

**MTSU Theatre & Dance**  
***Blueprint for 2007 – 2012***

**Mission:** MTSU Theatre & Dance is committed to a liberal arts approach to theatre and dance training with innovative programs of educational discovery for future artists, scholars, educators and practitioners of the performing arts where students examine their intellectual and creative potential through combined academic and creative exploration.

**Goal I:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will promote academic quality by enhancing learning, teaching, scholarship, creative activity, and service and by celebrating its distinctive strengths.*

***Strategic Direction 1:*** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will pursue improving the student-to faculty and student/faculty-to staff ratio to increase student-to-faculty interaction; retention and graduation rates; and to support core educational tasks that free faculty for increased student interaction.*

Spring 2008	Pursue addition of tenure-track position in Technical Direction
Spring 2008	Pursue increase of ½ time costume staff position to full-time status
Spring 2008	Pursue increase of student payroll budget to offset increases in minimum wage
Spring 2009	Pursue addition of shared Marketing / Development / Box Office Manager for MTSU ArtSeason – Theatre, Dance, Music, Art
Spring 2009	Pursue additional FTT position to support General Education Program
Spring 2010	Pursue additional tenure track position in Performance Studies
Spring 2010	Pursue increase of ½ time scenic staff position to full-time status
Spring 2011	Pursue addition of tenure-track position in Costume Production
Spring 2012+	Monitor annually the faculty and staffing needs of the program to determine future budgetary requests for staffing

***Strategic Direction 2:*** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will integrate student learning outcomes, program evaluations, and student evaluation of faculty processes. These processes will enhance the program's quality assessment of the effectiveness of its degree programs and enhance educational outcomes.*

Spring 2008	Continue with Faculty Development Plan for FTT and adjunct faculty
AY 08-09	Implement Faculty Development Plan for Tenure-Track faculty
AY 09-10	Implement Faculty Development Plan for Tenured Faculty
AY 08-09	Study SLO, IE, and Student Evaluations process to develop plan for integration of Total Quality Assessment of Effectiveness; employ assistance from campus specialists in developing these plans
AY 09-10	Implement TQAE plan

**Strategic Direction 3:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will encourage scholarly and creative productivity among its students and faculty members. The program will encourage scholarship and creative pursuits of faculty by administering appropriate teaching and work loads and through provision of adequate travel funds to support creative and scholarly presentations. It will encourage scholarship and creative pursuits of students by increasing the support of students who are actively engaged in undergraduate scholarship and off-campus creative activities through approved internships and similar educational experiences.*

- Spring 2008 Request funds for student travel for internships and student research / creative activity
- Fall 2008 Develop and implement Student Research / Creative Activity Support Scholarship program
- Fall 2008 Faculty committee will study and develop recommendations for appropriate faculty teaching and work loads so as to adhere to university, TBR, and NAST guidelines
- Spring 2009 Request additional funds for support of faculty travel for creative activity and scholarly presentations
- Spring 2009 Address recommendations for faculty teaching and work loads in subsequent semester teaching loads and show assignments
- Annually Encourage student applications for URSCA grants to support creative and scholarly endeavors through formal presentations to select classes throughout the curriculum
- Annually Expand upon the New York internship program to create a four-year rotating structure that provides balanced opportunities for students in all areas of the program as follows:
  - Year One (08-09) Acting
  - Year Two (09-10) Child Drama/Touring
  - Year Three (10-11) Dance
  - Year Four (11-12) Design & Technology

**Strategic Direction 4:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will reexamine its current academic structure to determine the effectiveness in meeting the mission of the program. The program will explore structures to determine the feasibility and relative value or realigning to establish a new department or school.*

- AY 08-09 The Theatre & Dance Unit will continue to develop ties, including those related to identity, with other arts units on campus through marketing strategies and through enhanced discussions on collaborative funding and development strategies
- Fall 2008 The Theatre & Dance Unit will submit applications through the University Curriculum Committee, the University, and TBR to implement a stand-alone major in Theatre & Dance with concentrations in both Theatre and in Dance.
- AY 09-10 The Theatre & Dance Unit will conduct a comprehensive study to determine the effectiveness of the current academic structure and submit its findings along with recommendations to appropriate university personnel.

**Strategic Direction 5:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will create, implement, and improve strategies to communicate to its various constituencies the impact of its activities. The program will enhance its current efforts to inform alumni and the general public of the accomplishments of MTSU students and faculty members; the cultural and educational opportunities the program affords the community; and the many contributions MTSU Theatre & Dance makes to the quality of life.*

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| Annually    | The Theatre & Dance Unit will continue to produce an annual newsletter with enhanced distribution to alumni, faculty & staff, and community constituents.                                      |
| Spring 2008 | The Theatre & Dance Unit will develop plans for an enhanced web site presence that follows the university's newly established web template interface.  |
| Spring 2008 | A committee of university arts presenters will explore possibilities for the implementation of a new MTSU Arts event web site that will include online ticketing systems for MTSU Arts events  |
| Summer 2008 | Theatre & Dance faculty will work with MTSU News & Public Affairs to develop an enhanced and comprehensive communication strategy for all Theatre & Dance events                               |
| Fall 2008   | The new Theatre & Dance web site will be introduced.   |
| Fall 2008   | Production of the MTSU ArtSeason brochure will be distributed to an enhanced mailing list that includes a broader base of alumni, faculty & staff, and community constituents.                 |
| Ongoing     | MTSU Theatre & Dance faculty will dedicate itself to enhanced promotion of its activities and accomplishments through monthly notifications to MTSU News & Public Affairs of these.            |
| Spring 2009 | Pursue addition of shared Marketing / Development funds for MTSU ArtSeason – Theatre, Dance, Music, Art  |
| Fall 2009   | A MTSU ArtSeason web site will be implemented and will include a universal online ticketing system for purchase of tickets to MTSU ArtSeason events  |
| Fall 2009   | A monthly MTSU Arts email newsletter will be implemented to inform alumni and community constituents of arts events and accomplishments of students and faculty within the MTSU Arts community |

**Strategic Direction 6:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will provide adequate facilities to meet the needs of its students. The program will pursue increased and enhanced space dedicated to its academic programs, including classroom, laboratory & production facilities, and rehearsal & performance venues.*

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| Spring 2008 | Theatre & Dance faculty will submit a TAF proposal for dividing the Fairview Dance Studio into two dance / rehearsal studios. The second space will be used for dance and theatre performance classes and will be available during evening hours as a rehearsal space for departmental productions. |
| Spring 2008 | Theatre & Dance awaits funding from a private source for provision of a theatrical lighting & sound system for the Studio Theatre; if funding does  |

- not become available, alternative sources will be sought for this priority funding need.
- Spring 2008 Theatre & Dance faculty will develop a long-term facilities enhancement plan for implementation effective Fall 2008. This plan will address space and facilities enhancements for current and future classrooms, laboratory & production facilities, and rehearsal & performance venues.
- Fall 2008 Facilities enhancement plan implementation begins.

***Strategic Direction 7: MTSU Theatre & Dance will increase distinguished scholarship through interdisciplinary initiatives. The program will examine and adapt processes and programs to facilitate interdisciplinary initiatives.***

- Spring 2008 The 2008-2009 MTSU Theatre & Dance Season will be used to attract interdisciplinary partnerships from departments across the campus community. Potential guest scholars and programs will be identified for implementation in AY 08-09.
- Annually A minimum of one guest scholar will be invited for presentation of a pre-show lecture associated with a single Theatre & Dance production. Other interdisciplinary programs will also be introduced as appropriate, including the incorporation of selected performances within agenda of planned university conferences.

***Strategic Direction 8: MTSU Theatre & Dance will continue to monitor the effectiveness of and develop its curricular program. The unit will continue to delete, add, and enhance course offerings and curricular programs as is deemed beneficial to overall student learning outcomes. Self-audit and external review will be used to monitor program effectiveness.***

- Spring 2008 The Theatre & Dance Unit will complete paperwork for a major curriculum revision for approval by the University Curriculum Committee. Paperwork will include a revised curriculum, revised cognates, and a complete course of study.
- Fall 2008 The Theatre & Dance Unit will submit applications through the University Curriculum Committee, the University, and TBR to implement a stand-alone major in Theatre & Dance with concentrations in both Theatre and in Dance.
- AY 2008-09 MTSU Theatre & Dance will prepare for and undergo an Academic Audit to receive external feedback on its academic program.
- Spring 2009 MTSU Theatre & Dance will host a site visit by a NAST pre-evaluation specialist to make recommendations for program improvements prior to NAST accreditation application
- Annually Theatre & Dance faculty will monitor course offerings and curricular programs and implement plans for improvement.
- Fall 2009 Determine efficacy of NAST application for accreditation and develop plan for application, if appropriate

**Goal II: MTSU Theatre & Dance will promote individual student success and responsibility for accomplishments through fostering a student-centered learning culture.**

**Strategic Direction 1:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will increase global opportunities and partnerships for students and faculty members for learning, scholarship, and service. The program will continue to encourage curricula and the development of partnerships that enhance international education, student and faculty exchanges, and study abroad programs to prepare students and faculty members to live and work within a global network.*

Annually	MTSU Theatre & Dance faculty will continue to support the London Winter Break study trip.
2008	MTSU Theatre & Dance faculty will continue discussion with university partners in England and Russia for development of potential study abroad opportunities for students and teaching opportunities for faculty.
Ongoing	MTSU Theatre & Dance will provide encouragement through ongoing opportunities for students to learn about study abroad opportunities through presentations to select classes.
Ongoing	MTSU Theatre & Dance faculty will be encouraged to apply for opportunities to teach abroad during summer, fall, and spring semesters.
2010	MTSU Theatre & Dance faculty will explore opportunities for touring of an artistic presentation combined with learning, scholarly, and service activities to an international destination(s). Efforts will be made to provide one such international opportunity on a five year rotation basis.

**Strategic Direction 2:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will encourage student participation in co-curricular activities that enhance learning and will provide resources for these activities. Student competitions and co-curricular activities enable students to challenge themselves to excel, to measure their abilities against others, and to learn teamwork. Academic activities such as participation in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Southeastern Theatre Conference, American College Dance Festival, and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology offer opportunities for students to practice their skills, to gain confidence in their abilities, and to earn recognition.*

Spring 2008	Request recurring funds for student travel for internships and student research / creative activity
Fall 2008	Develop and implement Student Research / Creative Activity Support Scholarship program
Ongoing	Provide ongoing opportunities for students to learn about participation in KCACTF, SETC, ACDF, and USITT through presentations to select classes.
Ongoing	Assist Alpha Psi Omega with applications for funds through the Student Activity Fund Committee in support of student travel to conferences.

**Strategic Direction 3:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will continue to bring outstanding artists, scholars and successful professionals to the classroom and into the creative, co-curricular process. The opportunity for one-on-one contact with professionals creates a culture of learning that is unique and long lasting. We will continue to invite members of the outside*

*community to share interactively their professional experience with students. The resulting contacts not only inform students of developments and opportunities within their discipline but also provide guidance and contacts to enhance future academic and career opportunities.*

- Annually Through the Senior Seminar, students will be exposed to professional artists and career management specialists who will educate students on current methods for developing their transition from school to the profession. When possible, the Distinguished Lecture Committee will be asked to supplement departmental funds for these guests.
- Annually A minimum of one guest theatre artist each year will be invited to work with students and faculty on a production within the department's main stage season. Guest artists will be determined on the following three year rotation basis:
  - Year One (08-09) Designer
  - Year Two (09-10) Director
  - Year Three (10-11) Actor
- Ongoing Opportunities for development of and premiering new plays will be continually evaluated and encouraged, particularly those projects by established playwrights, distinguished alums, or of regional interest.
- Annually A minimum of one guest workshop or master class will be presented annually in each of the following areas: 1) performance, 2) design & technology, and 3) other (which may include, but should not be limited to, playwriting, directing, dramaturgy, children's theatre, management, or literary studies). These workshops or master classes may be offered by guests in combination with visitation in the Senior Seminar.

***Strategic Direction 4:*** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will enhance students' collegiate experience by continuing to support the development and promotion of the Diverse World Diverse Arts Living and Learning Community. The DWDA will become a model for living and learning communities that support students' academic success and broaden their experience with the world around them.*

- Spring 2008 Print materials will be developed to support the marketing of the DWDA community. These materials will be distributed to interested potential students and to students participating in CUSTOMS during the summer.
- AY 2008-09 A committee of faculty will be appointed to develop and implement a plan for the enhancement of communication with and activities for the DWDA.
- Ongoing Visiting artists will be housed within the DWDA community and formal interactions with DWDA students will be established during their residency.

**Strategic Direction 5:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will develop student advising processes that are relevant and useful to students for both academic and career planning. The program will ensure that its academic and administrative advising processes and educational support services meet the needs of its students, including the implementation of advisor training programs for faculty. Advising will emphasize academic major and life-career planning. Periodically, the program will conduct a comprehensive review of advising processes to ensure that such processes model best practices and appropriate technologies.*

- Summer 2008 A comprehensive academic advisor training program will be developed in conjunction with college and university advisors.
- August 2008 Faculty advisors will participate in a comprehensive academic advisor training session as part of the annual fall retreat.
- Fall 2008 Pertinent advising forms and materials will be posted on the revised Theatre & Dance web site for easy access by all students and advisors.
- Annually Open advisor meeting sessions will be held for students to meet with available faculty advisors. These sessions will occur within two weeks of the beginning of course enrollment periods for the summer/fall and spring terms.
- Ongoing New faculty will be assigned an academic advising mentor to assist with training in the academic advising program.
- AY 2010-11 Theatre & Dance faculty will conduct a comprehensive review of advising processes to ensure that processes model best practices and appropriate technologies.

**Strategic Direction 6:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will enhance student learning through financial support of students. The program will seek additional employment opportunities for students in on-campus co-curricular laboratories. The program will continue actively to seek funding for additional scholarships to increase the quality of students in its undergraduate programs.*

- Spring 2008 Request recurring funds for Implementation of competitive freshmen scholarships
- Spring 2008 Pursue increase of student payroll budget to offset increases in minimum wage
- AY 2008-09 Reevaluate policies that restrict incoming freshmen from receiving scholarships from current departmental scholarship funds.
- Annually Continue the practice of dedicating funds from school matinee performances to endowed scholarship funds.
- Ongoing Research and implement alternative plans to supplement student scholarship funds

**Goal III:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will promote partnerships and public service to enhance educational, social, cultural, and economic well-being.*

**Strategic Direction 1:** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will continue to develop innovative partnerships to enhance the program's historic and emerging program strengths. These partnerships will further the program's ability to provide a distinctive educational experience*

*to its students through professional application. These partnerships will inform students of developments and opportunities within their discipline but also provide guidance and contacts to enhance future academic and career opportunities.*

Annually	As per Goal II, SD 3, partnerships will be developed with appropriate New York organizations to support the rotating internship program.
Spring 2008	MTSU Theatre & Dance will support the inaugural season of the Tennessee Shakespeare Festival through assistance in the development of educational programming and advising for the establishment of guidelines for student internship programs. Other material assistance is to be determined.
Fall 2008	MTSU Theatre & Dance faculty will reassess the relationship and future partnership with Tennessee Shakespeare Festival and develop plans for that partnership.
Ongoing	MTSU Theatre & Dance will provide encouragement through ongoing opportunities for students to learn about internship opportunities through presentations to select classes. Special focus will be given to internship partners, including Tennessee Repertory Theatre, Tennessee Shakespeare Festival, and future official partnerships.
Ongoing	MTSU Theatre & Dance will seek continually to enhance the relationship with Tennessee Repertory Theatre. Such enhancements may include co-production opportunities, joint development of new works, and the addition of regular performance internships.
Ongoing	MTSU Theatre & Dance will continue to provide regular educational interactions with Rutherford County school students and teachers through innovative application of arts-in-education programs.

***Strategic Direction 2:*** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will assist the University with planning and implementing a Middle Tennessee State University Centennial 2011 celebration. The program will plan and host celebratory activities and events such as commissioning creative works and presenting a centennial season celebrating works of the past.*

***Strategic Direction 3:*** *MTSU Theatre & Dance will continue to develop partnerships with alumni, corporate and community constituents in an effort to improve the economic well-being of its programs.*

Spring 2008	Theatre & Dance faculty will work with alumni and community volunteers to implement the inaugural Murder in May fundraiser.
Summer 2008	Theatre & Dance faculty will work with alumni and community volunteers to determine the efficacy of producing Murder in May or another event as an annual fundraiser.
AY 2008-09	Theatre & Dance faculty, with support of alumni and community constituents, will develop the Friends of Theatre & Dance as a mechanism to provide enhanced communications with and funding from the community.