



JULY 8, 2026

Information Shared with Marywood Music, Theatre, and Dance Students Today

Today, Marywood University met with our Music, Theatre, and Dance students to share several important updates about the future of our programs. We are pleased to share that information with our broader community as well.

Marywood University is excited to announce the creation of a new School of Communication, bringing together Theatre, Multimedia Communication, Film, TV & Digital Production, Music Production, Journalism & Public Communication, Sports Media, Digital Influencing, Arts Administration (Multimedia Communication and Theatre), and other creative disciplines into one dynamic academic home designed to prepare students for today's rapidly evolving creative industries.

For much of Marywood University's history, the Theatre program was housed within the Communication Arts Department. The creation of the new School of Communication marks a return to that longstanding organizational structure, bringing the Multimedia Communication and Theatre programs together once again within a shared academic home. Within the new School of Communication, the Theatre program will work collaboratively alongside the University's Multimedia Communication programs, creating new opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and creative partnerships while maintaining Theatre's unique artistic identity.

This new structure reflects the realities of today's entertainment and communications industries, where actors, directors, designers, producers, musicians, filmmakers, digital storytellers, and content creators increasingly work together across live performance, film, streaming, audio production, digital media, voice performance, and creative entrepreneurship. By bringing these disciplines together, students will enjoy expanded opportunities for collaboration, access to new technologies and production experiences, and even stronger preparation for successful careers while preserving the artistic excellence, close faculty mentorship, and individualized education that have always defined a Marywood Theatre education.

Marywood is also announcing the administrative alignment of Music Education with the School of Education, strengthening advising, certification support, and professional preparation while preserving the outstanding musical instruction, ensembles, lessons, and faculty mentorship that students value.

Music Performance and Music Therapy students will continue to study with the same outstanding faculty within the Insalaco School of Visual and Performing Arts while benefiting from an even greater focus on artistic development and professional preparation.

At a time when many colleges and universities are reducing or eliminating arts programs, Marywood has chosen a different path. These changes are designed to strengthen our Music, Theatre, and Communication programs by creating new opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and career preparation while preserving the qualities that have long distinguished a Marywood education.

We recognize that many students became concerned by inaccurate information circulating before they had an opportunity to hear directly from the University. We understand those concerns and appreciated the opportunity to meet with our Music, Theatre, and Dance students today to share these announcements firsthand, answer their questions, and provide accurate information about what these changes mean for their educational experience.

One topic that generated understandable questions involved applied lessons, and we want to provide additional clarification. The University has not placed any limit on a student's ability to take applied lessons beyond those required for their degree. Students remain free to pursue additional applied instruction if they wish.

What has changed is our commitment to providing greater academic oversight. We found that too many students were progressing into their junior and senior years without completing required Core or major courses, delaying graduation and creating unnecessary financial burdens. Because federal and state financial aid programs are intended to support the published curriculum required to earn a degree, the University has a responsibility to ensure students are making satisfactory academic progress toward graduation each semester before approving coursework beyond degree requirements.

This is not a new credit structure, but rather an effort to remain true to the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) curriculum that was in place when students were accepted into the program.

Once students have satisfied the academic requirements necessary to remain on track for timely graduation each semester, they are welcome to enroll in additional applied lessons if they wish.

However, because those lessons may fall outside the published curriculum required for their degree, alternative methods of payment may be necessary. This approach is not intended to limit artistic growth. Rather, it is designed to help students graduate on time, protect their financial aid eligibility, and reduce the likelihood of unnecessary additional educational costs or student loan debt.

We also want to address questions that have been raised about the Sette LaVerghetta Center. While it is one of Marywood's older campus buildings, it is safe for students, faculty, and staff. Following the flooding that occurred during January's extreme cold weather, all necessary repairs were completed, and an independent environmental remediation firm was retained to professionally remediate the affected areas and confirm that the building was safe for occupancy.

Over the past year, the University has invested more resources in the Sette LaVerghetta Center than any other building on campus, including a complete HVAC upgrade in the theatre, new HVAC controls in multiple classrooms and common spaces, additional classroom thermostats, and continued system improvements underway this summer. The heating issues experienced last winter were part of a campus-wide system issue affecting multiple buildings and have since been repaired. We remain committed to continuing these investments so that our students have safe, comfortable, and effective spaces in which to learn, rehearse, perform, and create.

Our commitment has never been to diminish the arts. It is to ensure they continue to grow, evolve, and thrive. These organizational changes, together with our continued investment in our facilities, reflect our belief that the future of the arts is worth investing in. We are confident they will position Marywood students not only to succeed, but to lead in the creative and performing arts professions of tomorrow.