

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 are also encouraged to explore a range of courses throughout the university. Around 20 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 are typically 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 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 arts 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 arts major will give each student the ability to:

- apply knowledge of theatre arts' 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 arts.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in theatre arts requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 37 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 must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Students can add the music

theatre focus area to their theatre arts degree; see the section titled "Music Theatre Track."

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 may fulfill theatre arts major requirements with equivalent courses taken at those institutions. To have a course considered for equivalency, students should submit the syllabus from their completed course. 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, Eastern Iowa Community College District, or Indian Hills Community College in Iowa, those courses are automatically counted toward requirements for the theatre arts major at the University of Iowa. Students must earn a minimum of 24 s.h. in the UI departments of Theatre Arts or Dance, or the School of Music. Consult the theatre arts 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 the 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 THTR:2140 Acting I, THTR:2402 Script Analysis, THTR:2410 History of Theatre and Drama I, and THTR:2411 History of Theatre and Drama II within their first four semesters in the major.

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 Arts Foundation Courses	16
Design Course	3
Dramatic Literature Course	3
Production Lab	3
Theatre Arts Electives	12

Theatre Arts Foundation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
THTR:2000	Orientation to Theatre Arts	1
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	Scenic 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:2320	Playwriting in a Global World	3
THTR:2404	Musical Theatre History	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 captain or taking on other advanced responsibilities.

With the instructor's approval, students who enroll in the elective production course (THTR:3501 Stage Management I) may also 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.

Theatre Arts Electives

Theatre arts 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, so in selecting the additional elective coursework, they may not choose a course they have already used to fulfill another requirement.

At least 9 s.h. in elective courses must be numbered 3000 or above; the other 3 s.h. may be from any level. A minimum of 6 s.h. must be selected from one of the following areas: Acting, Directing, and Music Theatre; Design; Playwriting, Dramatic Literature, and Dramaturgy; or Stage Management, Engagement, and Digital Media.

Acting, Directing, and Music Theatre

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2170	Acting for Musical Theatre	3
THTR:2175	Musical Theatre Performance: Special Topics	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:3875	Topics in Digital Performing Arts	3
THTR:3876	Projection Design	3
THTR:3895	Performance, Art, and New Technologies in Society	3
THTR:4144	Acting: Special Topics	3
THTR:4180	Directing I	3
THTR:4185	Directing: Special Topics	3

Design

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:2890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
THTR:3208	Mask and Puppet Design	3
THTR:3211	Period Styles	3
THTR:3230	Scenic Design I	3
THTR:3235	Production Design for Film, Television, and New Media	3
THTR:3240	Costume Design I	3
THTR:3245	Costume Design for Film, Television, and New Media	3
THTR:3250	Lighting Design I	3
THTR:3260	Sound Design for the Theatre	3
THTR:3270	Entertainment Design	3
THTR:3875	Topics in Digital Performing Arts	3
THTR:3876	Projection Design	3
THTR:3895	Performance, Art, and New Technologies in Society	3
THTR:4230	Scenic 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	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, Engagement, and Digital Media

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:3875	Topics in Digital Performing Arts	3
THTR:3876	Projection Design	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 53 s.h. of coursework. Each student's program of study may 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.

Requirements	Hours
Theatre Arts Foundation Courses (see preceding "Theatre Arts Foundation Courses" list)	16
Design Course (see preceding "Design Course" list)	3
Production Lab (see preceding "Production Lab" list)	3
Dramatic Literature Requirement	3
Music Theatre Foundation Courses	14
Dance Courses	9
Music Courses	5

Dramatic Literature Requirement

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
THTR:2404	Musical Theatre History	3

Music Theatre Foundation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
THTR:2170	Acting for Musical Theatre	3
THTR:2175	Musical Theatre Performance: Special Topics	3

One of these:		
THTR:2176	Rehearsal and Performance of a Musical	2
MUS:3530	Musical Theatre Workshop	2
All of these:		
THTR:3110	Voice for the Actor	3
THTR:3120	Theatre Movement	3
THTR:3140	Acting II	3

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:1010	Beginning Tap	3
DANC:1025	Beginning Hip Hop Dance	3
DANC:1030	Beginning Ballet	3
DANC:1040	Beginning Modern Dance	3
DANC:1130	Continuing Ballet	3
DANC:2020	Intermediate Jazz (if not used to satisfy the preceding 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	3
DANC:3540	Major Contemporary Movement Practices II	3
DANC:4030	Major Ballet III	3

DANC:4040	Major Contemporary Movement Practices III	3
-----------	---	---

Music Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
This course (when topic is voice):		
MUS:1020	Performance Instruction for Nonmajors (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 must also 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 theatre arts majors, students learn to think critically, read carefully, write well, and present themselves in front of others—skills vital for many careers.

Theatre Arts graduates find work as actors, directors, designers, critics, stage managers, writers, producers, and agents. Some work in film and TV, 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 arts, 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.

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:2000	Orientation to Theatre Arts	1
THTR:2220	Production Lab ^b	1
THTR:2402	Script Analysis	3
RHET:1030	Rhetoric: Writing and	3 - 4
	or ENGL:1200 Communication	
	or Interpreting Literature	
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^c		3
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
	Hours	15-16

Spring		
THTR:2140	Acting I	3
THTR:2220	Production Lab ^b	1
Major: theatre arts design course ^d		3
ENGL:1200	Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
or RHET:1030	or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^c		4
Elective course ^e		2

Hours	16-17
--------------	--------------

Second Year**Fall**

THTR:2220	Production Lab ^b	1
THTR:2410	History of Theatre and Drama I ^{f, g}	3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^h		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		2

Hours	16-17
--------------	--------------

Spring

THTR:2215	Theatre Technology	3
THTR:2411	History of Theatre and Drama II ^{f, g}	3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^h		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		3

Hours	16-17
--------------	--------------

Third Year**Fall**

Major: theatre arts elective course ⁱ		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^c		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^h		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		2

Hours	15-16
--------------	--------------

Spring

Major: theatre arts dramatic literature course ^d		3
Major: theatre arts elective course (prefix THTR, numbered 3000 or above) ⁱ		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^h		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3

Hours	16-17
--------------	--------------

Fourth Year**Fall**

Major: theatre arts elective course (prefix THTR, numbered 3000 or above) ⁱ		3
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3

Hours	15
--------------	-----------

Spring

Major: theatre arts elective course (prefix THTR, numbered 3000 or above) ⁱ		3
--	--	---

Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^j

Hours	15
--------------	-----------

Total Hours	124-130
--------------------	----------------

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 or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

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 See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

e 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.

f 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.

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

h Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

i 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. At least 9 s.h. in elective courses must be numbered 3000 or above; the other 3 s.h. may be from any level. A minimum of 6 s.h. must be selected from one of the following areas: Acting, Directing, and Music Theatre; Design; Playwriting, Dramatic Literature, and Dramaturgy; or Stage Management, Engagement, and Digital Media.

j Please see Academic Calendar, on 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 Degree Services.