

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 3720S
Date of Senate Approval 04/09/20

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 34 (DRAM) Change the requirements for the Major in Drama and
the major with Theatre Arts Teacher Licensure**

Effective Date: Fall 2020

1. Delete: On page 114, items I-III under **Major in Drama:**

- I. Required courses in the major—40 hours consisting of 25 hours from the Drama core: DRAM 111, 113, 121, 122, 144, 145, 201, 202, 203, 204, 220, 240; and 15 additional hours from the courses listed below, to include one course from those listed under (A) Performance and Presentation; one course from those listed under (B) Design and Technology; and one course from those listed under (C) History and Literature. At least 9 of 15 hours must be at the 300-400 level.
- II. Required courses outside the major—None.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated through production and performance laboratory experiences with Theatre UNCA. See the Drama department chair for these requirements.

Add: On page 114, in place of deleted entry:

- I. Required courses in the major—40 hours: DRAM 111, 113, 121, 122, 144, 145, 201, 202, 203, 220, 240, 492; and 15 additional hours from the courses listed below, to include one course from those listed under (A) Performance and Presentation; one course from those listed under (B) Design and Technology; and one course from those listed under (C) History and Literature. At least 9 of 15 hours must be at the 300-400 level.
- II. Senior Project Option—3 hours: in consultation with the major advisor and course instructor, students will complete a senior-level culminating project from one of the following options:
 - a. DRAM 490—a project-based internship with an approved off-campus professional arts organization, creative business, or artist
 - b. DRAM 499—an independent or collaborative undergraduate research project
- III. Required courses outside the major—None.
- IV. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated in DRAM 492 and either DRAM 490 or 499 as part of the Senior Project. These courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher. See the Drama department chair for competency requirements.

Impact: This new change will eliminate the DRAM 204 Production Lab: Continued Practice (1-credit), add DRAM 492 Senior Seminar (1-credit), and add a 3-credit Senior Project, which will increase the overall major from 40 to 43 credits. This change serves to strengthen the experience of our upper-level students by giving them a clearer trajectory within the department through the addition of a project-based, culminating experience (Senior Project) and post-graduation transition preparation (Senior Seminar). We

anticipate current faculty resources will be sufficient to deliver the proposed curriculum, but this assumes the department will maintain its current faculty lines after Dr. Scott Walters' December 2019 retirement. Since Fall 2013, the department has assigned one faculty member 3 credit hours of DRAM 499 to serve as the Faculty Advisor for the Senior Show. This same person would be responsible for overseeing the Fall Senior Projects (of which the Senior Show would be one possibility), which would be included in their course load as 3 credits. Faculty advisors will also provide additional student mentoring as part of their service to the department.

Rationale: Currently, our major competency is met by seniors delivering an oral presentation on demonstrated mastery in one area of the theatre to two or more Drama faculty. This oral presentation is currently not tied to any course. Successful completion of a Senior Project will serve as the new major competency requirement with oral competency being demonstrated through the Senior Seminar digital portfolio presentation.

In our new Assessment Plan, the focus of our student learning outcomes has shifted from mastery in one area to integrative learning and creative thinking. We believe this more closely aligns with the liberal arts model of theatre education. This proposed change would better support the assessment of integrative learning and creative thinking in our curriculum. Students will be expected to more explicitly connect their coursework with production and real-world experiences. By requiring all Drama majors to complete a 400-level culminating experience, we hope to give all future majors a clearer trajectory of how they can progress and advance within their study of the art and craft of theatre.

In Spring 2013, the junior class of Drama majors submitted a proposal to the Drama faculty to produce a Senior Show as part of the 2013-2014 mainstage season. Their proposed show would be primarily produced, directed and designed by students in the senior class under the guidance and mentorship of the faculty. The purpose of their original proposal was to give senior-level students an opportunity to synthesize and apply the knowledge and skills they had acquired during their time in the program. The faculty approved their proposal and, almost every year since, the majority of the senior class has continued the tradition of producing a senior mainstage show. When speaking with alumni, the Senior Show is always one of the most impactful and rewarding experiences they had as a student in the department.

By adding a capstone experience to our curriculum, we will be formalizing a practice we are already doing informally. Currently, students who participate in the Senior Show can choose to earn practicum (DRAM 20x) or undergraduate research (DRAM 499) credit. Since participation is voluntary, not every senior chooses to participate in the Senior Show, and some seniors who contribute to the Senior Show do not register for any credit if they have already fulfilled their practicum requirements. Other students have chosen to do a project-based internship with a local theatre company, such as light design for Asheville Community Theatre or serve as an apprentice with a local puppeteer. Some students have pursued independent research projects, such as writing and performing a solo show. But currently these experiences are voluntary. By requiring a culminating experience tied to a course, we can provide more consistency and structure for our drama majors. We will also be able to more accurately capture the faculty's time and energy dedicated to the continued development of our upper-level students.

These changes will allow us to give more formal structure to our current practice of supporting a Senior Mainstage Show, independent research projects, and internships. This will strengthen our overall curriculum and better prepare our students for life after graduation.

The Drama Department plans to develop an internal document that clearly articulates the expectations and criteria for a substantive and efficacious Senior Project, which will include guidelines for each phase of

the project, such as the development, selection, approval, preparation, implementation, supervision, and evaluation of their work.

2. Delete: On page 114, the entry under **Theatre Arts Teacher Licensure:**

Students who wish to major in Drama and complete the requirements for K-12 Theatre Arts must complete the Drama core classes as well as those specified to meet licensure requirements. They must also meet the requirements outlined in the Education section of the catalog.

- I. Required courses in the major—49 hours consisting of 25 hours from the Drama core: DRAM 111, 113, 121, 122, 144, 145, 201, 202, 203, 204, 220, 240; and 24 additional hours from DRAM 212, 316, 319, 324, 416, 425 and six hours of 346.
- II. Required courses outside the major—31 hours: EDUC 210, 211, 303, 314, 346, 430, 438, 455, 456; PSYC 319.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated through production and performance laboratory experiences with Theatre UNCA. See the Drama department chair for these requirements.

Add: On page 114, in place of deleted entry:

Students who wish to major in Drama and complete the requirements for K-12 Theatre Arts licensure must complete the following Drama classes as well as those specified to meet licensure requirements. They must also meet the requirements outlined in the Education section of the catalog.

- I. Required courses in the major—48 hours: DRAM 111, 113, 121, 122, 144, 145, 201, 202, 203, 220, 240; six hours from 346; and 18 additional hours from DRAM 212, 316, 319, 324, 416, and 425.
- II. Required courses outside the major—31 hours: EDUC 210, 211, 303, 314, 346, 430, 438, 455, 456; PSYC 319.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated through a passing score on the PRAXIS II Exam and EDUC 455/456. See the K-12 Theatre Arts Licensure Program Coordinator for information on these requirements.

Impact: No additional faculty resources are required beyond those currently in place. This change will decrease the Drama: K-12 Theatre Licensure program by 1 credit because of the removal of DRAM 204.

Rationale: K-12 Theatre Arts Licensure students are required to successfully pass the PRAXIS II Theatre Arts exam. This exam covers content knowledge pertaining to all areas of the theatre, including acting, directing, history, design, tech, and education. A passing score on PRAXIS II, along with their Student Teaching and Seminar (EDUC 455) and Teacher as 21st Century Professional (EDUC 456) courses, serves as an equivalent to the Senior Project and Senior Seminar and fulfills the major competency requirement. DRAM 204 is being eliminated as a requirement for all majors, and DRAM 492 will not be required for K-12 Theatre Arts Licensure students because the licensure requirements provide sufficient practicum experience and career preparedness instruction.