

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



*University Curriculum Committee*

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November 17, 2015

TO: Susan Kalter, Chair, Academic Senate  
FROM: Mark Temple, Chair, University Curriculum Committee  
RE: Proposal for Deletion of the Musical Theatre Sequence

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal from the School of Music to delete the Musical Theatre Sequence from the Major in Music.

The rationale given for deletion of the program is as follows:

- 1) The current Musical Theatre Sequence offered by the School of Music does not contain the rigor to prepare students for auditions into the highly competitive world of musical theatre performance, which is the intent of a musical theatre degree. No School of Music faculty are experts in the field of musical theatre, nor is the current curriculum designed to provide the training necessary for success in the professional world. While the School of Music can provide excellent musical training, the many necessary courses in the theatre arts are offered by the School of Theatre and Dance. The School of Theatre and Dance has a rich tradition of training students to successfully audition for roles in diverse theatrical settings. Furthermore, they offer many more theatrical performance opportunities than the School of Music.
- 2) Most students who initially enroll as a Musical Theatre major in the School of Music eventually transfer to a major in the School of Theatre and Dance.
- 3) Nationally, the overwhelming majority of Musical Theatre programs are housed in the theatre unit, not the music unit.

The School of Theatre and Dance intends to submit a proposal for a new Musical Theatre degree in the near future and are fully aware of the School of Music's intent to not offer a sequence in Musical Theatre beginning with the 2016-2017 catalog. Students still in the sequence (a small number) will be allowed to continue in their catalog through graduation and have been advised of this change. If approved by the Academic Senate the sequence will be removed from the *2016-2017 Undergraduate Catalog*.

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Attachments