



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

## Memo

To: Board of Trustees

From: Dr. Devin Stephenson, President

Date: February 21, 2023

Re: Forthcoming Recommendation of A.S. Degree Program Closures in Fine and Performing Arts

---

In accordance with Board Policy GP 3.00 Service Area and Interagency Relationships, the Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees has primary responsibility for determining which programs and services will meet the educational needs of the service area and for determining the effectiveness and efficiency of the programs and services in meeting those needs. In support of this responsibility, College leadership regularly reviews program offerings and services to determine effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and financial sustainability. These reviews include extensive internal program analysis, continuous improvement, and strategic planning processes and are conducted by College faculty, staff, and administration in consultation with NWF students, program advisory boards, and partners within local business and industry. These reviews produce recommendations for the establishment and closure of programs as appropriate and are a means by which the College remains steadfast in its mission.

Following an internal approval process, the College plans to bring forward a recommendation to close the following degree programs in Fine and Performing Arts: the Associate in Science (A.S.) in Music Production Technology Program and the A.S. in Theatre and Entertainment Technology Program. The College determined continued viability of the programs based on program-specific data, notably enrollment, retention, and workforce demand. Enrollment and retention rates remain low, and the degrees do not align with high-wage or high-demand jobs in the College's service area. Students planning to enter these fields are best positioned for employment after completing a baccalaureate program. Students who complete the A.A. degree with fine and performing arts electives have greater flexibility with credit transfer and are recommended to take this pathway if they plan to complete a bachelor's degree in the arts. Current enrollment data is presented below for your review.

<b>Program Title</b>	<b>Number Students Enrolled</b>
A.S.- Music Production Technology	11
A.S.- Theatre and Entertainment Technology, Acting Specialization	6
A.S.- Theatre and Entertainment Technology, Costuming Specialization	1
A.S.- Theatre and Entertainment Technology, Dance Specialization	1
A.S.- Theatre and Entertainment Technology, Music Theatre Specialization	1
A.S.- Theatre and Entertainment Technology, Technical Theatre Specialization	1

The current cohort of students will complete the program at the end of Spring 2024 and will not be impacted by this recommendation, as courses necessary for graduation will continue to be taught as electives.

Closure of the programs facilitates enhanced service to our students intending to pursue these academic and career paths by encouraging completion of an Associate in Arts (A.A.) program where electives will be focused in these program areas. No program faculty positions will be eliminated as a result of these degree program closures, as certificates in these programs will continue to be taught. Additionally, coursework across these disciplines maintains strong enrollment, and program faculty are vital the success of Mattie Kelly Fine and Performing Arts programming, operations, and student advisement and engagement.

This informational memo provides the College's Board of Trustees with advance notice of the forthcoming recommendation for program closure. The recommendation for closure will follow at the March 2023 College Board of Trustees meeting.