

Theatre Arts, BA

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 fall productions. Additional general auditions typically 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. Notices of auditions for all subsequent productions are posted on the department's online call board.

Learning Outcomes

All theatre students have special interests they want to pursue—acting, writing, design, and more. To make this possible, the department offers beginning and advanced courses in every theatrical area.

No matter which theatre arts area is chosen, the overall experience as a theatre student will give each major the ability to:

- apply knowledge of theatre's role in society throughout history to creative and/or scholarly work;
- explore and apply understanding of a dramatic script to creative and/or scholarly work;
- collaborate with others to produce a play;
- talk about and assess a student's work and the work of others;
- articulate an emerging artistic vision that starts to inform a student's work and thinking about the arts; and
- write well about theatre.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in theatre arts requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 36 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average 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 GE CLAS Core. Students can add a focus area to their theatre arts degree—music theatre. See "Music Theatre Track" below.

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 coursework equivalent to the basic requirements of the Department of Theatre Arts and the University of Iowa before they may take electives numbered 3000 and above. 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 coursework, especially electives, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a BA 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 coursework 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 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.

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2140	Acting I	3
THTR:2402	Script Analysis	3
THTR:2410	History of Theatre and Drama I	3
THTR:2411	History of Theatre and Drama II	3

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 BA with a major in theatre arts requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Theatre Foundation Courses	15
Design Course	3
Dramatic Literature Course	3
Production Lab	3
Theatre Arts Electives	12

Theatre Foundation

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
THTR:2140	Acting I	3
THTR:2215	Theatre Technology	3
THTR:2402	Script Analysis	3
THTR:2410	History of Theatre and Drama I	3
THTR:2411	History of Theatre and Drama II	3

Design Course

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
THTR:3230	Scene Design I	3

THTR:3240	Costume Design I	3
THTR:3250	Lighting Design I	3
THTR:3260	Sound Design for the Theatre	3
THTR:4240	Costume Design II	3

Dramatic Literature

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
THTR:1410	Musical Theatre History	3
THTR:2320	Playwriting in a Global World	3
THTR:2405	Staging Americans: U.S. Cultures Through Theatre and Performance	3
THTR:3401	Topics in Dramatic Literature	3
THTR:3402	Shakespeare the Dramatist	3
THTR:3421	Performing Autobiography	3
THTR:4420	Dramatic Theory	3
THTR:4630	London Performance Study	3

Production Lab

Students must earn a total of 3 s.h. in the required production lab course, 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 the elective production course (THTR:3501 Stage Management I) also may enroll in the required production lab 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

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
THTR:2220	Production Lab	3

Elective Production Course

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:3501	Stage Management I	3

Theatre Arts Electives

Theatre arts students must earn a total of 12 s.h. in theatre arts elective coursework or a total of 9 s.h. if they select the music theatre track. Students may not use a course to fulfill more than one requirement for the major, so in selecting the additional elective coursework, they may not choose a course they have already used to fulfill another requirement. Three of the four elective courses must be numbered 3000 or above; the other course may be from any level. A minimum of two courses must be selected from one of the following areas: Acting, Directing, and Music Theatre; Design; Playwriting, Dramatic Literature, and Dramaturgy; or Stage Management, Arts Management, and Technical Theatre.

Acting, Directing, and Music Theatre

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2170	Acting for Musical Theatre (unless music theatre track student selects this course as musical theatre foundation course)	3
THTR:2175	Musical Theatre Performance: Special Topics (unless music theatre track student selects this course as musical theatre foundation course)	3
THTR:2880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:2890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
THTR:3110	Voice for the Actor	3
THTR:3120	Theatre Movement	3
THTR:3140	Acting II	3
THTR:3151	Voice for the Actor II	3
THTR:3160	Movement Styles	3
THTR:3165	Stage Combat	3
THTR:3315	Standup Comedy Practicum	3
THTR:3421	Performing Autobiography	3
THTR:3530	Musical Theatre Workshop	2
THTR:3615	Action! Engage! Art! Creative Placemaking for the Public Good	3
THTR:3630	Special Topics in Theatre Arts	3
THTR:3876	Video for Performance	3
THTR:3895	Performance, Art, and New Technologies in Society	3
THTR:4144	Acting: Special Topics	3
THTR:4180	Directing I	3

Design

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:2890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
THTR:3202	Graphic Design for the Entertainment Industry	2-3
THTR:3208	Mask and Puppet Crafts	3
THTR:3211	Period Styles	3
THTR:3230	Scene Design I	3
THTR:3240	Costume Design I	3
THTR:3250	Lighting Design I	3
THTR:3260	Sound Design for the Theatre	3
THTR:3270	Entertainment Design	3
THTR:3876	Video for Performance	3
THTR:3895	Performance, Art, and New Technologies in Society	3
THTR:4230	Scene Design II	3
THTR:4240	Costume Design II	3
THTR:4250	Lighting Design II	3
THTR:4270	Scenic Art	3

Playwriting, Dramatic Literature, and Dramaturgy

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:3301	Playwriting II	3
THTR:3310	Undergraduate Playwriting Workshop	1-3
THTR:3315	Standup Comedy Practicum	3
THTR:3320	Writing for Film	3
THTR:3401	Topics in Dramatic Literature	3
THTR:3402	Shakespeare the Dramatist	3
THTR:3421	Performing Autobiography	3
THTR:3430	Women on Stage	3
THTR:3630	Special Topics in Theatre Arts	3
THTR:4420	Dramatic Theory	3
THTR:5420	Dramaturgy Practicum	arr.

Stage Management, Arts Management, and Technical Theatre

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:2890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
THTR:3501	Stage Management I	3
THTR:3510	Introduction to Arts Management	3
THTR:3615	Action! Engage! Art! Creative Placemaking for the Public Good	3
THTR:3876	Video for Performance	3
THTR:3895	Performance, Art, and New Technologies in Society	3
THTR:5500	Stage Management: Special Topics	3
THTR:5510	Production Management	3

Music Theatre Track

Students have the option of adding a focus to their study plan by completing a specialized track in music theatre. This optional track provides a gateway for students to develop and enhance the basic performance skills necessary for a music theatre performer to be successful. Students are not required to audition to enter the track, but auditions are required to enroll in music theatre performance courses. The track requires a minimum of 51 s.h. of coursework. Each student's program of study will culminate in a final presentation, to be determined in consultation with the track advisor. To enroll in the music theatre track, contact the music theatre track advisor in the Department of Theatre Arts.

The BA with a major in theatre arts with the music theatre track requires the following coursework.

Course #	Title	Hours
	Theatre Foundation Courses (see "Theatre Foundation" list above)	15
	Design Course (see "Design Course" list above)	3
	Production Lab (see "Production Lab" list above)	3
	Dramatic Literature Requirement	3
	Theatre Arts Elective Courses	9
	Musical Theatre Foundation Courses	5-6
	Dance Courses	8-9

Music Courses	5
Total Hours	51-53

Theatre Courses

Students may opt to use some of their coursework to satisfy requirements for the theatre arts major.

Dramatic Literature Requirement

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
THTR:1410	Musical Theatre History	3

Theatre Arts Elective Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
THTR:3110	Voice for the Actor	3
THTR:3120	Theatre Movement	3
THTR:3140	Acting II	3

Musical Theatre Foundation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
THTR:2170	Acting for Musical Theatre	3
THTR:2175	Musical Theatre Performance: Special Topics	3
MUS:3530	Musical Theatre Workshop	2

Dance Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
DANC:1020	Beginning Jazz	3
DANC:1120	Continuing Jazz	3
DANC:2020	Intermediate Jazz	3
One of these:		
DANC:1025	Beginning Hip Hop Dance	3
DANC:1030	Beginning Ballet	3
DANC:1040	Beginning Modern Dance	3
DANC:1130	Continuing Ballet	3
DANC:1140	Continuing Modern Dance	3
DANC:2020	Intermediate Jazz (if not used to satisfy the above requirement)	3
DANC:2025	Intermediate Hip Hop Dance	3
DANC:2030	Majors Intermediate Ballet	3
DANC:2040	Majors Intermediate Contemporary Movement Practices	3
DANC:3030	Major Ballet I	3
DANC:3040	Major Contemporary Movement Practices I	3
DANC:3530	Major Ballet II	2
DANC:3540	Major Contemporary Movement Practices II	2
DANC:4030	Major Ballet III	2
DANC:4040	Major Contemporary Movement Practices III	2

Music Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
This course (either section 1 or section 26):		
MUS:1020	Performance Instruction for Nonmajors (when topic is voice; taken four times for 1 s.h. each)	4
One of these:		
MUS:1001	Group Piano I: Non-Music Majors	1
MUS:1002	Group Piano II: Non-Music Majors	1

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 minimum University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of 3.33; a GPA of at least 3.50 in the major; complete at least 6 s.h. of work in Department of Theatre Arts honors courses, of which 3 s.h. must be a course numbered 3000 or above; and complete THTR:4692 Honors Theatre Arts.

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. If they wish to include their project in the department's production season as a workshop production, they must submit an application form 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 during the semester in which they complete their presentation or performance.

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

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.

Career Advancement

The National Association of Colleges and Employers lists the top skills employers look for in college graduates; these 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.

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:2140 Acting I, THTR:2215 Theatre Technology, 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 coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

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.

Sample Plan 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, BA

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
THTR:2220	Production Lab ^b	1
THTR:2402	Script Analysis	3
RHET:1030	Rhetoric	3 - 4
	or ENGL:1200 or The Interpretation of Literature	
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^c		3

CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		15-16
Spring		
THTR:2140	Acting I	3
THTR:2220	Production Lab ^b	1
THTR:2410	History of Theatre and Drama I ^{d, e}	3
RHET:1030	Rhetoric	3 - 4
or ENGL:1200	or The Interpretation of Literature	
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^c		4
Elective course ^f		2
Hours		16-17
Second Year		
Fall		
THTR:2220	Production Lab ^b	1
THTR:2411	History of Theatre and Drama II ^{d, e}	3
Major: theatre arts design course		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^g		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		2
Hours		16-17
Spring		
THTR:2215	Theatre Technology	3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^g		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		2
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		15-16
Third Year		
Fall		
Major: advanced theatre arts elective course ^h		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^g		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		2
Hours		15-16
Spring		
Major: theatre arts dramatic literature course		3
Major: advanced theatre arts elective course ^h		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^g		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		16-17
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Major: advanced theatre arts elective course ^h		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Hours		15
Spring		
Major: advanced theatre arts elective course ^h		3
Elective course ^f		3

Elective course ^f	3
Elective course ^f	3
Elective course ^f	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ⁱ	
Hours	15
Total Hours	123-129

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

b Students must earn a total of 3 s.h. in THTR:2220.

c GE CLAS Core 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.

d Students who complete THTR:1400 or THTR:1401 before declaring a major in theatre arts must consult the undergraduate director before they may register for THTR:2410 or THTR:2411.

e Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

f Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

g Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

h Students must earn a total of 12 s.h. in theatre arts elective coursework. Students may not use a course to fulfill more than one requirement for the major. Three of the four elective courses must be numbered 3000 or above; the other course may be from any level. A minimum of two courses must be selected from one of the following areas: Acting, Directing, and Music Theatre; Design; Playwriting, Dramatic Literature, and Dramaturgy; or Stage Management, Arts Management, and Technical Theatre.

i Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.