

Draft II: Proposed Revisions to the *Handbook 2023-24*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE

February 26, 2024

OFFICIAL NOTICE. This constitutes the official notice of proposed revisions to the *Handbook* forwarded in advance as required by the NAST Bylaws and Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II.

Note: All proposed revisions are indicated in red.

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

Rationales for these changes are provided at the end of the document on page 13.

COMMENT PERIOD II

February 26, 2024–March 27, 2024

Jenny Rebecca G. Kuhlmann
Management Associate for Communications and Publications

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE

11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21

Reston, Virginia 20190

Email: jkuhlmann@arts-accredit.org

Phone: (703) 437-0700, Extension 112

Facsimile: (703) 437-6312

Website: <https://nast.arts-accredit.org/>

Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II

— Action by the NAST Commission on Accreditation —

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 26

Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II

Article I., Institutional Membership

Section 4. Accreditation and Institutional Autonomy

Amend Article I., Section 4. as follows:

Section 4. Accreditation and Institutional Autonomy. The National Association of Schools of Theatre has established standards for accreditation that are applied only at the invitation of institutions. These standards are developed and approved by accredited member institutions acting autonomously. The standards provide benchmarks for reviewing the extent to which operational, curricular, and evaluative functions associated with particular degree programs and areas of study are being fulfilled.

As they evolve, NAST standards for accreditation are continuously designed to allow considerable variation within broad principles applicable to degree programs and areas of study. Failure to meet the exact provisions of a specific standard will not preclude accreditation if it can be shown that artistic, intellectual, educational, and developmental functions indicated by the standard are and can continue to be fulfilled by appropriate means.

NAST standards are applied with profound respect for the rights and responsibilities of institutions and programs to identify, designate, and control (a) their missions, goals, and objectives; (b) artistic, educational, and philosophical principles and methodologies used to pursue functions implicit in their various missions, goals, and objectives; (c) specific repertoires, texts, and other teaching materials utilized for study and presentation; (d) agendas and areas of study pursued through scholarship, research, criticism, and policy development; (e) specific personnel choices, staffing configurations, and other operational decisions; and (f) content and methodologies of tests, evaluations, and assessments.

Respect for institutional mission as required in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article I., Section 4., paragraph 3., and throughout the Association's published materials includes respect for religious mission. **NAST bases its decisions regarding accreditation on its published standards and shall not use as a negative factor the institution's religious mission-based policies, decisions, and practices in consideration of areas related to theatre such as curricula; faculty; facilities, equipment, and supplies; student support services; and recruiting and admissions practices, academic calendars, publications, grading, and advertising. NAST may require an institution to include in its curricular programs all core components as specified in applicable standards.**

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Pages 32–33

Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II

Article V., Substantive Change

Section 2. Definition

Amend Article V., Section 2. as follows:

Section 2. Definition. *Substantive change* includes but is not limited to:

- A. Any fundamental change in the established mission, goals, or objectives of the institution or theatre unit.
- B. Any change in the legal status, form of control, or ownership of the institution.
- C. The acquisition of any other institution or any program or location of another institution.
- D. The amendment of curricular programs that represent a significant departure, in terms of either the content or method of delivery, from those that were offered when NAST most recently evaluated the institution. This provision includes significant changes made in conjunction with a change from quarter hours to semester hours or vice versa.
- E. The addition of courses or programs at a degree or credential level other than the curricular level(s) included in the institution's current accreditation.
- F. A change in the measurement of credit or time requirements (i.e., from quarter hours to semester hours or vice versa, from clock hours to credit hours or vice versa, etc.).

EXPLANATORY NOTE: Clock-hour systems measure course length in terms of the total number of hours devoted to face-to-face instruction. Credit-hour systems, on the other hand, assign numerical credit to courses based both on the number of instructional hours per week over a standard academic term (semester or quarter) and the amount of preparatory time per week that students must spend outside the classroom. For NAST standards on computing credit hours, see Standards for Accreditation III.A.

- G. A substantial increase or decrease in
 - 1. The number of clock or credit hours awarded for successful completion of a program; or
 - 2. The length of a program.

- H. Starting a branch campus or other entity (such as an additional location, extension program, other external program) at which the institution offers at least fifty percent of any educational program in theatre, regardless of how many such campuses or other entities have been approved previously by NAST.

NOTE: The agency's review will include an assessment of the institution's fiscal and administrative capability to operate the location or branch campus, the regular evaluations of locations, and verification that (1) academic control is clearly identified by the institution; (2) the institution has adequate faculty, facilities, resources, and academic and student support systems in place; (3) the institution is financially stable; and (4) the institution has engaged in long-range planning for the expansion.

- I. Participation in an agreement to teach-out students from an institution or program that is closing. (Institutions to which Standards for Accreditation XIX. pertains must review and demonstrate compliance with Standards for Accreditation XIX., Section 1.K.).
- J. The addition of a permanent location at a site at which the institution is conducting a teach-out for students of another institution that has ceased operating before all of the students have completed their programs of study.
- K. If NAST accreditation enables the institution to seek eligibility to participate in Title IV Higher Education Act (HEA) programs, the entering into written arrangement under which an institution or organization not approved to participate in Title IV Higher Education Act (HEA) programs offers more than twenty-five percent **but less than fifty percent** of one or more of the NAST accredited institution's educational programs.

NOTE: With regard to Section 2.K. above, upon receipt of a materially complete request, the Commission on Accreditation will review the institution's application for Substantive Change and provide the outcome of its review to the institution within 180 days.

- L. An institution's designation of NAST as its gatekeeper for the purpose of eligibility for participation in federal Title IV programs, irrespective of whether:
1. The institution is accredited as a single-purpose institution by NAST and does not currently participate in Title IV programs, but plans to apply for participation in federal Title IV; or
 2. The institution is accredited as a single-purpose institution by NAST and another Secretary-recognized institutional accrediting agency, has designated the other institutional accrediting agency as its gatekeeper for the purpose of eligibility for federal Title IV participation, and plans to relinquish such other institutional accreditation entirely; or
 3. The institution is accredited as a single-purpose institution by NAST and another Secretary-recognized institutional accrediting agency, has designated the other institutional accrediting agency as its gatekeeper for the purpose of eligibility for federal Title IV participation, and plans to retain the other institutional accreditation and relinquish the connection between that accreditation and Title IV participation.
- M. **With regard to an institution that has designated NAST as its gatekeeper for the purpose of eligibility for participation in federal Title IV programs that has been placed on probation or an equivalent status, has been subject to negative action by NAST over a period of three academic years, or is under provisional certification, as provided in 34 CFR 668.13, the development of customized pathways as defined in 34 CFR 602.22(b)(3)(i)–(ii).**
- N. ~~M.~~ The addition of a direct assessment program.
- O. ~~N.~~ Other major changes that would impact continuing compliance with NAST standards applicable to degrees and programs being offered.

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Pages 45–46

Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II

Article X., Appeals of Adverse Decisions Concerning Accredited Institutional Membership

Section 10. Decision on an Appeal

Amend Article X., Section 10. as follows:

Section 10. Decision on an Appeal. After following requisite procedures, considering the appeal and responding to it only in terms of one or both of the grounds for appeal in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article X., Section 5., and making judgments based solely on NAST published standards and procedures and the documentation provided, the appeals committee's final decision shall be either to (a) deny the appeal and sustain the decision of the Commission, or (b) sustain the appeal and remand the decision to the Commission for reconsideration ~~explaining in writing the basis for the decision to remand, including, but not limited to, any amendments to the original decision proposed by the appeals committee by identifying specific issues the Commission must address, including but not limited to the appeals committee's decision regarding amendments to or a reversal of the original decision.~~ In making its final decision, the Commission must act in a manner consistent with published NAST standards and procedures, and with due consideration of all written findings and recommendations of the appeals committee accompanying its decision to remand ~~the appeals panel's decisions or instructions.~~

The final decision of the appeals committee shall be distributed to the theatre executive and the chief executive officer of the institution and to the Chair of the Commission whose decision is being appealed.

An institution's continuing disagreement with a final decision of the appeals committee to deny the appeal shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the Rules of the American Arbitration Association. Arbitration considers only items (a) and (b) of the Grounds for Appeal outlined in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article X., Section 5.

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 48

Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II

Article XI., Publication of NAST Accreditation Actions

Amend Article XI., Section 2.E. as follows:

- E. NAST notifies the appropriate accrediting agencies, the appropriate state licensing or authorizing agency, the U.S. Secretary of Education, and upon request, the public, if an accredited institution or program:
 - 1. Decides to withdraw voluntarily from accreditation, within ten **business** days of receiving notification from the institution or program that it is withdrawing voluntarily from accreditation; or
 - 2. After due notice from the Commission stipulating one or more deadlines, allows its accreditation to lapse, within ten **business** days of the date on which accreditation lapses.

Standards for Accreditation

— Action by the NAST Membership —

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 70

Standards for Accreditation

II. Purposes and Operations

I. Published Materials and Websites

1. Standards

Amend II.I.1.d. as follows:

- d. The institution shall have transfer of credit policies that (a) are publicly disclosed, and (b) include a statement of the criteria established by the institution regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution of higher education **and any types of institutions or sources from which the institution will not accept credit** (see Standards for Accreditation III.A.4.).

NOTE: With regard to a free-standing institution that has designated NAST as its gatekeeper for the purpose of eligibility for participation in federal Title IV programs, written criteria used to evaluate and award credit for prior learning experience shall be provided as described in 34 CFR 668.43(a)(II)(iii).

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 75

Standards for Accreditation

III. Theatre Program Components

A. Credit and Time Requirements

4. Published Policies

Amend III.A.4. as follows:

4. **Published Policies.** The institution must publish clear policies concerning program length and credit-granting policies, including indications of courses that carry or do not carry credit in specific circumstances (see Standards for Accreditation II.I.1.c.).

The institution shall have transfer of credit policies that (a) are publicly disclosed, and (b) include a statement of the criteria established by the institution regarding the transfer of credit earned at another institution of higher education **and any types of institutions or sources from which the institution will not accept credits** (see Standards for Accreditation II.I.1.d.).

NOTE: With regard to a free-standing institution that has designated NAST as its gatekeeper for the purpose of eligibility for participation in federal Title IV programs, written criteria used to evaluate and award credit for prior learning experience shall be provided as described in 34 CFR 668.43(a)(II)(iii).

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Pages 77–78

Standards for Accreditation

III. Theatre Program Components

H. Distance Learning

1. Definitions

Amend III.H.1. as follows:

1. Definitions

- a. **Distance Learning.** Involves programs of study delivered entirely or partially away from regular face-to-

face interactions between teachers and students in studios, classrooms, tutorials, and laboratories associated with coursework, degrees, and programs on the campus. Normally, distance learning uses technologies to deliver instruction and support systems, and enable **regular and** substantive interaction between instructor and student either synchronously or asynchronously. Technologies include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The Internet;
- (2) One- and/or two-way transmission through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, **satellite**, and wireless communication devices;
- (3) Audio and/or video conferencing; or
- (4) Other media used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed in (1)–(3) above.

b. Substantive Interaction. Involves engaging students in teaching, learning, evaluation, and assessment as related to the course of study in which the student is enrolled. It also includes, but is not limited to, at least two of the following:

- (1) Providing direct instruction;
- (2) Assessing and/or providing feedback to students regarding their course of study;
- (3) Providing information and/or responding to questions regarding the content of a course and/or required competencies;
- (4) Facilitating group discussion regarding the content of a course and/or required competencies; and
- (5) Other instructional opportunities and/or initiatives deemed appropriate by the institution **and in compliance with applicable NAST operational and curricular standards** intended to support and advance a student's course of study.

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 78

Standards for Accreditation

III. Theatre Program Components

H. Distance Learning

3. Standards Applications

Amend III.H.3. as follows:

3. Standards Applications

- a. Distance learning programs must meet all NAST operational and curricular standards for programs of their type and content. This means that the functions and competencies required by applicable standards are met even when distance learning mechanisms predominate in the total delivery system.
- b. ~~Institutions approved by NAST to offer theatre programs delivered either entirely or partially~~ **Programs in which more than 40% of their requirements are fulfilled** through distance learning means will be designated as ~~such distance learning programs~~ in NAST publications.
- c. ~~Institutions approved by NAST to offer distance learning programs shall provide, in institutional publications as appropriate, a listing, or designation, or indication of all theatre programs offered either entirely or partially through distance learning means. Institutions shall designate in publications whether required courses are offered through distance learning (i.e., online, hybrid) and/or on ground in-person means.~~

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 93

Standards for Accreditation

VII. The Liberal Arts Degree with a Major in Theatre

D. Essential Content and Competencies

1. General Education

b. Operational Guidelines

Amend VII.D.1.b. as follows:

- b. Operational Guidelines.** These competencies are usually developed through studies in English composition and literature; foreign languages **appropriate to the course of study**; history, social studies, and philosophy; visual and performing arts; natural science; technology; and mathematics. Precollegiate study, regular testing and counseling, and flexibility in course requirements are elements in achieving these competencies.

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 102

Standards for Accreditation

IX. Specific Professional Baccalaureate Degrees in Theatre

E. Bachelor of Fine Arts in Stage Management

2. Specific Recommendations for General Studies

Amend IX.E.2. as follows:

- 2. Specific Recommendations for General Studies.** Such areas as psychology~~;~~, foreign languages **appropriate to the course of study**, ~~especially modern romance languages or German~~; accounting~~;~~, personal finance~~;~~, history~~;~~, management~~;~~, and first aid/wellness/safety are strongly recommended. Studies in dance also are recommended since dance movement, choreography, and blocking are often aspects of productions.

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 108

Standards for Accreditation

XI. Baccalaureate Degrees in Preparation for Advanced Professional Study

B. History and Criticism

Amend XI.B.5. as follows:

- 5.** The student should achieve adequate mastery of at least one foreign language **appropriate to the course of study** to support research through the reading of primary source materials.

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 114

Standards for Accreditation

XIV. Specific Initial Graduate Degree Programs

B. Research-Oriented Degrees

Amend XIV.B.4. as follows:

- 4.** Knowledge and skills in the use of research tools applicable to the program, such as foreign languages **appropriate to the course of study** and statistics.

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 127

Standards for Accreditation

XV. Specific Terminal Degrees

C. Research-Oriented Degrees—Doctoral Degrees

3. Qualifying Prerequisites

Amend XV.C.3.j. as follows:

- j. A reading knowledge of one or more foreign languages **appropriate to the course of study**, or the substitution of other special research techniques.

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 135

Standards for Accreditation

XIX. Specific Operational Standards for Free-Standing Theatre Institutions of Higher Education

Section 1. Standards for Accreditation

K. Teach-Out Plans and Agreements

2. Conditions of Applicability

Amend XIX., Section 1.K.2.b. as follows:

- b. NAST requires an accredited institution to which Standards for Accreditation XIX. apply to submit a teach-out plan and, if practicable, teach-out agreements requesting Commission review and action upon the occurrence of any of the following events:
 1. The U.S. Secretary of Education notifies NAST that:
 - i. it has placed the institution on the reimbursement payment method under 34 CFR 668.162(c) or the heightened cash monitoring payment method requiring the Secretary’s review of the institution’s supporting documentation under 34 CFR 668.162(d)(2);
 - ii. the Secretary has initiated an emergency action against an institution, in accordance with section 487(c)(1)(G) of the Higher Education Act (HEA), or an action to limit, suspend, or terminate an institution participating in any Title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) program, in accordance with section 487(c)(1)(F) of the Higher Education Act (HEA).
 2. NAST acts to withdraw, revoke, or suspend the accreditation of the institution.

NOTE: Under such conditions, NAST may maintain the institution’s accreditation until the institution has had reasonable time to complete the activities in its teach-out plan or to fulfill the obligations of any teach-out agreement to assist students in transferring or completing their programs.

3. The institution notifies NAST that it intends to cease operations entirely or close a location that provides one hundred percent of at least one program, **including if the location is being moved and is considered by the Secretary to be a closed school.**
4. A state licensing or authorizing agency notifies NAST that an institution’s license or legal authorization to provide an educational program has been or will be revoked.
5. The institution stops offering an educational program before all students enrolled in that program complete the program or transfer to another program.

Standards for Accreditation

XIX. Specific Operational Standards for Free-Standing Theatre Institutions of Higher Education

Section 2. Procedural Requirements

E. Starting a Branch Campus or Similar Entity

Amend XIX., Section 2.E.2. as follows:

2. Within six months of the opening of a branch campus or similar entity, the branch/similar entity must schedule a **site** visit and host a team of NAST visiting evaluators, **and the team must conduct and complete the visit.**

Appendix I.A.

— Action by the NAST Membership —

Appendix I.A., Operational Standards for Branch Campuses and Other Entities

Section 2. Guidelines

Amend Section 2. as follows:

Section 2. Guidelines **and Comments**

- A. Various terminologies are used to describe affiliated entities and activities. The terminology used in Section 1. designates functions and organizational structures. NAST policies and standards are applied according to these functions and organizational structures, irrespective of the terminology used to designate them.
- B. A branch campus, **or similarly functioning entity, is a physical facility typically considered an additional location of an institution** that is geographically **separate from apart and independent of** the main campus of the institution and **within the same ownership structure of the institution, and that also typically:**
 1. **Is independent from the main campus, meaning the location:**
 - a. **1-** is permanent in nature;
 - b. **2-** offers courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential;
 - c. **3-** has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization; and
 - d. **4-** has its own budgetary and hiring authority.
 2. **For the purpose of participation in federal aid programs, is approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a branch campus or similarly functioning entity.**
- C. An additional location, **or similarly functioning entity, is typically considered a physical facility that is geographically separate apart from the main campus of the institution and within the same ownership structure of at which** the institution, **at which the institution offers at least 50 percent of an educational a program and may qualify as a branch campus.** An additional location participates in the Title IV, HEA programs **only through the certification of the main campus.**
- D. An extension ordinarily does not offer a complete program of study leading to an academic credential. Extension activities may include courses in programs offered for credit off-campus or through continuing education, evening, or weekend divisions.

- E. In extension and similar services, on-campus faculty have a substantive role in the design and implementation of programs.
- F. Accreditation in theatre does not automatically transfer when a branch campus or other entity becomes independent or if an other entity becomes a branch campus.

NOTE: Language above describing both branch campuses and additional locations will be modified as necessary to align with requirements of both the Higher Education Act (HEA) and associated regulations.

Appendix I.B.

— Action by the NAST Membership —

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 147

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

Amend Section 1.A.5.a. as follows:

- a. For Opera: **as appropriate to the course of study, including, but not limited to**, diction/pronunciation skills in English, Italian, German, and French; reading/speaking proficiency in Italian; and working knowledge of French and German.

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Page 150

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

Section 4. Standards for the Professional Baccalaureate Degree in Voice with an Emphasis in Pre-Professional Studies in Opera

C. Essential Competencies, Experiences, and Opportunities

Amend Section 4.C.5. as follows:

- 5. The study and use of foreign languages and diction **appropriate to the course of study** are essential. *(This applies only to degrees in Opera Performance.)*

Appendix III.F.

— Action by the NAST Membership —

NAST Handbook 2023-24—Pages 213–214

Appendix III.F., Policies Concerning Regard for Decisions of States and Other Accrediting Organizations in the NAST Accreditation Process

Amend as follows:

Section 1. Institutions Offering Theatre Curricular Programs Only

- A. NAST accredits only those free-standing postsecondary institutions offering degree- or non-degree-granting curricular programs in theatre that are legally authorized under applicable state law to provide a program of education beyond the secondary level.

- B. NAST does not ~~grant or~~ renew the accreditation of a free-standing postsecondary institution ~~if the agency knows, or has reasonable cause to know, that the institution is the subject of during a period in which the institution:~~
1. A pending or final action brought by a state agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education in the state ~~Is the subject of an interim action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation.;~~
 2. A decision by a recognized agency to deny accreditation or preaccreditation ~~Is the subject of an interim action by a state agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education.;~~
 3. A pending or final action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's accreditation or preaccreditation ~~Has been notified of a threatened loss of accreditation, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been completed.;~~ or
 4. Probation or an equivalent status imposed by a recognized agency ~~Has been notified of a threatened suspension, revocation, or termination by the state of the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been completed.~~
- ~~C. In considering whether to grant initial accreditation to a free-standing postsecondary institution, NAST takes into account actions by:~~
1. ~~Recognized institutional accrediting agencies that have denied accreditation or preaccreditation to the institution, placed the institution on public probationary status, or revoked the accreditation or preaccreditation of the institution.~~
 2. ~~A state agency that has suspended or revoked the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education.~~
- C. ~~D.~~ If the Commission grants accreditation to a free-standing postsecondary institution notwithstanding the actions described in Section 1.B. or 1.C., NAST provides the U.S. Secretary of Education, not later than thirty days after the date of Commission action, a thorough explanation, consistent with its accreditation standards, why the previous action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency or the state does not preclude a grant of accreditation status.
- D. ~~E.~~ NAST will promptly review its accreditation of a free-standing postsecondary institution to determine if it should also take adverse action against the institution if:
1. A recognized institutional accrediting agency takes an adverse action with respect to a dually accredited institution.;
 2. ~~A recognized institutional accrediting agency places the institution on public probationary status, or~~
 2. ~~3.~~ A recognized programmatic accrediting agency takes an adverse action, for reasons associated with the overall institution rather than the specific program ~~or, against a program offered by an institution or places the program on public probation.~~
- E. NAST will promptly review its accreditation of a free-standing postsecondary institution to determine if it should place the institution on probation or show cause if:
1. A recognized institutional accrediting agency places the institution on public probationary or an equivalent status.
 2. A recognized programmatic agency places the program on public probation or an equivalent status.

Section 2. Multipurpose Institutions Offering Theatre Curricular Programs

- A. NAST will not **grant or** renew the accreditation status of a multipurpose institution offering one or more theatre curricular programs **if the agency knows, or has reasonable cause to know, that the institution is the subject of during any period in which the institution offering the program(s):**
1. A pending or final action brought by a state agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education in the state ~~Is the subject of an interim action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation;~~
 2. A decision by a recognized agency to deny accreditation or preaccreditation ~~Is the subject of an interim action by a state agency potentially leading to the suspension, revocation, or termination of the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education;~~
 3. A pending or final action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's accreditation or preaccreditation ~~Has been notified of a threatened loss of accreditation, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been completed;~~ or
 4. Probation or an equivalent status imposed by a recognized agency ~~Has been notified of a threatened suspension, revocation, or termination by the state of the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education, and the due process procedures required by the action have not been completed.~~
- ~~B. In considering whether to grant initial accreditation to a multipurpose institution offering one or more theatre curricular programs, NAST takes into account actions by:~~
- ~~1. Recognized institutional accrediting agencies that have denied accreditation or preaccreditation to the institution offering the program, placed the institution on public probationary status, or revoked the accreditation or preaccreditation of the institution.~~
 - ~~2. A state agency that has suspended or revoked the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education.~~
- B. ~~C.~~ If the Commission grants accreditation to a multipurpose institution offering one or more theatre curricular programs notwithstanding the actions described in Section 2.A., NAST provides the U.S. Secretary of Education, not later than thirty days after the date of Commission action, a thorough explanation, consistent with its accreditation standards, why the previous action by a recognized institutional accrediting agency or the state does not preclude a grant of accreditation status.
- C. ~~D.~~ NAST will promptly review its accreditation of a multipurpose institution offering one or more theatre curricular programs to determine if it should also take **adverse** action against the program **if a recognized institutional accrediting agency:**
1. ~~A recognized institutional accrediting agency T~~akes an adverse action with respect to the institution offering the program-, or
 2. Places the institution on public probationary status.

Section 3. Upon request, NAST ~~routinely~~ shares with other appropriate recognized accrediting agencies and state agencies information about the accreditation status of institutions or programs and any adverse actions it has taken against an accredited institution or program.

NAST expects reciprocity as the basis for fulfilling the above policies as required by the U.S. Department of Education.

NOTE: Rationale for Changes

The rationales for the changes proposed above are as follows:

1. *Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article I., Section 4., Article V., Section 2., Article X., Section 10., Article XI., Section 2.E.; Standards for Accreditation, II.I.1.d., III.A.4., III.H.1., III.H.3., XIX., Section 1.K.2.b. and Section 2.E.2.; Appendix I.A., Section 2.; Appendix III.F.:* To align with federal regulation and guidelines.
2. *Standards for Accreditation, VII.D.1.b., IX.E.2., XI.B.5., XIV.B.4., XV.C.3.j.; Appendix I.B., Section 1.A.5.a. and Section 4.C.5.:* To offer further clarity as it pertains to the breadth of the requirement.