

We have received your CPR Report for: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre.

Submitted: 06/30/2003-11:24:41 am  
Institution: Columbus State University  
Status: Triggered Review  
Level: Bachelors  
Acronym: BFA  
Deg. & Major: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre  
CIP: 50050100  
College/Div.: College of Arts & Letters  
Dept: Department of Theatre  
BOR process: Yes  
Future Plans: Expand and enhance  
Resource Plans: add  
Supplemental file: Findings&Plans\_Theatre.doc (MSW)

If you have questions or concerns regarding this report, contact Dr. Bettie Horne, Office of Academic Affairs, Board of Regents. email: [bettie.horne@usg.edu](mailto:bettie.horne@usg.edu) ph:404-651-8391

We have received your CPR Report for: BSED in Theatre Education.

Submitted: 06/30/2003-11:29:27 am  
Institution: Columbus State University  
Status: Triggered Review  
Level: Bachelors  
Acronym: BSED  
Deg. & Major: BSED in Theatre Education  
CIP: 13132400  
College/Div.: College of Arts & Letters  
Dept: Department of Theatre  
BOR process: Yes  
Future Plans: Expand and enhance  
Resource Plans: add  
Supplemental file: Findings&Plans\_Theatre.doc (MSW)

If you have questions or concerns regarding this report, contact Dr. Bettie Horne, Office of Academic Affairs, Board of Regents. email: [bettie.horne@usg.edu](mailto:bettie.horne@usg.edu) ph:404-651-8391

CPR  
Findings and Plans for the  
Department of Theatre at  
Columbus State University

**Summary:** Despite facilities, funding, and number of faculty below optimal, the Department of Theatre delivers a program of high quality. See Table 1.

Table 1: Indicators of Quality in the Theatre Program

Process measures:

- The department assigns advanced students as mentors to lower lever students.
- Students are required to present resumes and portfolios for review by the faculty as a whole.  
It is common for reviews to lead to changes in educational and career objectives.
- Students are required to pass major courses with a grade of C or better.
- Students take a pre-test and exit exam; 70 percent is required to pass the latter.

Output measures:

- It has received national accreditation.
- The NAST Visitors' Report declared the department "one of the outstanding theatre programs" in the state. The Report concurred with the department's identification of "individual attention and a solid foundation" "quality of students," and "quality of productions" as strengths. Further, "[v]isits to classes revealed a close and supportive relationship between student and instructor. The students appeared to be fully engaged and a level of respect for peers and the instructor was evident."
- Its degrees, the BFA and the BSEd reflect a higher degree of professionalism than most comparator institutions in the University System.

Outcome measures:

- Students are competitive at Southeastern Theatre Convention auditions for summer employment.
- Alumni are competitive in graduate schools at the master's and doctor's levels.

The department recruits statewide off-campus and addresses retention via its program for mentoring of lower level students by advanced students and the faculty's annual review of portfolios. Enrollment has increased but the number of graduates has yet not reached the threshold set by CPR policy. Faculty believe that most freshman have little theatre experience and hence unrealistic expectations regarding rehearsal time. The attrition rate is thus sharper than for other majors. If this is the case, recruitment would seem the factor more subject to improvement.

**Plans:** The newly appointed department chair in consultation with the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters will review recruitment, retention and funding plans. The BFA has been modified to offer a Technical Track which will complement the existing curriculum now titled the Performance Track. It is expected that the innovation will augment initial recruitment and retain some students whose portfolio reviews result in exiting the Performance Track. Finally, site selection and design has begun for new physical facilities on the Uptown Campus. Judging from the experience of the Schwob School of Music, high quality facilities will strengthen recruitment.

**Resources:** The new physical plant will be funded by a capital campaign donation. The operating budget will be addressed by expanded patron support and state funds.

**Productivity:** This is a function of recruiting and retention. The new track and prospect of new facilities mean that the Department has more to offer potential students. There will an emphasis on increasing patron support; the Department of Art and the Schwob School of Music suggest that there is substantial potential. With additional funds, more extensive recruitment can be conducted and, more importantly, more scholarships can be awarded. With regard to recruitment, the department already has strengths of student mentoring and annual portfolio reviews. While retention is subject to the need for continuous improvement, recruitment seems to be the strategic factor for the Department of Theatre.