

Proposal for a Certificate Program in Performance and Theatre Studies

*IU School of Liberal Arts
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis*

Overview

This document sets forth the basic features of an undergraduate Performance and Theatre Studies Certificate Program for the Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis campus (IUPUI). It follows the format of the Indiana University Application Form for Certificate Programs and is accompanied by a more detailed discussion of curriculum and administration than is called for in the standard form.

- I. **Campus**—Indianapolis.
- II. **Proposed Degree**—Certificate in Performance and Theatre Studies.
- III. **Projected Date of Implementation**—August 2006.

IV. Major Objectives and Features of the Certificate Program

The goals of the Certificate are fivefold: 1) to develop competencies in the analysis, creation and production of performance texts, with a particular focus on small group and solo performance in the urban context. Students will be exposed to numerous cultural and theoretical perspectives from which to engage current scholarship in the field of Performance Studies and Theatre. 2) to develop student skills in all aspects of Performance Studies and Theatre including oral interpretation, acting, directing, script analysis, educational theatre, literary analysis, creative production, arts management and professional and community theatre. 3) to give students a broad, interdisciplinary background in the field of Performance Studies and Theatre and the role performance serves in society. 4) to allow Communication majors an opportunity to earn an emphasis in Performance and Theatre Studies. 5) to create opportunities for students to interact with artists and practitioners in the Indianapolis Arts community.

The Certificate is designed to supplement an undergraduate student's major field of study and will be awarded after the student has completed 18 hours of coursework, consisting of a required Performance Studies Core of two basic courses, a choice of three additional courses from a list of Performance Studies and Theatre Electives (see attached list of Electives) and a three credit hour Independent Creative Project under the direction of the Director of Performance and Theatre Studies.

V. Campus Need for Certificate Program

The Certificate Program in Performance and Theatre Studies will serve both student interest and community needs. Programs at IUPUI such as Communication, Education, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Geography, Cultural Studies (such as Women's Studies and Afro-American Studies) and English have all encountered an increasingly significant number of students with strong interest in learning about the

creation of performance texts, ethnography and professional and amateur theatre. Many of these programs have already sponsored internships in local arts organizations in Indianapolis such as the Indiana Repertory Theatre. Further, the Department of Communication Studies at IUPUI has housed the Theatre curriculum and seen the number of students interested in Performance Studies and Theatre continue to increase with the popularity of the University Forensics Team (see appendix). This Certificate seeks to provide an opportunity for interested students to engage the creation, analysis and production of performance texts in a context that is unlike any other program in the State of Indiana. The focus on solo and small group performance is an area that IUPUI is uniquely situated to engage. Additionally, the rise of performance of poetry, slam poetry, one-person dramatic showcases as well as visual performance art in Indianapolis has led to a newly informed student who seeks to engage her community through performance. This Certificate Program in Performance Studies and Theatre will allow undergraduate students to do that as well as prepare them for further scholarship in Performance Studies and Theatre.

VI. Student Population to be Served

This Certificate will serve students from a wide variety of disciplines across several schools at IUPUI. Undergraduate students from Communication Studies, English, Education, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, History, Cultural studies (including Women's Studies and Afro-American Studies) and Urban Studies have already expressed interest in the Certificate. These students would combine a Performance and Theatre Studies Certificate with a major in one of these disciplines. Participation in this certificate program would also make the student more employable in his or her field of study. For example, an English major receiving a certificate from this program will be able to teach Drama courses and coach the Speech and Debate team. Anthropology majors receiving a certificate from this program can also work in museum theatre programs. It can also be expected that many local performance artists in the Indianapolis community as well in the region would be attracted to the courses in the Certificate Program. Graduate students with an interest in performance ethnography may also be attracted to some of the Certificate courses for a performance outlet.

VII. Relevance to Campus Mission

The Certificate Program's emphasis on solo and small group performance fits well into the IUPUI mission of developing programs that embody a city-based blend of intellectual rigor and occupational practice. The cornerstone of the certificate program is an Independent Creative Project. Students, in collaboration with local artists and practitioners, will have the opportunity to create a faculty guided capstone performance comprised of conversational narratives, performance ethnographies, and theatrical presentations that focus on social, political and historical relevance, thus providing an excellent example of academic programming that works in conjunction with IUPUI's emphasis on civic engagement and celebrating artistic and cultural diversity.

VIII. Relationship to Existing I.U. Degree Programs

The Performance and Theatre Studies Certificate Program will be unique to the Indiana University System. Currently, there are no other programs in Performance and Theatre Studies in the State of Indiana. Further, IUPUI's greater proximity to arts institutions, organizations and professional and community theatres across the state provide an advantage in securing internships, performance spaces and funding opportunities given IUPUI's location in the heart of the capital city.

IX. New Resources Needed for the Certificate Program

The Performance and Theatre Studies Certificate will require the appointment of a Coordinator of the program from one of the participating departments and amongst participating faculty who will be responsible for the administration of the program as well as teaching some of the courses in it. This faculty member will be appointed by the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and be chosen from one of the cooperating departments in the Performance and Theatre Studies Certificate Program. The Coordinator will receive release time from their Department to oversee and teach in the Certificate Program. Other courses will be taught by faculty in allied departments or by performance and theatre professionals from the Indianapolis area. When these courses are taught by Associate Faculty or are beyond the normal course offerings of a department, additional funds will be necessary to pay for them. The Certificate Program will also require an operating budget, office space and secretarial assistance.

X. Innovative Features

The Certificate program in Performance and Theatre Studies will bring components of IUPUI together in a very broad, interdisciplinary program. The Program will be implemented in close coordination with the department of Communication Studies (that currently houses all the Theatre curriculum) as well as the School of Liberal Arts. The school has already shown an eagerness to initiate a Certificate program that celebrates diversity, civic engagement, and recaptures artistic expression both in and outside the classroom in an intellectually rigorous and challenging way. To insure the success of such an interdisciplinary and university/community effort, a Performance and Urban Theatre Studies Certificate Committee will be formed and consist of both University and community representatives.

Performance and Theatre Studies Certificate Curriculum

The Undergraduate Program in Performance and Theatre Studies Certificate consists of 18 credit hours of coursework, including a required Communication Studies Core of three core courses. All these courses must be passed with a grade of C or above in order to count for the Certificate. Electives must be approved by the Performance and Theatre Studies Director prior to registration.

Required core courses (9 credits):

COMM T130	Introduction to Theatre	3cr.
COMM T437	Creative Dramatics	3cr.
COMM G300/G400	Independent Creative Project	3cr.

Select three of the following elective courses in emphasis area (9 credits):*

***This is a sample list of elective courses.**

Theatre Emphasis:

COMM C437	Creative Dramatics	3cr.
COMM T339	Directing	3cr.
COMM T104	Voice & Diction	3cr.
COMM T337	Theatre History I	3cr.
COMM T338	Theatre History II	3cr.
COMM T 133	Acting I	3cr.
COMM T333	Acting II	3cr.
COMM T431	Playwriting	3cr.
COMM G300	Practicum in Debate and Forensics	3cr.

Drama/English Emphasis:

ENG L205	Introduction to Poetry	3cr.
ENG L315	Major Plays of Shakespeare	3cr.
ENG L363	American Drama	3cr.
ENG L365	Modern Drama: Continental	3cr.
ENG L366	Modern Drama: English, Irish, and American	3cr.

Anthropology/Women/Cultural Diversity Emphasis:

WOST W105	Introduction to Women's Studies	3cr.
HIST A355	African-American History	3cr.
ANT E404	Field Methods in Ethnography	3cr.