



**Docket Item:**

Community College Approval: Mt. Hood Community College, AAS in Professional Theatre Technician, within 50.0502 10 - Technical Theatre/Theatre Design Technology.

**Summary:**

Mt. Hood Community College proposes a new degree program in Professional Theatre Technician. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the program as proposed.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:  
RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following program: AAS in Professional Theatre Technician.



**Mt. Hood Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to an AAS in Professional Theatre Technician.**

**Program Summary:**

The Professional Theatre Technician program prepares students for entry level positions behind the scenes in the fast-paced world of theatre and live entertainment. The goal of this program is to serve students who desire to obtain a four-year Bachelor's degree at some point in the future, but currently need to complete a two year, job ready curriculum. This new program will also ameliorate many of the financial aid obstacles students are facing in completing the Theatre Transfer program at MHCC. Students are encouraged to take the IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) exam and begin working as extras while they complete their program of studies.

By removing many of the general education requirements of the AGS and AAOT degrees and substituting in technical theatre courses, we can allow students to build a degree that both prepares them for the job market as well as for transfer in the future. This concept has been vetted with our advisory board and they are excited for the new course offering at MHCC.

Our goal is to serve both the high achieving student who really desires to transfer but is unable to currently as well as the underachieving transfer student who realizes late in their curriculum that transferring is not an option for them.

**Program Catalog Description:**

The Professional Theatre Technician program trains students in theatrical and live entertainment events focusing on employment as part of a production team. Upon completion of the program students may apply to take the exam for membership into the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (I.A.T.S.E.) the professional union representing backstage personnel. Students may work as stagehands, or in carpentry, electrics audio, properties, rigging, projections or production management. There are positions available for stage technicians in the touring business of theatre, opera, dance or the music industry. Stage technicians are employed by churches, cruise ships, convention centers, trade show companies, casinos, theme parks, the film industry and any other fields with live presentations.

**1. Describe the need for this program by providing clear evidence.**

The Advisory Committee stressed a need for job-ready entry-level workers.

I.A.T.S.E Local 28, the union that represents stagehands, needs additional workers

at key times during the year, and Roger Gayton, Business Agent, runs short of workers to fill those spots. Starting hourly wage for these on-call positions is \$23/hour. A State of Oregon Employment Department (QualityInfo.org) search of the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector, Oregon statewide, found the following data:

7111 - Performing Arts Companies found 300 employers

711110 - Theater Companies and Dinner Theaters found 105 employers.

711310 - Promoters of Performing Arts, Sports, and Similar Events with Facilities found 132 employers.

711120 - Dance Companies found 16 employers.

713110 - Amusement and Theme Parks found 27 employers.

711190 - Other Performing Arts Companies found 138 employers.

According to The Bureau of Labor Statistics Projections on Growth by Occupation, careers in the Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media are predicted to grow at 4% over the next 10 years. While it is not one of the fastest growing sectors, it is growing at a steady rate, and these skills are transferable to other careers. Employers value creative, passionate workers who are solution oriented and can apply critical thinking to real-world projects.

Growing Occupations, according to The Bureau of Labor Statistics include:

- Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations
- Art and design workers
- Artists and related workers
- Art directors
- Craft artists
- Fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators
- Multimedia artists and animators
- Artists and related workers, all other
- Designers
- Commercial and industrial designers

Local Employers:

Portland'5 (The Keller Auditorium, The Newmark Theatre, The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, The Winningstad Theatre and The Brunish Theatre) are staffed by technicians in IATSE Local 28 Stagehands Union. IATSE stagehands are also employed at Nike, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, The Moda Center, The Convention Center to name a few. An MHCC graduate is currently vice president of IATSE Local 28, and MHCC students and alumni work union events. Non-union work is available at many local theatres including Imago, Broadway Rose, Stumptown Stages, ART, Portland Opera and PCS.

Local and regional listings for production work are advertised on Staff Me Up and are included in Portland Metro Job Listings and Portland Area Theatre Alliance.

National Listings are available through Theatre Communications Group: ArtSearch and United States Institute for Theatre Technology. These listings include levels from internships to design and management positions. Trained theatre technicians are qualified to work in film, audio-visual for corporate environments, entertainment areas such as cruise ships, theme parks, casinos, and sports arenas.

**2. *Does the community college utilize systemic methods for meaningful and ongoing involvement of the appropriate constituencies?***

This program has been created in collaboration with MHCC's office of instruction, the Dean of Performing Arts, the college wide curriculum committee and performing arts faculty on campus. Externally we have relied on input from our advisory board that consists of members from private industry as well as public institutions that employ our graduates, and includes theatre faculty from local high schools. This groups meets annually to provide feedback and insight into current industry trends and will continue to provide input on this degree path, and individually have shared ideas and resources for curriculum and qualities and skills they want to see in a career ready professional theatre technician.

**3. *Is the community college program aligned with appropriate education, workforce development, and economic development programs?***

The proposed new AAS degree and CPEC aligns with current Board goals of developing Guided Pathways essential practices to enhance students' educational experiences. By adhering to Guided Pathways best practices throughout the development of this program, students should be prepared to enter employment or pursue further educational opportunities. The course progression will be clearly mapped out for students, so they know which courses they should take each term and in what sequence, allowing them to plan their lives around school from term to term and year to year. Students will easily see how far they have come and what they need to do to complete their program requirements. Courses critical for student success will be clearly identified. Faculty advisors will monitor every student's progress toward completing the program requirements. The college will be able to identify at-risk students and have policies and supports in place to intervene, so that students could get back on track. While reviewing the current curriculum for inclusion in the new degree program, special attention is taken to ensure that learning outcomes are clearly defined for this program and as well as within each course. These outcomes will align with the requirements for success in both employment and further education. Conversations will take place early and often with Advisory Board Members regarding curricular outcomes.

**4. Does the community college program lead to student achievement of academic and technical knowledge, skills, and related proficiencies?**

The Theatre Arts Professional Technician curriculum is geared to students who wish to specialize in the planning, design and execution of theatrical scenery, lighting, sound, costumes, makeup and stage management. Students may choose to apply to IATSE (Stagehands Union) or work as a freelance technician. The curriculum is designed for students who wish to enter the workforce at the completion of the 2 year program. The program is designed to stack into the AGS Special Studies: Theatre Technician Designer program and the AAOT Theatre Production and Design program. Students can continue their studies toward a Bachelor's Degree without having to retake courses.

**5. Does the community college identify and have the resources to develop, implement, and sustain the program?**

All courses offered for this degree are presently offered by the college as part of our Theatre Arts transfer curriculum. There would be no additional cost to the college to offer the AAS Professional Theatre Technician degree. The program adviser has the requisite experience to advise students regarding the program and pathway options.

### **Assurances**

Mt. Hood Community College has met or will meet the four institutional assurances required for program application.

1. *Access.* The college and program will affirmatively provide access, accommodations, flexibility, and additional/supplemental services for special populations and protected classes of students.
2. *Continuous Improvement.* The college has assessment, evaluation, feedback, and continuous improvement processes or systems in place. For the proposed program, there will be opportunities for input from and concerning the instructor(s), students, employers, and other partners/stakeholders. Program need and labor market information will be periodically re-evaluated and changes will be requested as needed.
3. *Adverse impact and detrimental duplication.* The college will follow all current laws, rules, and procedures and has made good faith efforts to avoid or resolve adverse *intersegmental* and *intra-segmental* impact and detrimental duplication problems with other relevant programs or institutions.
4. *Program records maintenance and congruence.* The college acknowledges that the records concerning the program title, curriculum, CIP code, credit hours, etc. maintained by the Office are the official records and it is the college's responsibility to keep their records aligned with those of the Office. The college will not make changes to the program without informing and/or receiving approval from the Office.