



Department of French and Italian

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April 4, 2018

Dear Meg,

The Department of Theater has proposed a new undergraduate minor in Musical Theatre. This minor fills a significant need since currently students with this area of interest are scattered between Music, Dance, and Theatre without programmatic guidance and support. As reported by Assistant Dean Garret Heysel, many students in the recruitment process are seeking such a minor. In addition, with the presence of the Theatre Research Institute and its collections, OSU is poised to offer a Musical Theatre minor that sustains a clear historical engagement and sets it apart from most other programs in the region and state.

The minor in Musical Theatre requires 18 credit hours, with 9 credits emphasizing foundational performance skills and 9 credits in electives. The three required foundational courses are THEATRE 2811 Craft of Acting, THEATRE 3831 Movement and Voice, and one of the following: DANCE 3401 Dance in Popular Culture, THEATRE 4821 Singing Actor, THEATRE 5771.05 History of Musical Theater.

The Panel unanimously approved the minor with one comment for consideration. We pointed out that since history appears to be quite important in the minor, as exemplified by statements such as “Moreover, with the presence of the Theatre Research Institute and its collections, OSU would be poised to offer a Musical Theatre minor that sustains a clear historical engagement, which would set it apart from most other programs in the region and state” and “The Musical Theatre minor supports a student’s training and career aspirations in the performance and history of musical theatre,” we suggested that it appears somewhat of a contradiction that Theatre 5771.05 “History of Musical Theatre” is not a required foundational course and only performance courses are included in the foundations.

The Department of Dance and the School of Music both provided concurrences and the proposers of the minor are aware that a student may not take a major and a minor in the same subject and that each minor completed must contain a minimum of 12 hours distinct from the major and/or additional minors. They requested that students who major or minor in Theatre, Dance, or Music Performance be expressly approved to complete this minor if they abide by rules detailed above, thus suggesting that advising is in place to avoid a conflict with these guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Janice Aski'.

Janice M. Aski