

Theatre Arts, MFA

Academic Plans

Sample Plans of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Theatre Arts, MFA

- Acting Subprogram
- Design Subprogram
- Directing Subprogram
- Dramaturgy Subprogram
- Playwriting Subprogram
- Stage Management Subprogram

Acting Subprogram

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
Minimum of 64 s.h. of graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^a		
Graduate College program GPA of at least 3.00 is required. ^b		
MFA actors are required to audition for all mainstage productions presented by the department and to perform as cast. Every student is required to perform a minimum of one role each semester.		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
THTR:5600	Orientation to Graduate Studies	1
THTR:5890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
THTR:6140	Advanced Acting ^{c, d}	3
THTR:6150	Vocal Technique ^{c, e}	3
THTR:6160	Movement Technique ^{c, e}	3
Hours		13
Spring		
THTR:6140	Advanced Acting ^{c, d}	3
THTR:6150	Vocal Technique ^{c, e}	3
THTR:6160	Movement Technique ^{c, e}	3
Dramatic literature course ^f		3
Hours		12
Second Year		
Any Semester		
MFA Qualifying Evaluation ^g		
Hours		0
Fall		
THTR:6140	Advanced Acting ^{c, d}	3
THTR:6150	Vocal Technique ^{c, e}	3
THTR:6160	Movement Technique ^{c, e}	3

Dramatic literature course ^f		3
Hours		12
Spring		
THTR:4695	Performance Practicum	1
THTR:6150	Vocal Technique ^{c, e}	3
THTR:6160	Movement Technique ^{c, e}	3
THTR:6605	Graduate Career Preparation	2
Hours		9
Third Year		
Fall		
THTR:3875	Topics in Digital Performing Arts	3
THTR:6160	Movement Technique ^{c, e}	3
THTR:6170	Graduate Acting: Special Topics	3
Hours		9
Spring		
THTR:6150	Vocal Technique ^{c, e}	3
THTR:7601	MFA Thesis ^h	3
Dramatic literature course ^f		3
Exam: Master's Final Exam ⁱ		
Hours		9
Total Hours		64

- a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- b Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.
- c Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher each time they take THTR:6140, THTR:6150, and THTR:6160.
- d Take three times for 3 s.h. each.
- e Take five times for 3 s.h. each.
- f Complete at least 9 s.h. for the requirement; see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- g Usually completed at the end of the second year. Students need to complete a special assignment designed by each program and meet with their Graduate Committee for an evaluation of work to date. This evaluation will determine whether the student will continue their work into the third year and proceed to do a thesis.
- h Consists of a written analysis of the actor's personal creative process and an annotated resume of roles performed at Iowa.
- i Thesis defense.

Design Subprogram

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
Minimum of 70 s.h. of graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^{a, b}		
Graduate College program GPA of at least 3.00 is required. ^c		
Hours		0

First Year

Fall

THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^d	1
THTR:5600	Orientation to Graduate Studies	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^e	2
	Design primary area course ^f	3
	Design secondary area course ^g	3

Hours 10

Spring

THTR:3211	Period Styles ^h	3
THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^d	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^e	2
	Design primary area course ^f	3
	Dramatic literature course ⁱ	3

Hours 12

Second Year

Any Semester

MFA Qualifying Evaluation ^j		
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Hours 0

Fall

THTR:4270	Scenic Art ^h	3
THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^d	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^e	3
	Design primary area course ^f	3
	Elective course ^k	3

Hours 13

Spring

THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^d	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^e	3
	Design secondary area course ^g	3
	Dramatic literature course ⁱ	3
	Elective course ^k	3

Hours 13

Third Year

Fall

THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^d	2
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^e	3
	Elective course ^k	3
	Elective course ^k	3

Hours 11

Spring

THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^d	2
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^e	3
THTR:7601	MFA Thesis ^l	3
	Dramatic literature course ⁱ	3
	Exam: Master's Final Exam ^m	

Hours 11

Total Hours 70

- a Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in all subprogram courses, with the exception of THTR:5200.
- b Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- c Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours

to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.

d Take THTR:5200 each semester of enrollment (six times total), for a minimum of 1 s.h. per semester and a minimum of 6 s.h. total. Students are permitted to enroll in the course for a maximum total of 12 s.h.

e Take THTR:6691 each semester of enrollment (six times total) for a maximum of 5 s.h. per semester and a minimum of 16 s.h. total.

f Take three courses (9 s.h.) from one of the following areas: 1) Scenic Design: THTR:3230, THTR:4230, THTR:5230; 2) Costume Design: THTR:3240, THTR:4240, THTR:5240; 3) Lighting Design: THTR:3250, THTR:4250, THTR:5250.

g Take two courses (6 s.h.) from scenic design, costume design, lighting design, sound design, or media design. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

h THTR:3211 and THTR:4270 are both typically offered only once every three years.

i Complete at least 9 s.h. for the requirement; see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

j Usually completed at the end of the second year. Students need to complete a special assignment designed by each program and meet with their Graduate Committee for an evaluation of work to date. This evaluation will determine whether the student will continue their work into the third year and proceed to do a thesis.

k See the General Catalog for list of approved courses and work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.

l The thesis is the culmination of the body of production work created at the University of Iowa over a three year period. This work includes designs for the Mainstage, Gallery, and Iowa New Play Festival seasons. The thesis begins with a personal design philosophy and is supplemented with written analysis and supporting photographs for each production. The format of the document must comply with the guidelines as outlined by the program committee and the Thesis Manual of the Graduate College.

mThesis defense.

Directing Subprogram

Course	Title	Hours
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Academic Career

Any Semester

Minimum of 69 s.h. of graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website.^a

Graduate College program GPA of at least 3.00 is required.^b

Students are required to direct at least two plays or workshops every year.

Hours 0

First Year

Fall

THTR:5410	Dramaturgy	3
THTR:5600	Orientation to Graduate Studies	1
THTR:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:6180	Director's Seminar ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	3

Hours 13

Spring

THTR:6180	Director's Seminar ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	1
Design course ^e		3
Dramatic literature course ^f		3
Elective course ^g		3

Hours **13**

Second Year**Any Semester**

MFA Qualifying Evaluation ^h		0
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Hours **0**

Fall

THTR:6180	Director's Seminar ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	1
Acting and voice course ⁱ		3
Design course ^e		3
Elective course ^g		3

Hours **13**

Spring

THTR:6180	Director's Seminar ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	1
Dramatic literature course ^f		3
Elective course ^g		3

Hours **10**

Third Year**Fall**

THTR:6180	Director's Seminar ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	1
THTR:7601	MFA Thesis ^{g, j}	3
Acting and voice course ⁱ		3

Hours **10**

Spring

THTR:6180	Director's Seminar ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	1
THTR:7601	MFA Thesis ^{g, j}	3
Dramatic literature course ^f		3
Exam: Master's Final Exam ^k		

Hours **10**

Total Hours **69**

- a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- b Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.
- c Take six times for 3 s.h. each. Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher each time they take THTR:6180.
- d Take six times, once for 3 s.h. and five times for 1 s.h.
- e Complete two design courses (at least 6 s.h.); see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- f Complete at least 9 s.h. for the requirement; see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- g Students take 12 s.h. in electives from four theatre arts courses (prefix THTR) numbered 3000 or above. Additional

courses from outside the department may be reviewed and approved by the student's advisor.

h Usually completed at the end of the second year. Students need to complete a special assignment designed by each program and meet with their Graduate Committee for an evaluation of work to date. This evaluation will determine whether the student will continue their work into the third year and proceed to do a thesis.

i Complete two acting and voice courses (at least 6 s.h.); see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

j Thesis typically consists of a full-length work presented by the department and a written document; includes analysis and preparation materials. The production and the written document form the basis of the student's final evaluation.

k Thesis defense.

Dramaturgy Subprogram

Course	Title	Hours
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Academic Career

Any Semester
Minimum of 67 s.h. of graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^a

Graduate College program GPA of at least 3.00 is required. ^b

Hours **0**

First Year**Fall**

THTR:5420	Dramaturgy Practicum ^c	3
THTR:5600	Orientation to Graduate Studies	1
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	3
Dramatic literature course ^e		3

Hours **10**

Spring

THTR:5420	Dramaturgy Practicum ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	3
Dramatic literature course ^e		3
Elective course ^f		3

Hours **12**

Second Year**Any Semester**

MFA Qualifying Evaluation ^g		0
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Hours **0**

Fall

THTR:5410	Dramaturgy ^h	3
THTR:5420	Dramaturgy Practicum ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	3
Dramatic literature course ^e		3

Hours **12**

Spring

THTR:5420	Dramaturgy Practicum ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	3
Dramatic literature course ^e		3

Hours **9**

Third Year

THTR:5420	Dramaturgy Practicum ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^d	3

Dramatic literature course ^e	3
Elective course ^f	3
Hours	12
Spring	
THTR:5420 Dramaturgy Practicum ^c	3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop ^d	3
THTR:7601 MFA Thesis ⁱ	3
Dramatic literature course ^e	3
Exam: Master's Final Exam ^j	
Hours	12
Total Hours	67

- a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- b Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.
- c Take six times for 3 s.h. each. Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher each time they take THTR:5420.
- d Take six times for 3 s.h. each.
- e Complete at least 18 s.h. for the requirement and earn a grade of B-minus or higher in all dramatic literature courses. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- f Complete at least 6 s.h. of elective coursework. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- g Usually completed at the end of the second year. Students need to complete a special assignment designed by each program and meet with their Graduate Committee for an evaluation of work to date. This evaluation will determine whether the student will continue their work into the third year and proceed to do a thesis.
- h Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in THTR:5410.
- i Should consist of a significant piece of dramaturgical research that, with subsequent revision and editing, would be publishable in a journal of dramaturgy, history, theory, or criticism.
- j Thesis defense.

Playwriting Subprogram

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
Minimum of 67 s.h. of graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^a		
Graduate College program GPA of at least 3.00 is required. ^b		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
THTR:5600	Orientation to Graduate Studies	1
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^c	3
	Dramatic literature course ^d	3
Hours		10

Spring		
THTR:6300	Guest Seminar ^e	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^c	3
	Dramatic literature course ^d	3
Hours		12

Second Year		
Any Semester		
	MFA Qualifying Evaluation ^f	
Hours		0

Fall		
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^c	3
	Dramatic literature course ^d	3
	Elective course ^g	3
Hours		12

Spring		
THTR:6300	Guest Seminar ^e	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^c	3
	Elective course ^g	3
Hours		12

Third Year		
Fall		
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^c	3
	Elective course ^g	3
Hours		9

Spring		
THTR:6300	Guest Seminar ^e	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting ^c	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop ^c	3
THTR:7601	MFA Thesis ^h	3
	Exam: Master's Final Exam ⁱ	
Hours		12
Total Hours		67

- a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- b Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.
- c Take six times for 3 s.h. each.
- d Complete at least 9 s.h. for the requirement and earn a grade of B-minus or higher in all dramatic literature courses. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- e Take three times for 3 s.h. each.
- f Usually completed at the end of the second year. Students need to complete a special assignment designed by each program and meet with their Graduate Committee for an evaluation of work to date. This evaluation will determine whether the student will continue their work into the third year and proceed to do a thesis.
- g Complete at least 9 s.h. of elective coursework. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

h Consists of a full-length play along with a short (4-6 pages) Introduction placing the work in the context of the student's work in THTR:7300. The thesis play must represent substantial creative work undertaken in the third year of enrollment, and may consist of a play newly written in the third year or a major revision of a play that was read and/or produced in the first two years.

i Thesis defense.

Stage Management Subprogram

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
Minimum of 69 s.h. of graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^a		
Graduate College program GPA of at least 3.00 is required. ^b		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
THTR:3501	Stage Management I ^c	3
THTR:5500	Stage Management: Special Topics ^{d, e}	3
THTR:5600	Orientation to Graduate Studies	1
THTR:6500	Stage Management Seminar ^{d, f}	2
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^{d, g}	1
Design course ^h		3
Hours		13
Spring		
THTR:4180	Directing I	3
THTR:5510	Production Management ⁱ	3
THTR:6500	Stage Management Seminar ^{d, f}	2
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^{d, g}	1
Dramatic literature course ^j		3
Hours		12
Second Year		
Any Semester		
MFA Qualifying Evaluation ^k		
Hours		0
Fall		
THTR:3510	Introduction to Arts Management	3
or THTR:4510	or Arts Leadership Seminar	
THTR:5500	Stage Management: Special Topics ^{d, e}	3
THTR:6500	Stage Management Seminar ^{d, f}	2
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^{d, g}	2
Elective course ^l		3
Hours		13
Spring		
THTR:6500	Stage Management Seminar ^{d, f}	2
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^{d, g}	1
Design course ^h		3
Dramatic literature course ^j		3
Elective course ^l		3
Hours		12

Third Year

Fall		
THTR:5500	Stage Management: Special Topics ^{d, e}	3
THTR:6500	Stage Management Seminar ^{d, f}	2
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^{d, g}	1
THTR:7601	MFA Thesis ^m	1
Elective course ^l		3
Hours		10
Spring		
THTR:6500	Stage Management Seminar ^{d, f}	2
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^{d, g}	2
THTR:7601	MFA Thesis ^m	2
Dramatic literature course ^j		3
Exam: Master's Final Exam ⁿ		
Hours		9
Total Hours		69

a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.

b Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.

c Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in THTR:3501.

d Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher each time they take THTR:5500, THTR:6500, and THTR:6691.

e Take three times for 3 s.h. each.

f Take six times for 2 s.h. each.

g Take six times, four times for 1 s.h. each and two times for 2 s.h. each.

h Complete two stage management design courses (at least 6 s.h.); see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

i Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in THTR:5510.

j Complete at least 9 s.h. for the requirement; see the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

k Usually completed at the end of the second year. Students need to complete a special assignment designed by each program and meet with their Graduate Committee for an evaluation of work to date. This evaluation will determine whether the student will continue their work into the third year and proceed to do a thesis.

l Complete at least 9 s.h. of elective coursework. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

m Students must complete a thesis during the third year that will identify and describe their stage management philosophy which they have developed during their time in the program at Iowa.

n Thesis defense.