

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Hedgecoth, David](#); [Rawls, Jason](#)
Cc: [Sutherland, Sue](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Griffiths, Rob](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Ibrahim, Michael](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Martin, Andrew](#); [Renga, Dana](#); [Horn, David](#)
Subject: Proposal to establish an undergraduate minor in Hip Hop Studies
Date: Friday, June 12, 2026 2:58:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

David and Jason:

The proposal from the School of Music to establish an undergraduate minor in Hip Hop Studies was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on June 11, 2026. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

No additional level of internal review/approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next [Annual Activities Report](#) to the University Senate (July 2026).

The Office of the University Registrar will work with you on any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Sue Sutherland (.43), or me.

I wish you success with this important program development.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

University Square South, 15 E. 15th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

614-292-5881 Office

smith.70@osu.edu

Assisted by:

Katie Reed

Executive Assistant

(614) 292-5672



March 13, 2026

W. Randy Smith, Vice Provost
Council on Academic Affairs
Bricker Hall
CAMPUS

Dear Randy:

I am pleased to endorse the proposal by the School of Music to create a minor in Hip Hop Studies, effective Autumn 2026.

This minor provides important intellectual training in the field of hip hop. It also offers students training on the business side of the hip hop industry. The minor does not duplicate any other currently offered at Ohio State. It has the full support of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Martin
Associated Dean for Undergraduate Education
Professor, Department of Sociology



February 27, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

On Tuesday, January 27th, the Arts and Humanities Subcommittee 1 reviewed a request from the School of Music and the Department of African American and African Studies (AAAS) to establish a new minor in Hip Hop Studies. As described in the proposal, the minor would be “a groundbreaking initiative that acknowledges Hip Hop as a vital cultural force and scholarly domain.” The minor would be one of the first programs of its kind at a major research university, offering students the chance to critically examine Hip Hop on artistic, historical, political, and social grounds. The minor in Hip Hop Studies would offer a unique interdisciplinary bridge between School of Music and AAAS for students drawn to coursework in both departments. An impressive initial enrollment of 30-40 students is projected. Advising and support of the minor would be shared equally between AAAS and the School of Music.

A&H Subcommittee 1 voted unanimously to approve the request with no contingencies. The proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.

Warm regards,

Tom Dugdale
Associate Professor
Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts
Chair, ASC A&H Subcommittee 1



December 5, 2025

To the Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum,

The School of Music is excited to offer a minor in Hip Hop Studies. This curricular addition builds on existing resources and partnerships within the College and EHE. We anticipate robust enrollment in this program.

Advising support and guidance will be shared between the School of Music and AAAS. Please let me know if there are questions and/or concerns.

David M. Hedgecoth, PhD

Professor, Associate
Director Chair,
Undergraduate Studies
School of Music

Affiliated Faculty, Center for Latin American Studies
College of Arts and Sciences

The Ohio State University



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of African American and African Studies
486 University Hall 230 North Oval Mall Columbus, OH
43210

(614) 292-3700 | <http://www.aaas.osu.edu>

December 5, 2025

Dear Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

The Department of African American and African Studies (AAAS) is excited to offer a minor in Hip Hop Studies in conjunction with the School of Music.

This minor builds on recent faculty hires in AAAS and in the School of Music as well as ongoing collaboration with the School of Music.

We anticipate robust enrollment in this program.

Since the minor will exist in both areas, advising support and guidance will be shared equally between AAAS and the School of Music.

Please let me know if there are questions and/or concerns.

Yours,

Spencer Dew

Associate Teaching Professor, Comparative Studies and African American and African Studies
Director of Undergraduate Studies, African American and African Studies
Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, Comparative Studies
The Ohio State University

Dew.50@osu.edu / 7732909401

The proposed **Hip Hop Studies Minor** at **The Ohio State University** is a groundbreaking initiative that acknowledges Hip Hop as a vital cultural force and scholarly domain. This minor is designed to equip students with a deep understanding of Hip Hop's artistic, historical, political, and social dimensions through interdisciplinary coursework and practice-based learning.

As one of the first programs of its kind at a major research one institution, The Ohio State Hip Hop Studies minor builds on Ohio State's strengths in African American and African Studies, Popular Music and Creative Practice. This program is co-developed and will be co-led by tenure-track faculty Dr. Jason Rawls and Stevie "Dr. View" Johnson, specializing in Hip Hop pedagogy, music production, and cultural storytelling—making it uniquely positioned to shape national conversations around Hip Hop education and cultural equity.

The minor addresses strong and growing demand from students seeking academic pathways that reflect their identities, communities, and creative passions. Students across majors have consistently shown interest in courses related to Black music history, DJ culture, social justice, and digital arts. The minor expands Ohio State's curricular and potential co-curricular offerings in ways that align with its land-grant mission and institutional commitments—while also preparing students for careers in music, education, arts administration, media, and cultural policy.

These courses combine academic rigor with cultural relevance, and many of them already have strong enrollment histories or have been developed in response to student feedback. The minor is structured to allow students from a wide range of disciplines to engage with Hip Hop while fulfilling upper-division credit hour requirements.

Benefits to Students and the University

- **Students** will gain critical literacy in Black cultural expression, digital production, music history, and community-based research.
- **The University** will benefit from increased enrollment, interdisciplinary collaboration, and visibility as a national leader in innovative, justice-oriented curriculum.
- **The Region** will gain culturally competent graduates equipped to work in the arts, education, and public sectors, helping bridge academic knowledge with grassroots engagement.

This minor supports Ohio State's broader commitment to inclusive excellence, experiential learning, and high-impact practices—bringing Hip Hop from the margins to the center of academic inquiry.

Proposal for the Ohio State Hip Hop Studies Minor

1. General Information

- **Name of Proposed Minor:** The Hip Hop Studies Minor
- **Proposed Implementation Date:** Autumn 2026
- **Academic Units Responsible:** School of Music; Department of African & African American Studies (AAAS)

2. Rationale

The proposed Hip Hop Studies Minor recognizes Hip Hop as a globally influential cultural and artistic movement that intersects music, education, social justice, race, and identity. This minor creates an academic space for students to critically explore and engage with Hip Hop culture while gaining transferable skills in creative production, historical analysis, community engagement, and critical theory.

Assessment Data: In recent years, the School of Music and AAAS have noted significant student demand for coursework focused on Black music traditions, DJ culture, and contemporary Black arts. Student evaluations, informal focus groups, and academic advising data indicate a strong interest in curricular offerings that center cultural relevance, creative practice, and social impact. Additionally, the 2023 external program review for the School of Music recommended further expansion of culturally sustaining pedagogies and curriculum aligned with current student interests. This proposal directly addresses those recommendations.

Unique Characteristics: Ohio State is uniquely equipped to support this minor. The university houses nationally renowned faculty in creative practice, Hip Hop studies, and Black sound studies. Ohio State's Motion Lab and Urban Arts Space provide physical infrastructure to support performance-based learning and experiential coursework. Moreover, the minor complements major university initiatives on diversity, equity, and interdisciplinary teaching.

Benefits:

- **Students:** Gain cultural literacy, analytical tools, and creative competencies essential for careers in education, the arts, and media.
- **Institution:** Enhances Ohio State's reputation as a leader in culturally relevant and forward-thinking curriculum.
- **Region/State:** Produces graduates equipped to contribute to Ohio's vibrant arts, culture, and education sectors.

3. Relationship to Other Programs / Benchmarking

Existing Programs: The School of Music currently offers minors in Music and Music, Media, and Enterprise. The AAAS department offers courses that touch on Black expressive culture but does not currently offer a dedicated minor focused on Hip Hop.

Overlap and Concurrence: The proposed minor may intersect with AAAS, English, Theatre, and Art programs. Letters of concurrence have been received from relevant departments. This proposal represents the first formal attempt to establish a Hip Hop-focused academic minor at Ohio State. *The following departments have sent letters of concurrence: Department of Teaching and Learning.*

Previous Submissions: This is the first time this minor is being submitted for approval.

4. Student Enrollment We anticipate an initial enrollment of 30–40 students annually, drawn primarily from majors in Music, African American and African Studies, English, Education, Sociology, and Arts Administration. We expect growth in enrollment as awareness of the program expands and alumni success stories are established.

5. Curricular Requirements

The proposed minor consists of both required and elective courses, with an emphasis on critical theory, hands-on production, and culturally grounded analysis. These courses reflect the diversity of Hip Hop's impact and engage with topics ranging from beat making to Black music lineage.

Note: No course is repeatable in the minor.

Minimum Required Credit Hours: 15 credit hours, with at least 6 credit hours at the 3000 level or above.

Required Courses (6 credit hours):

- **AFAMAST/MUSIC 3450 – The Art & Politics of Hip Hop**
 - Explores the four elements of Hip Hop alongside critical social theory. (3 credits)
- **AFAMAST/MUSIC 3354 – Hip Hop Sampling & Beat Making**
 - Introductory course in music production and beat-making. (3 credits)

Elective Courses (Choose at least 9 but up to 12 credit hours from the course listing below):

- **AFAMAST/MUSIC 2288 – Bebop to Doowop to Hip Hop: The Rhythm & Blues Tradition** (3 credits)
- **AFAMAST/MUSIC 3355 – Hip Hop Beat Making & Sampling II** (3 credits; prerequisite: AFAMAST/MUSIC 3354)
- **MUSIC 2233 – The Art & Skills of Being a DJ** (3 credits)

- **AFAMAST/MUSIC 2050 – Hip Hop 50 – Hip Hop Music, History & Culture** (3 credits)
- **AFAMAST/MUSIC 3460 – Digging in the Crates as Archival Research** (3 credits; pending approval)
- **MUSIC 2271 Introduction to Music Enterprise** (3 credits)
- **MUSIC 5638 – Audio Recording** (3 credits) (Prereq: Course work in Circuit Analysis from Electrical Engineering or equivalent or permission of instructor)
- **TLCTE 5455 – Hip Hop Literacies** (3 credits)

Course Status:

- TLCTE 5455, AFAMAST/MUSIC 2271, AFAMAST/MUSIC 2050, MUSIC 5638, AFAMAST/MUSIC 3450, MUSIC 2233, AFAMAST/MUSIC 3354, and AFAMAST/MUSIC 3355 are currently offered.
- AFAMAST/MUSIC 3460 is newly proposed and awaiting approval.

Facilities & Equipment: Courses will use Ohio State’s Motion Lab, the Urban Arts Space, School of Music recording studios (rooms N250 and N352), and DJ workstations (room N210). No adverse impact is expected on other programs.

Advising: In order to declare the minor, students must meet with Tony Valle (last name A-L) or Emily Klepinger (last name M-Z) prior to the filing of the graduation application. Please call 614-292-6961 to make an appointment.

University Resources: No additional library resources or advising hires are required initially, though we anticipate applying for funding for expanded production equipment as enrollment grows.

Next Steps:

- Waiting on course approval for **AFAMAST/MUSIC 3460** (Digging in the Crates).

**The Ohio State University
College of Arts and Sciences**

Hip Hop Studies Minor (HIPHOP-MN)

Coordinating Advisor contact info Contact Arts Advising
(614.292.6961 to schedule a meeting with:
Tony Valle (by last name A-L)
Emily Klepinger (by last name M-Z)

The Hip Hop minor requires a minimum of 15 credits of course work.

This minor is designed to equip students with a deep understanding of Hip Hop's artistic, historical, political, and social dimensions through interdisciplinary coursework and practice-based learning. This minor creates an academic space for students to critically explore and engage with Hip Hop culture while gaining transferable skills in creative production, historical analysis, community engagement, and critical theory.

Required Courses (6 credits):

Students must take the following courses:

- AFAMAST/MUSIC 3450 The Art and Politics of Hip Hop
- AFAMAST/MUSIC 3354 Hip Hop Sampling & Beat Making

Electives (9 credits):

Students should complete the remaining credits to total 15 credits for the minor. Some courses in this minor have prerequisites; please consult the course bulletin before enrolling. This may be from the courses listed below:

- AFAMAST/MUSIC 2288 – Bebo to Doowop to Hip Hop: The Rhythm & Blues Tradition (3 credits)
- AFAMAST/MUSIC 3355 – Hip Hop Sampling & Beat Making II (3 credits; prerequisite: MUSIC 3354)
- MUSIC 2233 – The Art & Skills of Being a DJ (3 credits)
- AFAMAST/MUSIC 2050 – Hip Hop 50 - Hip Hop Music, History and Culture (3 credits)
- AFAMAST/MUSIC 3460 – Digging in the Crates as Archival Research (3 credits; pending approval)
- MUSIC 2271 Introduction to Music Enterprise (3 credits)
- MUSIC 5638 – Audio Recording (3 credits) (Prereq: Course work in Circuit analysis from electrical engineering or equivalent, or with permission of instructor)
- TLCTE 5455 – Hip Hop Literacies (3 credits)

Hip Hop Minor program guidelines

The following guidelines govern this minor:

Required for graduation No

Credit hrs required A minimum of 15 credit hours. 1000 level courses shall not be counted in the minor. At least 6 credits must be at the 3000-level or above.

Transfer and EM credit hours allowed

A student is permitted to count up to 6 total hours of transfer credit and/or credit by examination.

Overlap with the GE A student is permitted to overlap up to 6 credit hours between the GE and the minor.

Overlap with the major and additional minor(s)

- The minor must be in a different subject than the major.
- The minor must contain a minimum of 12 hours distinct from the major and/or additional minor(s).

Grades required

- Minimum C- for a course to be counted on the minor.
- Minimum 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio required for the minor.
- Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count on the minor.
- No more than 3 credit hours of course work graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory may count toward the minor

X193 credits No more than 3 credit hours

Declaring the minor

In order to declare the minor, students must meet with Tony Valle (last name A-L) or Emily Klepinger (last name M-Z) prior to the filing of the graduation application. Please call 614-292-6961 to make an appointment.

Approval of Coursework

Students who complete the minor following the guidelines on this sheet need only verify with their academic advisor that the minor appears complete on the degree auditing system. No approval from the School of Music or Department of African American Studies is required.

Approval for courses not listed on this form to apply to the minor program:

Students must obtain the approval from the School of Music Associate Director to apply courses not listed on this form toward the Hip Hop minor. Please email klepinger.13@osu.edu to request approval.

College of Arts and Sciences
Curriculum and Assessment Services
154 Denney Hall, 164 W. 17th Ave.
<http://artsandsciences.osu.edu>

11/18/25 DMH

Friday, September 12, 2025 at 11:23:27 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Re: Adding your class to the Hip Hop Studies Minor
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 5:55:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Richardson, Elaine
To: Rawls, Jason
CC: Johnson, Stevie

Dear Drs. Stevie and J,

I am honored to be part of the HH Studies Minor. I usually teach Hiphop Literacies EDUTL 5455 and have a graduate and undergraduate section. I don't know if you needed to know that but just in case.

Thanks, y'all.

Blessings, Dr. E 🌺

Elaine Richardson
Professor of Literacy Studies
Department of Teaching and Learning
The Ohio State University

From: Rawls, Jason <rawls.5@osu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Richardson, Elaine <richardson.486@osu.edu>
Cc: Johnson, Stevie <johnson.10467@osu.edu>
Subject: Adding your class to the Hip Hop Studies Minor

Greetings Dr. E!

Great talking to you earlier!

Can you please send us an email saying that it is ok if we add your course, EDCL 5455: Hip Hop Literacies to the Hip Hop Studies Minor that we are creating?

Thank you,

Jason Rawls
[Assistant Professor of Hip Hop](#)
The Ohio State University
College of Arts and Sciences
African American & African Studies (AAAS)
[School of Music](#)

[Did you catch my appearance on THE TONIGHT SHOW w Jimmy Fallon](#)

[#YouthCulturePower \(YCP\)](#)
[The Book \(click here\)](#)

[The Album \(click here\)](#)
www.polarentllc.com
www.itsjayare.com

[My Ted Talk](#)

Hip Hop Minor

	A	B	C	D	E	F
				Goal C: explore interrelationships of music, musical practice, media and commercial, social and economicmic entrepreneurships	Goal D: Develop an understanding of the history and styles of music technologies that shaped an increasingly globalized culture	Goal E: Develop capacity for analysis of and creative problem solving in the convergence of music, culture, and commerce in society through perspectives from music communications, business, cultural studies and techonolgy
1	Core Courses (Required)	Goal A: Develop basic understanding of cultural, economic, and media theory as they pertain to music	Goal B: gain an understanding of historical and current patterns and practices in the music and entertainment industries			
2	AFAMAST/MUSIC 3450	beginning	beginning	beginning	beginning	beginning
3	AFAMAST/MUSIC 3354		beginning	beginning	beginning	beginning
4						
5						
6	Electives:					
7	AFAMAST/MUSIC 2050			beginning	beginning	intermediate
8	AFAMAST/MUSIC 2233	beginning	beginning	intermediate	intermediate	intermediate
9	MUSIC 2271				intermediate	advanced
10	AFAMAST/MUSIC 2288	beginning	beginning	beginning		
11	AFAMAST/MUSIC 3355		intermediate	intermediate	intermediate	intermediate
12	AFAMAST/MUSIC 3460	advanced		intermediate	beginning	advanced
13	TLCTE 5455		intermediate	intermediate		intermediate
14	MUSIC 5638	beginning	beginning	beginning		beginning
15						
16						
17						
18						

Fiscal Unit/Academic Org	School Of Music - D0262
Administering College/Academic Group	Arts and Sciences
Co-administering College/Academic Group	
Semester Conversion Designation	New Program/Plan
Proposed Program/Plan Name	Hip Hop Studies Minor
Type of Program/Plan	Undergraduate minor
Program/Plan Code Abbreviation	HIPHPMN
Proposed Degree Title	Hip Hop Studies Minor

Credit Hour Explanation

Program credit hour requirements		A) Number of credit hours in current program (Quarter credit hours)	B) Calculated result for 2/3rds of current (Semester credit hours)	C) Number of credit hours required for proposed program (Semester credit hours)	D) Change in credit hours
Total minimum credit hours required for completion of program				15	
Required credit hours offered by the unit	Minimum			6	
	Maximum			15	
Required credit hours offered outside of the unit	Minimum			0	
	Maximum			6	
Required prerequisite credit hours not included above	Minimum			0	
	Maximum			0	

Program Learning Goals

Note: these are required for all undergraduate degree programs and majors now, and will be required for all graduate and professional degree programs in 2012. Nonetheless, all programs are encouraged to complete these now.

- Program Learning Goals**
- Students will gain critical literacy in Black cultural expression, digital production, music history, and community-based research.
 - Students will gain cultural literacy, analytical tools, and creative competencies essential for careers in education, the arts, and media.

Assessment

Assessment plan includes student learning goals, how those goals are evaluated, and how the information collected is used to improve student learning. An assessment plan is required for undergraduate majors and degrees. Graduate and professional degree programs are encouraged to complete this now, but will not be required to do so until 2012.

Is this a degree program (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) or major proposal? No

Program Specializations/Sub-Plans

If you do not specify a program specialization/sub-plan it will be assumed you are submitting this program for all program specializations/sub-plans.

Pre-Major

Does this Program have a Pre-Major? No

Attachments

- Hip Hop Minor curriculum map Revised 02 06 26.xlsx: curriculum map
(Curricular Map(s). Owner: Banks,Eva-Marie)
- Revised Hip Hop Studies Minor Proposal (3) Final 02 09 26.pdf: Revised Program Proposal
(Program Proposal. Owner: Banks,Eva-Marie)
- Hip Hop Minor ASC Endorsement Letter.doc: Letter of support from College
(Letter from the College to OAA. Owner: Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal)
- New Minor Hip Hop Studies Letter of Motion.pdf: Letter A&H1 subcommittee to ASCC
(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal)

Comments

- Please see feedback email sent to department 02-09-2026 RLS
Thank you for fixing the dance course - could you please address the other two issues with course listings and pre-requisites put forth in the feedback? I will re-send feedback email for reference. RLS *(by Steele,Rachel Lea on 02/13/2026 11:22 AM)*
- Revised documents address the committee concerns. Dance 2152 has been removed from the proposal. A different course more in line with the minor will be developed and proposed at a later date. *(by Banks,Eva-Marie on 02/09/2026 12:27 PM)*
- Sent back to update a few things *(by Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal on 12/05/2025 01:24 PM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Banks,Eva-Marie	11/21/2025 09:33 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Hedgecoth,David McKinley	11/21/2025 09:34 AM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	12/05/2025 01:24 PM	College Approval
Submitted	Banks,Eva-Marie	12/09/2025 11:53 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Hedgecoth,David McKinley	12/09/2025 06:00 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	01/12/2026 01:17 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Steele,Rachel Lea	02/09/2026 12:00 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Banks,Eva-Marie	02/09/2026 12:28 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Hedgecoth,David McKinley	02/12/2026 06:12 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	02/12/2026 10:17 AM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Steele,Rachel Lea	02/13/2026 11:22 AM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Banks,Eva-Marie	02/13/2026 11:35 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Hedgecoth,David McKinley	02/23/2026 02:29 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	02/23/2026 03:56 PM	College Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	03/17/2026 10:55 AM	ASCCAO Approval
Approved	Martin,Andrew William	03/17/2026 08:40 PM	ASC Approval
Pending Approval	Reed,Kathryn Marie Johnson,Jay Vinton Griffiths,Robert Peter	03/17/2026 08:40 PM	CAA Approval