The undergraduate program in theatre arts is based on the philosophy that the best way to develop future artists is to expose them to rigorous professional practice within the framework of a liberal arts and sciences education.

Department of Theatre Arts students take workshop courses in acting, directing, design, technical theatre, stage management, and playwriting and complement them with classes in dramatic literature, history, and criticism. Students also are encouraged to explore a range of courses throughout the University. Around 25 public productions are staged each year, providing additional opportunities to learn the theatre craft and to develop a personal artistic vision.

**Student Auditions for Theatre Arts Productions**

Theatre arts majors are encouraged to audition for the department's productions in general auditions at the beginning of the fall semester. Students normally present a three-minute audition consisting of two contrasting pieces. From this audition, callback lists are posted for major productions offered during the first semester. Additional general auditions normally are scheduled in early November and in March.

Students in other majors are welcome to audition for the department's productions, as are community members (see "Productions and Auditions" in the Department of Theatre Arts section of the Catalog). For academic considerations, theatre arts majors are given first consideration for roles.

Materials and information about the general auditions are available from the Department of Theatre Arts office in August. Notices of auditions for all subsequent productions are posted on the department's online call board.

**Requirements**

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in theatre arts requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 36 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program.

The curriculum for the theatre arts major constitutes the basic experience for all undergraduate theatre arts students. Registration in some courses for the major requires special permission. Contact the Department of Theatre Arts for details.

Students who transfer to the University from other accredited two- or four-year institutions must demonstrate that they have successfully completed course work equivalent to the basic requirements of the Department of Theatre Arts and the University of Iowa before they may take advanced-level electives. If a student completes the courses listed for the approved 2 Plus 2 Plan theatre arts program at Kirkwood Community College, Iowa Central Community College, or Indian Hills Community College in Iowa, those courses are automatically counted toward requirements for the theatre arts major at the University of Iowa. Consult the department's director of undergraduate studies for more information.

In planning course work, especially electives, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a B.A. may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the course work is accepted toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average; but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students majoring in theatre arts may count a maximum of 20 s.h. earned in Department of Theatre Arts elective courses (prefix THTR) toward the Bachelor of Arts. Theatre arts elective credit beyond 20 s.h. is listed on their transcript but does not count toward the 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students must complete a course's prerequisites before registering for the course. They normally complete the following required courses within their first four semesters in the major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2140</td>
<td>Acting I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2402</td>
<td>Script Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2410</td>
<td>History of Theatre and Drama I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2411</td>
<td>History of Theatre and Drama II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who complete THTR:1400 Theatre and Society: Ancients and Moderns or THTR:1401 Theatre and Society: Romantics and Rebels before declaring a major in theatre arts must consult the undergraduate director before they may register for THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I or THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II.

The B.A. with a major in theatre arts requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theatre Foundation Courses</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Theatre Arts Courses</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dramatic Literature Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Lab</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capstone Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theatre Foundation and Elective Theatre Arts Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2140</td>
<td>Acting I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2215</td>
<td>Theatre Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2402</td>
<td>Script Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2411</td>
<td>History of Theatre and Drama II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective theatre arts courses (approved courses include THTR:2301 and all courses numbered THTR:3000 or above)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2200</td>
<td>Elements of Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:3230</td>
<td>Scene Design I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Design**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2200</td>
<td>Elements of Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:3230</td>
<td>Scene Design I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THTR:3240  Costume Design I  3
THTR:3250  Lighting Design I  3
THTR:4240  Costume Design II  3

Dramatic Literature

One of these:
THTR:1410  Musical Theatre History  3
THTR:2405  Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance  3
THTR:2450  Animals and Performance in American Culture  3
THTR:3401  Shakespeare the Dramatist  3
THTR:3415  Cultural Diversity and Identity  3
THTR:3421  Performing Autobiography  3
THTR:4402  Dramas of the Spirit  3
THTR:4420  Dramatic Theory  3
THTR:4630  London Performance Study  3

Production Courses

Students must earn a total of 3 s.h. in THTR:2220 Production Lab. The course requires students to work backstage on a department production. All students must serve as a crew member on at least one production (normally earning 1 s.h. per production). They have options to earn 2 s.h. for serving as a crew chief or taking on other advanced responsibilities.

With the instructor’s approval, students who enroll in one of these two elective production courses (THTR:3501 Stage Management I or THTR:3221 Technology for the Entertainment Industry) also may enroll in the required production course THTR:2220 during the same semester or session and may complete an additional project, earning 1 s.h. for THTR:2220 in addition to the credit they earn for the elective course. Students may earn a maximum of 1 s.h. of required production course credit for THTR:2220 this way.

Required Production Lab
This course:
THTR:2220  Production Lab  3

Elective Production Courses
THTR:3501  Stage Management I  3

Capstone Course

One of these:
THTR:4180  Directing I  3
THTR:4690  Senior Seminar: The Artist as Creator  3

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in theatre arts have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Students who wish to graduate with honors should declare their intention to the department’s honors advisor. To graduate with honors in the major, students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in the major; complete at least 12 s.h. of work in Department of Theatre Arts honors courses, which must include THTR:4692 Honors Theatre Arts; and give a creative presentation or performance or write an honors thesis.

Students who elect to give a creative presentation or performance must have senior standing and must complete at least one honors course before their proposed project may be approved. They must apply to the director of theatre for approval of their project by April 1 of the year before the project is to be scheduled (projects are not guaranteed a production slot). They also must enroll in THTR:4692 Honors Theatre Arts during the semester in which they complete their presentation or performance.

For more information about theatre arts honors requirements, contact the Department of Theatre Arts office.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the theatre arts major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the fifth semester begins: three courses in the major chosen from THTR:2402 Script Analysis, THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I, and THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II

Before the seventh semester begins: three more courses in the major, two semesters of production credit, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: two more courses in the major and one more semester of production credit

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Theatre Arts (B.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2402</td>
<td>Script Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education course)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Social Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring

THTR:2140  Acting I  3
Theatre Arts, B.A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2215</td>
<td>Theatre Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Natural Sciences with a lab</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second Year**

**Fall**

- THTR:2220 Production Lab | 1
- THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I (also GE: Historical Perspectives) | 3
- Major: theatre arts design course | 3
- GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning | 3
- GE: World Languages or elective course | 3-5
- Elective course | 2-3

**Hours** | 15

**Spring**

- THTR:2220 Production Lab | 1
- THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II (also GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts) | 3
- Major: advanced theatre arts elective course | 3
- GE: International and Global Issues | 3
- GE: World Languages or elective course | 3-5
- Elective course | 2-3

**Hours** | 15-18

**Third Year**

**Fall**

- THTR:2220 Production Lab | 1
- Major: advanced theatre arts elective course | 3
- GE: Natural Sciences without a lab | 3
- GE: Values and Culture | 3
- GE: World Languages or elective course | 3-5
- Elective course | 2

**Hours** | 15-17

**Spring**

- Major: theatre arts dramatic literature course | 3
- Major: theatre arts elective course | 3
- GE: World Languages or elective course | 3-5
- Elective course | 3
- Elective course | 3

**Hours** | 15-17

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

- Major: theatre arts elective course | 3
- Major: theatre arts elective course | 3
- Major: theatre arts elective course | 3
- Major: theatre arts elective course | 2
- Elective course | 4

**Hours** | 15

**Spring**

- Major: theatre arts elective course | 3
- Major: theatre arts elective course | 3
- Major: theatre arts elective course | 3
- Major: theatre arts senior project | 3

**Hours** | 15

**Summer**

- ENGL:1200 The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature) | 3

**Elective course** | 3

**Hours** | 15

**Total Hours** | 120-130

1 General Education (GE) courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses. For more information, view the General Education Program.

2 Students may use their elective courses to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

3 Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

**Iowa Degree in Three**

University of Iowa majors who are strongly motivated can graduate with a degree in three years under the Iowa Degree in Three. The program is available to students who can complete more semester hours each term than they would on the Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Students sign an agreement during their first semester of enrollment; meet with an advisor at least once a semester to review their plans and progress; take courses during summer sessions, if necessary; meet specific course checkpoints; and maintain the grade-point average required for the major.

Students are allowed to bring Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or transfer credit upon admission to reduce the number of semester hours required for their degree. They should consult their advisor about the program.

**Academic Plan**

**Theatre Arts (B.A.)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective course</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Second Year

#### Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2215</td>
<td>Theatre Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2220</td>
<td>Production Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2411</td>
<td>History of Theatre and Drama II (also GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Major: theatre arts elective course** | 3 | 
**GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning** | 3 | 
**GE: World Languages or elective course** | 3-5 |

**Elective course (2-3)** | 3

**Hours** | 18-21

#### Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:2220</td>
<td>Production Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Major: dramatic literature course** | 3 | 
**Major: theatre arts elective course** | 2 |

**GE: Natural Sciences with a lab** | 3 | 
**GE: World Languages or elective course** | 3-5 |

**Elective course (non-theatre arts)** | 3 |

**Elective course** | 3

**Hours** | 18-20

### Summer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**GE: Social Sciences** | 3 | 
**Elective course** | 3

**Hours** | 6

### Third Year

#### Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR:4180</td>
<td>Directing I (or spring semester senior seminar)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Major: theatre arts elective course (acting topics)** | 3 | 
**Major: theatre arts elective course** | 3 | 
**Major: theatre arts elective course** | 3 | 

**GE: International and Global Issues** | 3 | 
**Elective course (non-theatre arts)** | 3 |

**Elective course** | 3

**Hours** | 18

#### Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Major: theatre arts elective course (advanced playwriting)** | 3 | 
**Major: theatre arts elective course (arts management)** | 3 | 
**Major: theatre arts elective course** | 3 | 

**GE: Values and Culture** | 3 | 
**Elective course (non-theatre arts)** | 3 | 

**Elective course** | 3

**Hours** | 18

**Total Hours** | 120-129

---

1. General Education (GE) courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses. For more information, view the General Education Program.

2. Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

3. Students may use their elective courses to complete requirements for the major.

### Career Advancement

The National Association of Colleges and Employers recently listed the top skills employers look for in college graduates. They include communication skills, strong work ethic, teamwork skills, initiative, interpersonal skills, problem solving skills, analytical skills, and flexibility/adaptability. Theatre is an excellent way to learn these skills. As a theatre major, students learn to think critically, read carefully, write well, and present themselves in front of others—skills vital for many careers.

Theatre graduates find work as actors, directors, designers, critics, stage managers, writers, producers, and agents. Some work in film and television, some decide to teach, and some combine scholarship with production or performance with teaching. Others go into business or law.

After graduating, many students move to a metropolitan area to find work. In theatre, there are no guarantees. Success takes talent, patience, hard work, and a bit of luck, yet most graduates who want to work in this exciting profession find a way to do so.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.