

Draft I: Proposed Revisions to the *Handbook 2020-21*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE

January 21, 2021

OFFICIAL NOTICE. This constitutes the official notice of proposed revisions to the *Handbook* forwarded in advance as required by the NAST Bylaws and Code of Ethics.

Note: All proposed revisions are indicated in red.

Following the current comment period, a second proposal of these amendments will be presented to the NAST Membership in February for further review and comment.

VOTE SCHEDULED. A final text of these proposed revisions will be presented to the membership for a vote in March.

Rationales for these changes are provided at the end of the document on page 3.

COMMENT PERIOD I

January 21 – February 20, 2021

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Code of Ethics

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Code of Ethics

Article II., Student Recruitment

Amend Article II., Section 4. as follows:

Section 4. Students are free to attend the institutions of their choice. However, at an appropriate point in time, a mutual commitment in writing ~~may~~ **must** be made between students and institutions. ~~Any such mutual agreement~~ **At such a point, administrators, faculty members, students, and all other parties involved** must clearly state the nature of these commitments ~~and the obligations they impose on administrators, faculty members, students, and~~

all parties involved, as well as, the schedules for their implementation, ~~and~~ the conditions under which such commitments may be released by any or all of the parties, ~~and the institutional offices responsible for areas addressed in the commitment statement.~~

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Code of Ethics

Add Article III. as follows and amend and renumber as noted:

**ARTICLE III
FINANCIAL AID**

Section 1. For the purposes of this Code in its entirety, financial aid is an award made directly to the student based at least in part on demonstrated talent, this in addition to need-oriented aid based on generic national formulas. Financial aid relates to awards at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including teaching assistantships or fellowships.

Section 2. Consistent with Article II., Section 4. above, financial aid shall be awarded according to the criteria and through the procedures established by the member institution granting the award.

Section 3. Any offer of admission with a talent-based scholarship made within one calendar month of the semester of matriculation is normally considered a transfer under provisions of the Code of Ethics, Article IV.

**ARTICLE IV ~~III~~
TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Section 1. No member institution may ~~affirmatively actively~~ recruit a student presently enrolled in another institution, unless ~~that the~~ student will complete the normal program of study ~~for which he or she is enrolled~~ prior to the ~~proposed~~ time of transfer. It is ethical, of course, to accept for transfer a student who applies for ~~and achieves~~ admission to ~~another institution the new school~~ of his or her own volition.

Section 2. Institutions recognize that students are free to make inquiries about study at any institution at any time. However, if a student with financial aid begins to make an application for transfer, the institution to which the student is applying must inform the student of its procedures, conditions, and criteria for considering such applications, including the extent to which credit earned at the present institution can or will be considered for acceptance by the prospective new institution.

**ARTICLE V ~~IV~~
FACULTY APPOINTMENTS**

Section 1. Article V. ~~IV.~~ of the NAST Code of Ethics is intended to apply to the conduct of member institutions and their employees or agents who are involved in the negotiation of faculty employment agreements or appointments on behalf of their respective institutions. It is not intended to govern the activities of individual faculty members who may seek employment with other institutions. The purpose of the provision is to encourage communications between institutions so as to avoid, to the extent possible, last-minute disruptions in faculty coverage that could significantly impact an institution's ability to fulfill its artistic and academic obligations to its students.

Section 2. Inquiries about an individual's interest in and conversation concerning a new, full-time academic appointment are in order at any time of the year.

Section 3. Institutions hiring faculty who are employed full-time at other institutions under a written contract that contemplates continuation of such employment for some or all of the next academic year shall be mindful of their responsibility to secure the approval of the chief administrative officer of the original institution when an employment offer in the form of a written contract is made during, or so close to the ensuing academic period as

to threaten major disruptions in the original institution’s ability to fulfill its artistic and academic obligations to its students during that period. Such approval by the original institution shall not be unreasonably withheld.

ARTICLE VI ✘
COMPLIANCE

If the parties involved cannot resolve an alleged violation, an appeal, in the form of a detailed letter, shall be filed with the NAST Executive Director, who shall then institute the process outlined in the Procedures for Reviewing Complaints Directed Against Member Institutions of the National Association of Schools of Theatre (see Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article VIII.).

ARTICLE VII ✘
AMENDMENTS

The Code of Ethics may be amended by a majority vote of the members 1) present and voting at any Annual Meeting at which a quorum is present, or 2) voting at a meeting or in a poll conducted through electronic means when the same quorum requirements are met, provided a written notice of any proposed amendment, with Board review and recommendation, be sent with opportunity to comment to all accredited institutional members at least four weeks prior to said meeting.

Appendix I.B.

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Appendix I.B., Standards and Guidelines for Opera and Musical Theatre Programs

Section 1. The Common Body of Knowledge and Skills for Career Entry

A. Performance Skills

5. Language Skills

Add Section 1.A.5.c. as follows:

5. Language skills.
 - a. For Opera: diction/pronunciation skills in English, Italian, German, and French; reading/speaking proficiency in Italian; and working knowledge of French and German.
 - b. For Musical Theatre: diction/pronunciation skills in English and dialects.
 - c. **In music performance contexts, diction refers to diction applicable to singing. Many combinations of knowledge and skills, and instruction are normally involved in developing this competence.**

NOTE: Rationale for Changes

The rationale for the changes proposed above are as follows:

1. *Code of Ethics*: To address concerns held by the Department of Justice as it pertains to the Final Judgment issued by DOJ against the National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC).
2. *Appendix I.B., Section 1.A.5.*: To clarify the expectation that diction in music performance contexts refers to the availability of opportunities and experiences that support and advance the major course of study.