAL (CONTINUED)

- a. This assessment must address the competencies required by applicable standards in terms of specific content, expectations for knowledge and skills development and levels of achievement required for graduation as determined by the institution, and means for evaluating student and program achievement.
- b. Required levels of achievement may be documented in many ways, including but not limited to admission criteria, program expectations, course syllabi, graduation regulations, examination guidelines, grade level requirements, and so forth.
- c. Institutions offering various levels of graduate degrees as defined in the NAST *Handbook* give special attention to common standards and goals for all graduate degrees and to essential competencies, experiences, and opportunities for specific programs, and to applicable standards stated in *Handbook* appendices.
- d. If the program is partially or entirely delivered by *distance learning*, it must be thoroughly analyzed taking into account specific NAST standards in this area. Refer to the NAST *Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation III.H.
- e. If the program is explicitly designed as a *multi- or interdisciplinary combination*, and in which the discipline of theatre is either the primary or home discipline or constitutes over 25% of the requirements to complete the program, it must be thoroughly analyzed taking into account specific NAST standards for disciplines in combination. Refer to the NAST *Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation III.I.
- f. If the program is focused on *electronic media*, it must be thoroughly analyzed taking into account specific NAST standards in this area. Refer to the NAST *Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation III.J.
- g. **A discussion of the following must be included:**
  - (1) Proficiencies required for entrance to the program (for example, performance, analysis, theatre history, etc.); when these must be achieved and how they are tested; and whether credit toward the degree is permitted for study directed toward completion of these proficiencies.
  - (2) Research and professional tools required in the program (for example, languages, statistics, computer science, etc.); when these must be achieved and how they are tested; whether credit toward the degree is permitted for study directed toward completion of these proficiencies.
    - (a) Provide the required undergraduate grade point average in the new graduate curriculum if the applicant has had no previous graduate study (A = \_\_\_\_).
    - (b) Provide the required grade point average in previous graduate work for the new graduate curriculum (A = \_\_\_\_).
    - (c) Describe the residence requirements for the new graduate curriculum.
    - (d) Is credit from other institutions transferable to the new graduate curriculum? If so, describe the institution's policies.
    - (f) What is the minimum number of credit hours (specify quarter or semester) required beyond the baccalaureate for the new graduate curriculum.
  - (3) The institution's policy for conducting a comprehensive review at or near the conclusion of degree study of (a) initial graduate degree candidates; (b) terminal graduate degree candidates by using such methods as written or oral comprehensive examinations, seminars providing summary evaluation, or a cumulative series of reviews.

- (4) Candidacy and final project requirements for the program (for example, dissertations, performances, research projects, etc.). Discuss the purpose of these requirements and how they serve the objectives of the program.
  - (5) Description and evaluation of the institution's approaches to the development of teaching and other professionally related skills for students in the new graduate program. Refer to the NAST *Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation XII.A.7., "Preparation for the Professions."
  - (6) Description and evaluation of the institution's approaches intended to develop breadth of competence for students in the new graduate program. Refer to the NAST *Handbook*, Standards for Accreditation XII.A.6., "Breadth of Competence."
4. Information concerning faculty documenting that teaching responsibilities are commensurate with background and preparation.

#### **Current Faculty**

- ◆ Create a table or other format and use it to provide the following for each full-time and part-time member of the theatre faculty concerned with the new program:
  - a) Name; b) year hired; c) rank; d) tenure status; e) degrees or credentials earned with institution, majors, and emphases; f) if theatre education faculty, Pre-K–12 teaching experience; g) current areas of teaching; and h) specific responsibilities for the new program.
- ◆ Please separate full-time and part-time faculty with a tab; and
- ◆ Provide short summary biographical information for the director and/or major professor(s) of the program. These materials must indicate areas of creative work and research.

#### **Faculty to be Hired**

- ◆ If faculty are to be recruited, specify the number of new positions with qualifications and ranks for each.

#### **Graduate Faculty**

- (a) How are graduate faculty members selected and designated?
  - (b) Describe and evaluate the institution's policy regarding teaching load credit for the direction of graduate dissertations, projects, etc.
  - (c) To what extent is there a sufficient number of qualified faculty adequate to administer this new curriculum as well as the other curricula in place at the institution?
5. Description of the present and projected fiscal resources relevant to the new curriculum. For example, specify a budgetary commitment that states sources of revenue as well as expenditures for all aspects of the program including personnel, financial aid for students, physical plant, library, and equipment.
6. Description of available and/or projected facilities relevant to the new curriculum.
7. Description and evaluation of current and/or projected programs and practices for (a) maintenance of physical plant and equipment, (b) replacement of equipment, (c) updating equipment in areas where goals and objectives require current technology, and (d) security relevant to the new graduate degree.
8. A description (or listing) of current and/or projected library holdings and learning resources (including electronic access) relevant to the new curriculum. Evaluate these library holdings and learning resources, if applicable, in relation to the needs of (a) graduate theatre students,

(b) graduate theatre faculty, and (c) graduate curricular offerings. This should involve special emphasis on an analysis of present and future needs related directly and indirectly to the new curriculum.

List expenditures for theatre library acquisitions as documented by the institution—ideally, a breakdown with expenditures (a) the year before last, (b) last year, and (c) budgeted for this year in the following categories: books, periodicals, audiotapes/recordings, videotapes/films, scripts, images, microfilm/microfiche, electronic access, other holdings (specify). Also provide a total for each year.

9. A rationale for the new curriculum including the following points:
  - (a) Reasons for adding this degree program.
  - (b) Unique aspects of this degree as distinguished from other programs or options presently offered.
  - (c) Number of students expected to be served.
  - (d) Expectations for placement of graduates.
10. Describe the relationship between the new program and ongoing programs with special attention to the effects on existing academic, financial, or physical resources. Note whether the proposed program will replace any existing program(s).
11. Explain how and by whom the new graduate degree is controlled, administered, and evaluated, including any distribution of responsibility between the theatre unit and an institution-wide graduate structure, with special attention to: (a) admission, (b) retention, (c) degree programs and requirements, and (d) graduation requirements.
12. If the institution already offers graduate degrees in theatre, indicate the context for the proposed new graduate degree by:
  - (a) Documenting how the total graduate effort in theatre provides a traditional and/or virtual community of student and faculty of sufficient size and scope to permit the formal and informal sharing of experiences, ideas, and knowledge.
  - (b) Providing the number of graduates and undergraduates enrolled in each theatre class in which both graduate and undergraduate credit is granted.
  - (c) Reporting the number of:
    - (1) initial graduate degrees granted in theatre in the twelve months preceding last June 30, and
    - (2) terminal graduate degrees granted in theatre in the twelve months preceding last June 30.

## **IV. When to Apply for Final Approval for Listing**

### **A. Non-Degree-Granting Curricula**

The Commission on Accreditation will review an application for Final Approval for Listing when transcripts or other written evidence of program completion for at least three students are available.

### **B. Undergraduate Degree Programs (Associate and Baccalaureate)**

The Commission on Accreditation will review an application for Final Approval for Listing when transcripts for at least three graduates from the degree are available.

### **C. Graduate Degree Programs**

The Commission on Accreditation will review an application for Final Approval for Listing when transcripts for at least two graduates from the degree are available.

## **V. Application for Final Approval for Listing**

### **A. Non-Degree-Granting Curricula**

Submit the following (two copies of each):

1. Provide transcripts or other written evidence that a minimum of three students have completed the new program.

Include a specific designation of the credential conferred and a coding by number, letter, or color for each course according to the categories of the curricular table previously submitted for Plan Approval (for example, all studies in the major area marked "A," all supportive courses marked "B," all general studies courses marked "C," and so forth).

2. Provide evidence of plans to continue the program for the next three years.
3. Provide a description of any changes in the program since Plan Approval was granted.
4. Provide copies of the program outline and/or requirements as presented in current published materials.

## **B. Undergraduate (Associate and Baccalaureate) and Graduate Curricula**

**Submit two copies of each of the following:**

### **1. Transcripts**

a. Undergraduate Curricula (Associate and Baccalaureate)

Provide a minimum of three transcripts of graduates in the new associate or baccalaureate program.

b. Graduate Curricula

Provide a minimum of two transcripts of graduates in the new graduate program.

### **2. The following should be included with each transcript:**

- a. A specific designation of the degree conferred (i.e., major, track/concentration/area of emphasis).
- b. A coding by number, letter, or color for each course according to the categories of the curricular table previously submitted for Plan Approval (for example, all studies in the major area marked "A," all supportive courses marked "B," all general studies courses marked "C," and so forth).

**Please Note:** Please be sure to provide **two** copies of **each** coded transcript.

### **3. Supportive Materials**

- a. A copy of the degree requirements as presented in current published materials (e.g., catalog, etc.).
- b. A description of any changes in the degree since Plan Approval was granted, including coursework which has been added/removed. Descriptions and syllabi should be provided for any new coursework.
- c. An explanation of any deviations between the transcripts submitted and the published degree requirements.

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# EVALUATION CALENDAR

## For Institutions Requesting An On-Site Evaluation

*in conjunction with an application for Plan Approval for the first degree(s) in theatre at the initial or terminal graduate level to be offered at the institution*

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>For Consideration at the Commission Meetings in March</b>	
<b>Notice of Request for On-Site Evaluation of New Curricula Form* to the NAST National Office</b> <i>(Please see note below)</i>	At least two years before the projected date of the NAST on-site visit, and not later than one year prior to the visit	
<b>Plan Approval Application, Institutional Catalogs, and Supportive Material to the NAST Visiting Evaluators</b>	At least four weeks before the visit	
<b>Plan Approval Application, Institutional Catalogs, and Supportive Material to the NAST National Office</b>	At least four weeks before the visit	
<b>Visitation Periods †</b> <i>(Please see note below)</i>	<b>PERIOD 1</b> <i>for Commission action in the same academic year</i> September 1 – December 15	<b>PERIOD 2</b> <i>for Commission action in the next academic year</i> January 1 – June 1
<b>Visitors' Report to the NAST National Office</b>	Within six weeks of visit	
<b>Visitors' Report to the Institution</b>	Upon completion of National Office review process, which commences upon receipt and concludes as quickly as possible thereafter	
<b>Institution's Optional Response to the Visitors' Report to the NAST National Office</b>	As early as possible and not later than February 15	
<b>NAST Commission Meets</b>	Third or fourth week in March	
<b>Institution Notified of Commission Action</b>	Within thirty days of Commission meeting	

**Please Note:**

\* In order to be assured of an evaluation during the preferred time period, the institution should submit the Notice of Request for On-Site Evaluation form at least two years before the projected date of the on-site visit; however, this form must be received in the NAST National Office no later than one year prior to the on-site visit date.

† Evaluations scheduled from January 1 forward will not be reviewed by the Commission until March of the **following** year.



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**National Association of Schools of Theatre**

11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21

Reston, Virginia 20190-5248

**Attention: Executive Director**

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR ON-SITE EVALUATION**

*in conjunction with an application for Plan Approval for the first degree(s) in theatre at the initial or terminal graduate level to be offered by an institution*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Institution**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Street and/or Mailing Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**State**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip Code**

**Chief Executive Officer/President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Academic Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dean of Fine Arts:** \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Theatre Major Students: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Theatre Faculty: F/T \_\_\_\_\_ P/T \_\_\_\_\_

**Initial and/or terminal graduate degree(s) in theatre for which Plan Approval is being requested:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Our completed materials will arrive at least four weeks before the visit for Commission action the following March.**

**VISITATION DATES.** After a review of the evaluation calendar in the NAST document entitled *Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula*, we suggest the following dates for the visit (*please be specific*):

Month(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Please append any additional information or requests concerning the review.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**We now request that NAST proceed with the nomination of visitors.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of Theatre Executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Theatre Executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (*include area code*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Facsimile (*include area code*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Web Address