

**New Undergraduate Program (Majors, Minors, Sequences) Proposal  
Illinois State University - University Curriculum Committee**

**Program Department** School of Theatre and Dance  
**Initiator** John Tovar  
**Phone** 438-3955  
**Initiator Department** School of Theatre and Dance  
**Coauthor(s)** Lori Adams (ljadams@ilstu.edu)  
**Title of New Program** Minor in Stage Combat

**Submission Date** Monday, March 22, 2021  
**Email** jatovar1@ilstu.edu  
**Campus Address** Theatre and Dance

**Version** 6 **ID** 318  
**Proposed Starting Catalog Year** 2022-2023

**Associated Course Proposal(s):**

New Course proposal THD 210 titled *Acting II*  
 New Course proposal THD 224 titled *Stage Combat*  
 New Course proposal THD 256 titled *Voice and Movement for the Actor I*  
 New Course proposal THD 324 titled *Advanced Stage Combat*  
 New Course proposal THD 324.01 titled *Advanced Stage Combat: Unarmed and Single Sword*  
 New Course proposal THD 324.02 titled *Advanced Stage Combat: Knife and Rapier & Dagger*  
 New Course proposal THD 324.03 titled *Advanced Stage Combat: Broadsword and Smallsword*  
 New Course proposal THD 324.04 titled *Advanced Stage Combat: Quarterstaff and Sword & Shield*  
 Delete Course proposal THD 329.02 titled *Topics in Stage Movement: Rapier and Dagger*  
 Delete Course proposal THD 329.03 titled *Topics in Stage Movement: Unarmed Combat*  
 Delete Course proposal THD 329.04 titled *Topics in Stage Movement: Single Sword*

**1. Proposed Action**

- New Major
- ✓ New Minor
- New Sequence
- More than 50% of courses in this program are Distance Education

**2. Provide Undergraduate Catalog copy for new program.**

Must be a major in the School of Theatre and Dance or demonstrate significant skills in acting, voice and movement. All students interested in pursuing a Minor in Stage Combat must pass a performance audition.

**24 hours in Theatre required****Required courses**

- THE 110
- THE 210
- THE 256
- THE 224
- THE 324.01
- THE 324.02
- THE 324.03
- THE 324.04

**Notes:**

The sequence follows a 6-semester plan of study. Starting the minor at a Junior or Senior standing could require additional semesters at Illinois State University to complete the minor.

**3. Provide a description for the proposed program.**

A Minor in Stage Combat is designed for those who wish to supplement their degree in pursuit of working in Theatre, Film, Television and/or Motion Capture by training in this specific physical art.

The 24-hour minor follows the established foundational courses within the Acting Sequence. Those courses are THE 110 (Acting I), THE 210 (Acting II), THE 256 (Voice and Movement I). The remaining courses provide the student with the requisite skills to begin a career in this specialized field. Those courses are THE 224 (Stage Combat), THE 324.01 (Advanced Stage Combat: Unarmed and Single Sword), THE 324.02 (Advanced Stage Combat: Knife and Rapier & Dagger), THE 324.03 (Advanced Stage Combat: Broadsword and Smallsword), and THE 324.04 (Advanced Stage Combat: Quarterstaff and Sword & Shield).

Signatures on this proposal indicate signatures on the Financial Implication Form due to COVID restrictions.

**4. Provide a rationale of proposed program.**

The Society of American Fight Directors has been focused on safety in staged violence since 1977. While they have worked tirelessly throughout the decades training performers about safe staged violence practices, the theatrical community has been slow to understand its validity. Unfortunately, it is only when a performer gets injured that companies take notice that safety precautions need to be held to a higher standard.

As of late, more and more people in the performing arts are calling to attention the importance of safety in the workplace. New organizations like Intimacy Directors & Coordinators (IDC) and Not In Our House (NIOH) are showing the world that safety for our performers is a top priority. Illinois State University School of Theatre and Dance has the ability to be at the forefront of this movement toward ensuring that safety is essential.

The Illinois State University School of Theatre and Dance Stage Combat Minor is geared toward providing students with the most extensive training program in the country. The introductory combat course of the minor involves over 60 hours of hands-on training in Unarmed, Knife, and Single Sword (basic sword fighting style originating from Hollywood swashbuckling era). This foundation leads to over 30 hours in each of the eight disciplines (spread out over four courses) offered for certification by the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD). If the student chooses to take the optional Skills Proficiency Test (SPT), they will have the ability to graduate with all SPT Certifications, thus giving our students the opportunity to graduate holding the rank of "Advanced Actor/Combatant" through the SAFD.

This new Minor will propel Illinois State University's School of Theatre and Dance to the forefront of Stage Combat training in the country.

**5. Describe the expected effects of the proposed program on existing campus programs (if applicable).**

Providing an opportunity for Acting Sequence majors to receive certification-level training in the performance of staged violence for theatre, television, film and video games.

- 6. Provide a sample four-year plan of study that fulfills the following requirements:** 120 hours, 42 senior college hours (200 and 300 level courses), and 39 General Education Program hours or 36 hours with exemption. If the program is a BS program, show the BS-SMT degree requirement. If the program is from CAS, show Foreign Language Requirement (LAN 111/LAN 112). Confirm General Education requirement exemptions on the General Education page of the current Academic Catalog. *4-year plans are not required for minor program proposals.*

Semester 1: THE 110 (Acting I) (3 cr. hrs.)

Semester 2: THE 210 (Acting II) (3 cr. hrs.)

Semester 3: THE 256 (Voice and Movement I) (3 cr. hrs.)

Semester 4: THE 224 (Stage Combat) (3 cr. hrs.)

Semester 5: THE 324.01 (Advanced Stage Combat: Unarmed and Single Sword) (3 cr. hrs.) and THE 324.03 (Advanced Stage Combat: Broadsword and Smallsword) (3 cr. hrs.)

Semester 6: THE 324.02 (Advanced Stage Combat: Knife and Rapier & Dagger) (3 cr. hrs.) and THE 324.04 (Advanced Stage Combat: Quarterstaff and Sword & Shield) (3 cr. hrs.)

- 7. Describe the expected curricular changes required, including new courses. If proposals for new courses have also been submitted, please reference those related proposals here:**

The new 24-hour Minor in Stage Combat follows 9 hours of the current Acting Sequence. The five proposed new courses required for the minor are THE 224 Stage Combat, THE 324.01 - Advanced Stage Combat: Unarmed and Single Sword, THE 324.02 - Advanced Stage Combat: Knife and Rapier & Dagger, THE 324.03 - Advanced Stage Combat: Broadsword and Smallsword, and THE 324.04 - Advanced Stage Combat: Quarterstaff and Sword & Shield.

- 8. Anticipated funding needs and source of funds.**

Included on the Financial Implication Form.

- 9. No Does this program count for teacher education?**

- 10. No Is this an Interdisciplinary Studies program?**

- 11. The following questions must be answered.**

**N.A.** Have letter(s) of concurrence from affected departments/schools been obtained?  
*A departments/school is affected if it has a program with significant overlap or if it teaches a required or elective course in the program.*

**Yes** Does this minor, including all required prerequisite hours, include 18-36 hours?

**No** Does this minor include more than 25 hours from any major department/school?

**Yes** Does this minor require more than 9 hours from major program of study?

- 12. Routing and action summary for New Program:**

**1. School of Theatre and Dance Department Curriculum Committee Chair**

<u>Michael Vetere (website)</u>	<u>Michael Vetere</u>	<u>11/11/2020 9:17:08 PM</u>
Signature	Print	Date

**2. School of Theatre and Dance Department Chair/School Director**

<u>Ann Haugo (website)</u>	<u>Ann Haugo</u>	<u>11/12/2020 6:22:44 PM</u>
Signature	Print	Date

**3. College of Fine Arts College Curriculum Committee Chair**

<u>John Tovar (website)</u>	<u>John Tovar</u>	<u>3/24/2021 9:47:59 AM</u>
Signature	Print	Date

**4. College of Fine Arts College Dean**

<u>Jean Miller (website)</u>	<u>Jean Miller</u>	<u>3/24/2021 11:05:30 AM</u>
Signature	Print	Date

**5. University Curriculum Committee Chair**

<u>Mary Califf (website)</u>	<u>Mary Califf</u>	<u>9/2/2021 8:56:58 AM</u>
Signature	Print	Date

All new programs (majors, minors, sequences) are routed by the U.C.C. to the Academic Senate

**Comments****Comments from Version 1 from Michael Vetere ( Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**

Please Add FIF Form

**Comments from Version 2 from Michael Vetere (School of Theatre and Dance Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**

approved

**Comments from Version 2 from John Tovar ( College Curriculum Committee Chair):**

Returned for revisions per Initiator's request.

**Comments from Version 3 from Michael Vetere (School of Theatre and Dance Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**

approved

**Comments from Version 3 from John Tovar ( College Curriculum Committee Chair):**

Minor revision per Initiator

**Comments from Version 4 from Michael Vetere (School of Theatre and Dance Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**

approved

**Comments from Version 4 from John Tovar ( College Curriculum Committee Chair):**

o Section 2 Undergraduate Catalog Copy

Suggested revision: "Must be a major in the School of Theatre and Dance or demonstrate significant skills in acting, voice and movement. All students interested in pursuing a Minor in Stage Combat must be accepted into the School of Theatre and Dance by passing pass a performance audition."

o Section 3

Typo: "THE324.02 (Advanced Stage Combat: Knife and Rapier & Dagger),"

o Section 4

Remove comma: "While they have worked tirelessly throughout the decades, training performers"

Clarify intent (most extensive training in the country)

• "The Illinois State University School of Theatre and Dance Stage Combat Minor is geared toward providing the students with the most extensive training"

Add comma: "The introductory combat course of the minor involves over 60 hours of hands-on training in Unarmed, Knife, and Single Sword"

Indicate that the exam is offered as an opportunity for students who wish to take it

• "This will give our students the ability to graduate with all possible Actor/Combatant Certifications from the Society of American Fight Directors"

o Section 6 Four Year Plan of Study

Add space: "Semester 4: THE\_224 (Stage Combat)"

Clarify that students must take both classes during semesters 5 & 6

• Semester 5: THE324.01 (Advanced Stage Combat: Unarmed and Single Sword) / and THE324.03 (Advanced Stage Combat: Broadsword and Smallsword)

• Semester 6: THE324.02 (Advanced Stage Combat: Knife and Rapier & Dagger) / and THE324.04 (Advanced Stage Combat: Quarterstaff and Sword & Shield)

Include credit hours for each course

**Comments from Version 5 from Michael Vetere (School of Theatre and Dance Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**

approved

**Comments from Version 5 from John Tovar ( College Curriculum Committee Chair):**

Returned for revisions per Initiator's request.

**Comments from Version 6 from Michael Vetere (School of Theatre and Dance Department Curriculum Committee Chair):**

approved

