

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD4423S  
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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 32 (DRAM): Revise the course titles & descriptions for DRAM 121 and DRAM 122**

**Effective Date: Fall 2023**

**1. Delete:** On page 120, the entry for **DRAM 121, Elements of Production I:**

**121 Elements of Production I (3)**

Introductory survey of theatre production; emphasis on scenery, properties production and costumes. Fall.

**Add:** On page 120, in place of deleted entry:

**121 Introduction to Technical Theatre (3)**

Introduces the foundations of technical theatre and stagecraft through a combination of lecture and practical learning in the areas of scenic, lighting, costumes, sound, properties and media. Students will gain hands-on experience working in the production shops, labs, and performance spaces while learning about professional theatre industry standards and safety practices. Includes a hands-on lab. Fall.

**2. Delete:** On page 120, the entry for **DRAM 122, Elements of Production II:**

**122 Elements of Production II (3)**

A continuation of DRAM 121; emphasis on scenic design, lighting and audio systems. Prerequisite: DRAM 121. Spring.

**Add:** On page 120, in place of deleted entry:

**122 Introduction to Theatrical Design (3)**

An overview of the theatre-making process by examining the basic principles and design elements within theatrical sets, lights, costumes, sound, properties and media. Explores methods for synthesizing script analysis with research and artistic conceptualization. Assists students with developing practical skills required to visually and verbally articulate design choices and their relevance. Includes a hands-on lab. Spring.

**Impact:** DRAM 121 and 122 are considered complementary courses. By removing the prerequisite for DRAM 122, students have more freedom to explore at an introductory level which aspect of tech/design most interests them and/or fits with their schedules.

DRAM 121 fulfills a course requirement for Drama majors and minors. DRAM 122 fulfills a major requirement and serves as a minor option. Students often enjoy the hands-on aspects of these courses, which have become “gateway” courses for first-year students interested in theatre who often later decide to major or minor in Drama.

DRAM 121 student learning outcomes include:

1. Identify and describe the organizational structure, production roles, and process necessary for theatrical production.
2. Understand the physical plant, safety guidelines and working procedures of a theatre, backstage area, costume and scene shops, lighting grid, and light/sound/media booth.
3. Acquire a working knowledge of the basic tools and equipment used in technical theatre.
4. Safely perform basic tasks involved in scenic carpentry, stage electrics, backstage running/wardrobe crew, and audio engineering through the participation and evaluation of a mounted production.
5. Practice effective interpersonal communication and creative problem-solving in order to become a contributing team member.

DRAM 122 student learning outcomes include:

1. Develop knowledge of the theory and skill in the practice of theatrical design.
2. Explore personal aesthetic and artistic skills and develop creative and conceptual thinking through individual and group research and projects.
3. Understand the relationship between the designer and other professionals, i.e., directors, fellows designers, shop personnel and actors.
4. Appreciate the role of the designer within the collaborative process of theatre-making.

Because of space and material limitations and proper safety considerations when teaching specific skills and tool usage, the maximum class size for each course is 14 students. The courses meet twice a week for 75 minutes of direct instruction and 75 minutes of lab application.

This course will take place in existing facilities making this infrastructure impact low-to-no impact.

Because of the specialized space, material and safety needs, these courses require specific expertise to schedule and prepare the laboratory portion of the courses. Contact hours with students are 5 hours a week. These contact hours include not only traditional direct instruction, but also one-on-one instruction during lab time to ensure students gain disciplinary knowledge and acquire skills proficiency.

These courses can be taught by two faculty within the department and can potentially be team taught. DRAM 121 is offered every fall semester as it is an introductory course required for the Drama major and minor. DRAM 122 is offered every Spring semester as it is an introductory course required for the Drama major and an option for the Drama minor. There is no anticipated change to staffing or LAC load because of these title and description changes.

**Rationale:** These proposed changes are intended to update the course titles and descriptions and to accurately describe the course for optimal student comprehension and interest. Providing greater clarity concerning these interactive laboratory courses within the performing arts is particularly important now in a post-pandemic environment since many incoming students were denied participation in disciplines like theatre due to COVID safety protocols. Students are eager to engage with hands-on learning courses and the performing arts. The descriptions are also updated to offer a more holistic view of the subject and reflect updated industry standards and technology.