

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre Uniform Articulation Agreement**

**Request:** The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve the *Proposal for a Uniform Articulation Agreement Between The University of North Carolina Baccalaureate of Arts Programs and the North Carolina Community College System Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre Arts Programs*, which is an agreement jointly created by the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina Baccalaureate of Arts programs.

**Strategic Plan Reference:**

Theme: Clear and Supported Pathways for Student Progress and Success

Goal 2: Provide a continuum of education, training advising, and support to help learners make informed decisions that lead to credentials and careers.

- Objective 2.3. Increase completion of credentials for successful transition to careers and/or further education.
  - Strategy 2.3.1: Simplify and streamline processes from entry through completion/ transfer, effectively incorporating multiple on and off ramps.

**Background:** Since 2013, North Carolina community college and university theatre faculty, department chairs, and administrators have been focused on forging productive, collaborative relationships founded on the common goal of best serving students pursuing theatre in North Carolina's public community colleges and universities. The implementation of the 2014 Comprehensive Articulation Agreement between the two systems presented motivation for theatre programs across North Carolina's institutions of public higher education to re-evaluate the needs of students, to improve curriculum, and to commit to improving inter-institutional collaboration and prioritizing student success. These efforts have resulted in several successful ventures, highlighted by: the establishment of the NC Community College AFA Association (NCCCAFAA); the creation of the annual NC Community College Fine Arts Conference (a statewide conference for both community college and university faculty that is in its fourth year in 2017); the inaugural joint meeting of public higher education theatre programs of September 2017, hosted by the UNC-Greensboro College of Visual and Performing Arts; and the creation of the North Carolina Theatre Programs in Higher Education (NCTPHE), a joint alliance of theatre department chairs, directors, and faculty from NC's community college and university programs.

The NCTPHE and the NCCCAFAA have worked together to develop improvements in the transfer process that include the following actions: the creation, submission, and implementation of community college AFA Theatre curriculum standard revision; the establishment of a community college theatre core that is closely aligned with a university foundations core; and the creation of AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement.

**Rationale:** The Uniform Articulation Agreement is focused on developing seamless transfer for students who begin theatre studies at a community college and then transfer to one of the UNC baccalaureate of theatre programs.

**Contact(s):** Wesley Beddard, Associate Vice President

**PROPOSAL FOR A UNIFORM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**BACCALAUREATE OF ARTS PROGRAMS AND**

**NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM ASSOCIATE**

**IN FINE ARTS IN THEATRE ARTS PROGRAMS**

**Effective: Fall 2018**

Approved by the State Board of Community Colleges on \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the UNC Board of Governors on January 26, 2018



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## **Background**

Since 2013, North Carolina community college and university theatre faculty, department chairs, and administrators have been focused on forging productive, collaborative relationships founded on the common goal of best serving students pursuing theatre in North Carolina's public community colleges and universities. The implementation of the 2014 Comprehensive Articulation Agreement between the two systems presented motivation for theatre programs across North Carolina's institutions of public higher education to re-evaluate the needs of students, to improve curriculum, and to commit to improving inter-institutional collaboration and prioritizing student success. These efforts have resulted in several successful ventures, highlighted by: the establishment of the NC Community College AFA Association (NCCCAFAA); the creation of the annual NC Community College Fine Arts Conference (a statewide conference for both community college and university faculty that is in its fourth year in 2017); the inaugural joint meeting of public higher education theatre programs of September 2017, hosted by the UNC-Greensboro College of Visual and Performing Arts; and the creation of the North Carolina Theatre Programs in Higher Education (NCTPHE), a joint alliance of theatre department chairs, directors, and faculty from NC's community college and university programs.

The NCTPHE and the NCCCAFAA have worked together to develop improvements in the transfer process that include the following actions: the creation, submission, and implementation of community college AFA Theatre curriculum standard revision; the establishment of a community college theatre core that is closely aligned with a university foundations core; and the creation of AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement.

The Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre to Bachelor of Arts Articulation Agreement is an agreement jointly created by the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) and the University of North Carolina (UNC) BA Theatre programs. The AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement is focused on developing seamless transfer for students who begin theatre studies at a community college and then transfer to one of the UNC BA Theatre programs. Currently, eleven UNC institutions grant BA degrees with a focus on theatre. While the individual names of these eleven BA degrees may vary slightly between programs, for the sake of consistency and clarity we will refer to all four-year BA theatre degrees as "BA" within this document. The specific title of each degree will be listed in Appendix A, under Participating Programs.

## **Purpose and Rationale**

This document presents a uniform, statewide, academic progression agreement that will promote educational advancement opportunities for Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre graduates moving between North Carolina community colleges and the UNC constituent institutions in order to complete Bachelor of Arts degrees. It describes a progression degree plan that includes required general education and prerequisite courses that are acceptable to all state-funded Bachelor of Arts in Theatre programs. AFA in Theatre graduates will meet entrance requirements at all of the UNC institutions and will meet entrance requirements for application directly to the Bachelor of Arts programs. AFA in Theatre graduates must meet submission requirements and associated timelines as required by each BA program. This agreement does not constitute a guarantee that students graduating with an AFA in Theater will gain acceptance into any UNC BA program. Each student must follow the admissions process, and meet stated requirements, of the specific receiving four-year institution.

This proposal supports the mission of the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges and the UNC *Higher Expectations* strategic plan's stated goals of "Access, Affordability, and Efficiency" and "Economic and Community Engagement." It moves these objectives forward by creating a more seamless and rational transfer process for community college Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre students.

## **Policies**

The AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement is made between the State Board of the North Carolina Community College System and The University of North Carolina Board of Governors. It applies to all North Carolina community colleges that offer the Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre program and to those UNC constituent institutions that operate Bachelor of Arts programs (see Appendix A for participating programs). The AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement applies to all community college students who enter the Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre degree program after the effective date of this agreement and who successfully complete the AFA in Theatre degree.

### **AFA in Theatre to BA Transfer Committee**

Authority to interpret and make changes in the AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement rests with the AFA to BA Transfer Committee. The committee is an eight-member co-chaired committee appointed by the presidents of the NCCCS and UNC. Questions concerning the AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement should be directed to the appropriate system's chief academic officer (CAO) with an explanation of the institutional policy that may (or appear to) be in conflict with AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement. The CAO will forward unresolved questions to the committee for resolution. Each system will appoint one ex-officio non-voting member of the committee. For further details, see Appendix B.

### **Transfer Credit Appeal**

If an AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement student perceives that the terms of the AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement have not been honored, the student may follow the AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement Transfer Credit Appeal Process as outlined in Appendix C.

## **Regulations**

### **Transfer of Credits**

The AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement establishes the procedures governing the transfer of credits for students who graduate from North Carolina Community College AFA in Theatre programs and apply to BA Theatre programs at UNC institutions. The Agreement does not address admission to a specific institution or BA program within an institution.

#### **1. Eligibility**

To be eligible for the transfer of credits under the agreement, an applicant must be either currently enrolled or enter a community college AFA in Theatre program on or after the effective date of this agreement and must earn an AFA in Theatre degree in a North Carolina Community College with a GPA of at least 2.0 and a grade of C or better in all transfer courses.

In order to use the agreement effectively, students should follow the prescribed AFA in Theatre course list (Appendix E).

## **2. Procedures governing transfer of Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre into Bachelor of Arts**

a. The agreement enables students who have graduated from a NCCCS institution with an AFA in Theatre to complete a common list of courses that meet the entrance requirements at all of the BA in Theatre programs at UNC institutions. However, because theatre program admissions are competitive, no student is guaranteed admission to a UNC theatre program. In addition to meeting entrance requirements, transfer students may also be required to submit evidence of their creative work, depending on the requirements for each institution.

b. A student who completes an AFA in Theatre with a GPA of at least 2.0 and a grade of C or better in the Agreement courses listed in Appendix E will have fulfilled the BA program entry requirements, and all courses in the Universal General Education Transfer Component will transfer with course equivalency to fulfill General Education requirements for the BA.

c. These students will receive at least 60 semester hours of academic credit upon admission to a UNC institution.

## **3. Certification of the Associate of Fine Arts in Theatre degree completion**

Certification of completion of the Associate of Fine Arts in Theatre degree is the responsibility of the community college at which the courses were completed. Transcript identification of the Universal General Education Transfer Component Courses is also the responsibility of the community college at which the courses were completed.

## **4. Transfer of Courses not originated at North Carolina community colleges**

Transfer courses that do not originate in a North Carolina Community College or UNC institution may be used under the agreement with the following stipulations:

- a. Courses must be completed at a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- b. Courses must meet general education requirements; **and**
- c. Courses may total no more than 14 hours of general education course credit
- d. If the courses are used to complete the AFA Theatre degree, the courses will transfer as a part of the degree.

## **5. Transfer of Advanced Placement (AP) course credit**

Advanced Placement (AP) course credits, awarded for a score of three or higher, are acceptable as part of a student's successfully completed AFA Theatre degree under the Agreement.

## **Impact of the agreement on other articulation agreements**

This agreement takes precedence over bilateral articulation agreements established between constituent institutions of UNC and the NCCCS but does not necessarily preclude such agreements.

Institution-to-institution articulation agreements that fall within the parameters of the agreement and enhance transferability of students from NCCCS to UNC institutions are acceptable. Institutional agreements conflicting with the agreement are invalid.

**Appendix A**  
**Participating Programs**  
**NCCCS Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre Programs**

As of February 1, 2018

**NCCCS Institutions with Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre (A10800) degrees**

Blue Ridge Community College	Fayetteville Technical Community College
Cape Fear Community College	Forsyth Technical Community College
Catawba Valley Community College	Guilford Technical Community College
Central Piedmont Community College	Pitt Community College
Coastal Carolina Community College	Western Piedmont Community College
College of The Albemarle	

*For a current list of community colleges approved to offer the Associate in Fine Arts in Music, please visit the NC Community College System Catalog at <http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/academic-programs/education-catalog>*

**UNC Institutions with BA Programs with Degree Titles**

Appalachian State University: Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Generalist  
East Carolina University: Bachelor of Arts in Theater Arts  
Fayetteville State University: Bachelor of Arts in Theatre  
North Carolina Central University: Bachelor of Arts in Theatre  
UNC Asheville: Bachelor of Arts in Drama  
UNC Chapel Hill: Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Art  
UNC Charlotte: Bachelor of Arts in Theatre  
UNC Greensboro: Bachelor of Arts in Drama  
UNC Pembroke: Bachelor of Arts in Theater Arts  
UNC Wilmington: Bachelor of Arts in Theatre  
Western Carolina University: Bachelor of Arts in Stage and Screen

**Although, not encompassed within this agreement at the time of its approval and effectiveness, the following NC institutions award BFA Theatre degrees:**

East Carolina University  
North Carolina A&T University  
UNC Greensboro  
UNC School of the Arts  
Western Carolina University

Students with AFA degrees who desire to obtain a BFA Theatre degree, should contact the specific institution listed above to ascertain the transferability of their community college credits along with specific admissions and transfer requirements.

## Appendix B

### **AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement Transfer Committee Procedures and Membership**

Articulation between the NCCCS and UNC is a dynamic process. To ensure the currency of the agreement, occasional modifications may be necessary. The Agreement Transfer Committee (ATC) will receive requests for modification only upon the recommendation of the chief academic officer of either UNC or the NCCCS. Because the modification process involves faculty and administrative review, this process may require up to 12 months for final action. Decisions made by the ATC will be consistent with all pertinent accreditation standards.

Committee members shall serve staggered three-year terms. An individual may serve no more than two consecutive terms. Initial appointments may be for one or two years, to allow for staggering of terms.

The committee shall have co-chairs, representing the NCCCS and UNC institutions. Co-chairs shall be elected by the membership and shall serve staggered terms.

#### **NCCCS Members:**

Four representatives including:

- One representative from the NCCCS administration (Non-Voting)
- One representative from the NCCC AFA Association Executive Committee (an AFA in Theatre representative)
- Two representatives from the community college AFA in Theatre schools. These members will be nominated by their peers and appointed by the CAO of the NCCCS. Self-nomination with endorsement by peers is permitted.

#### **UNC Members:**

Four representatives including:

- One representative from The University of North Carolina (Non-Voting), usually the Director for Community College Partnerships, unless otherwise directed by the UNC Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- Three representatives from the UNC constituent BA institutions. These three members will be nominated by their peers and appointed by UNC's CAO. Self-nomination with endorsement by peers is permitted.

## Appendix C

### AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement Transfer Credit Appeal Procedure

#### Guiding Principle

If a NCCCS student believes the terms of the agreement have not been honored by a UNC institution to which the student has been admitted, the student may invoke the Agreement Transfer Credit Appeal Procedure.

#### Steps in Filing an Appeal Step #1:

- **By the last day of classes of the first semester for which admission is offered**, the student must submit an AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement Transfer Credit Appeal Form along with any supporting documentation to the director of admissions or other campus designee at the UNC institution to which the student has been admitted. Students first enrolling at the senior institution in a summer session must submit their appeal by the end of the subsequent fall semester.
- **The student must specify on the appeal form the specific language that is in contention. Appeals that lack this information will not be considered.**
- The director of admission, or other institutional designee, will review the appeal and respond in writing (email or letter) to the student within 15 business days.

#### Step #2:

- If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the director of admission (or institutional designee), the student may appeal on the same form to the chief academic officer of the specific institution within 15 business days of written notice of the director/designee's decision.
- The CAO will review the appeal and respond in writing (email or letter) to the student within 15 business days of receiving the student's appeal.

#### Step #3

- If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the institution's CAO, the student may appeal to the AFA to BA Transfer Committee appeals subcommittee, composed of the co-chairs, a representative from UNC, and a representative from the NCCCS. The student must submit the appeal to the subcommittee within 15 business days of the receipt of the CAO's decision.
- The appeal to the AFA to BA Transfer Committee appeals subcommittee should be sent to:

UNC-GA AFA to BA Transfer Committee  
AFATA to BFA AA Appeal  
PO Box 2688, Chapel Hill, NC 27515

- If a consensus is reached by the subcommittee, the student will be notified within 15 business days; if a consensus resolution is not reached, the appeal will be forwarded by the subcommittee to the full committee within 10 business days. The committee will review the appeal and notify the student of the final decision within 10 business days of receiving the appeal.

## AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement Transfer Credit Appeal Form

### Section 1: Student Information *(to be completed by the student submitting the form)*

- The completed form and any supporting documentation must be submitted to the UNC institution's director of admission by the last day of classes of the first semester for which admission is offered or by the end of the subsequent fall semester for students enrolling in the summer.
- You must specify the nature of the appeal and cite the specific AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement language that is in contention. Appeals that do not include this information cannot be considered.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print or type)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number and Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area code/Number)

Community College from which AFA Theatre was earned: \_\_\_\_\_

UNC institution offering admission: \_\_\_\_\_ beginning (semester/yr) \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2: Basis for your appeal:** On a separate, attached document, specify the nature of the appeal and cite the specific AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement language that is in contention. Attach AFA Theatre to BA Articulation Agreement supporting documents.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix D****Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre (A10800) Curriculum Standard**

The Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre degree shall be granted for a planned program of study consisting of a minimum of **60 semester hours** of college transfer courses. Within the degree program, the institution shall include opportunities for the achievement of competence in reading, writing, oral communication, fundamental mathematical skills, and basic computer use.

**UNIVERSAL GENERAL EDUCATION TRANSFER COMPONENT**

*All Universal General Education Transfer Component courses will transfer for equivalency credit.*

**English Composition (6 SHC)**

*The following two English composition courses are required.*

ENG 111	Writing and Inquiry	(3 SHC)
ENG 112	Writing/Research in the Disciplines	(3 SHC)

**Communications and Humanities/Fine Arts (9 SHC)**

*Select three courses from at least two different disciplines.*

ART 111	Art Appreciation	(3 SHC)
ART 114	Art History Survey I	(3 SHC)
ART 115	Art History Survey II	(3 SHC)
COM 231	Public Speaking	(3 SHC)
ENG 231	American Literature I	(3 SHC)
ENG 232	American Literature II	(3 SHC)
ENG 241	British Literature I	(3 SHC)
ENG 242	British Literature II	(3 SHC)
MUS 110	Music Appreciation	(3 SHC)
MUS 112	Introduction to Jazz	(3 SHC)
PHI 215	Philosophical Issues	(3 SHC)
PHI 240	Introduction to Ethics	(3 SHC)

**Social/Behavioral Sciences (9 SHC)**

*Select three courses from at least two different disciplines.*

ECO 251	Principles of Microeconomics	(3 SHC)
ECO 252	Principles of Macroeconomics	(3 SHC)
HIS 111	World Civilizations I	(3 SHC)
HIS 112	World Civilizations II	(3 SHC)
HIS 131	American History I	(3 SHC)
HIS 132	American History II	(3 SHC)
POL 120	American Government	(3 SHC)
PSY 150	General Psychology	(3 SHC)
SOC 210	Introduction to Sociology	(3 SHC)

**Math (3-4 SHC)**

*Select one course from the following:*

MAT 143	Quantitative Literacy	(3 SHC)
MAT 152	Statistical Methods I	(4 SHC)
MAT 171	Pre-calculus Algebra	(4 SHC)

MAT 271	Calculus I	(4 SHC)
MAT 272	Calculus II	(4 SHC)

**Natural Sciences (4 SHC)**

*Select 4 SHC from the following:*

AST 111	Descriptive Astronomy <i>and</i>	(3 SHC)
	AST 111A Descriptive Astronomy Lab	(1 SHC)
AST 151	General Astronomy <i>and</i>	(3 SHC)
	AST 151A General Astronomy Lab	(1 SHC)
BIO 110	Principles of Biology	(4 SHC)
BIO 111	General Biology I	(4 SHC)
CHM 151	General Chemistry I	(4 SHC)
GEL 111	Geology	(4 SHC)
PHY 110	Conceptual Physics <i>and</i>	(3 SHC)
	PHY 110A Conceptual Physics Lab	(1 SHC)

**OTHER REQUIRED HOURS (16 SHC)****THEATRE (15 SHC)**

DRA 211	Theatre History I	(3 SHC)
DRA 212	Theatre History II	(3 SHC)

*Choose one track.*

## Acting Track

DRA 130	Acting I	(3 SHC)
DRA 135	Acting for the Camera I	(3 SHC)
DRA 170	Play Production I	(3 SHC)

## Technical Track

DRA 140	Stagecraft I	(3 SHC)
DRA 141	Stagecraft II	(3 SHC)
DRA 170	Play Production I	(3 SHC)

**Academic Transition (1 SHC)**

*The following course is required:*

ACA 122	College Transfer Success	(1 SHC)
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*An additional 12-14 SHC of courses should be selected from the courses classified as pre-major, elective, general education, or UGETC within the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement. Students should select these courses based on their intended major and transfer university.*

**Total Semester Hours Credit (SHC) in Program: 60-61\***

*\*One semester hour of credit may be included in a 61 SHC Associate in Fine Arts in Theatre program of study. The transfer of this hour is not guaranteed.*