Theatre Arts, MFA

Academic Plans

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, MFA

• Acting Subprogram [p. 1]
• Design Subprogram [p. 1]
• Directing Subprogram [p. 2]
• Dramaturgy Subprogram [p. 3]
• Playwriting Subprogram [p. 4]
• Stage Management Subprogram [p. 5]

Acting Subprogram

Course                  Title                                      Hours
Academic Career
Any Semester

Minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website.  

Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher.  

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.

First Year

Fall

THTR:2890  Producing and Directing Digital Video  3
THTR:5600  Orientation to Graduate Studies          1
THTR:6140  Advanced Acting                          3
THTR:6150  Vocal Technique                          3
THTR:6160  Movement Technique                       3

Hours                              13

Spring

THTR:3202  Graphic Design for the Entertainment Industry  2
THTR:6140  Advanced Acting                          3
THTR:6150  Vocal Technique                          3
THTR:6160  Movement Technique                       3
Theatrical Analysis course d            3

Hours                              14

Second Year

Any Semester

MFA Comprehensive Evaluation e          0

Fall

THTR:6140  Advanced Acting                          3
THTR:6150  Vocal Technique                          3
THTR:6160  Movement Technique                       3

Hours                              9

Total Hours                        72

b Maximum of 82 s.h. may be counted toward the degree.

Design Subprogram

Course                  Title                                      Hours
Academic Career
Any Semester

Minimum of 73 s.h. of graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website.  

THTR:6170  Graduate Acting: Special Topics            3

Hours                              12

Spring

THTR:6140  Advanced Acting                          3
THTR:6150  Vocal Technique                          3
THTR:6160  Movement Technique                       3
THTR:6605  Graduate Career Preparation             1
Theatrical Analysis course d            3

Hours                              13

Third Year

Fall

THTR:4695  Performance Practicum                    2
THTR:6140  Advanced Acting                          3
THTR:6160  Movement Technique                       3
THTR:6605  Graduate Career Preparation             3

Hours                              11

Spring

THTR:6150  Vocal Technique                          3
THTR:7601  MFA Thesis                               3
Theatrical Analysis course d            3
Final Exam g                            6

Hours                              9

f Consists of two components: 1) a written analysis of the actor’s personal creative process, and an annotated resume of roles performed at Iowa; 2) the actor’s professional online presence that is developed, strengthened, and maintained during their tenure at Iowa.

g Successful completion of all requirements.
Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher. *  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Any Semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundational elective d</td>
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<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>THTR:5200 Graduate Design Seminar e</td>
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<td>THTR:5600 Orientation to Graduate Studies</td>
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<td>THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced f</td>
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<td>Design I course g</td>
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<td>Design I course g</td>
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<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td>Design II course h</td>
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<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td>Additional electives k</td>
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<td>Design III course l</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatrical Analysis course i</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THTR:7601 MFA Thesis m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam n</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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### Directing Subprogram

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td><strong>Academic Career</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Any Semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>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, b</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher. c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students are required to direct at least one play or workshop every semester, including a spring production in Iowa's New Play Festival.</td>
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<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>THTR:3230 Scene Design I</td>
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<td>THTR:5410 Dramaturgy</td>
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<td>THTR:5600 Orientation to Graduate Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>THTR:6180 Director's Seminar d</td>
<td>3</td>
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a Maximum of 82 s.h. may be counted toward the degree. Students need to be enrolled for at least 9 s.h., but no more than 15 s.h., each semester.  
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. Must maintain GPA in all coursework within the primary area of concentration and receive no letter grade below B-minus or a U (unsatisfactory) in the primary area.  
d 18 s.h. total required; work with academic advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.  
e Note: THTR:3211 and THTR:4270 are both typically offered only once every three years.  
f Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate assignments and semester hours; maximum of 5 s.h. in one semester.  
g Complete at least two courses from THTR:3230, THTR:3240, THTR:3250.  
h Complete at least two courses from THTR:4230, THTR:4240, THTR:4250; second course taken counts as a foundational elective.  
i Complete at least 9 s.h. for requirement; see the General Catalog and department website for specifics. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.  
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 a comprehensive evaluation (comps) 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 12 s.h. total required; work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.  
l Complete at least two courses from THTR:5230, THTR:5240, THTR:5250; second course taken counts as a foundational elective.  
mConsists of two parts: 1) a searchable digital portfolio that is housed in the Iowa Research Online, and a summary document (pdf); and 2) the thesis defense, which is a formal portfolio.  
n Successful completion of all requirements.
The thesis typically consists of a full-length work presented by the student. Complete at least 9 s.h. for requirement; see the General Catalog and department website for specifics. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence. 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 a comprehensive evaluation (comps) 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. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework.

One elective is typically taken, but students may opt to take two electives this semester; choose from design, digital arts, entrepreneurship, literature or dance courses. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework.

Third Year

Fall

THTR:6150 Vocal Technique 3
THTR:6180 Director's Seminar d 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 1
THTR:7601 MFA Thesis i,j 3

Hours 10

Spring

THTR:6180 Director's Seminar d 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop i,j 1
Theatrical Analysis course e 3
Elective course h 3

Hours 13

Second Year

Any Semester

MFA Comprehensive Evaluation f

Hours 0

Fall

THTR:6180 Director's Seminar d 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 1
Design course g 3
Movement course g 3
Elective course h 3

Hours 13

Spring

THTR:6180 Director's Seminar d 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop i,j 1
Theatrical Analysis course e 3
Elective course h 3

Hours 10

Third Year

Fall

THTR:6150 Vocal Technique 3
THTR:6180 Director's Seminar d 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 1
THTR:7601 MFA Thesis i,j 3

Hours 10

Spring

THTR:6180 Director's Seminar d 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 1
THTR:7601 MFA Thesis 3
Theatrical Analysis course e 3
Final Exam k 3

Hours 10

Total Hours 69

a. Maximum of 82 s.h. may be counted toward the degree.
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. Must maintain GPA in all coursework within the primary area of concentration and receive no letter grade below B-minus or a U (unsatisfactory) in the primary area.
d. Topic sequence is Applied Kinetics & Analytic Techniques; Directing Modern/Experimental Drama; Devising; Re-interpretation of Classic Plays; Production and Career Prep; Directing Film and Digital Media.
e. Complete at least 9 s.h. for requirement; see the General Catalog and department website for specifics. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.
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 a comprehensive evaluation (comps) 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. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework.
h. One elective is typically taken, but students may opt to take two electives this semester; choose from design, digital arts, entrepreneurship, literature or dance courses. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework.
i. THTR: 7601 can be taken during either fall or spring of the third year. In the semester when registered for THTR:7601, students may register for one additional course. In the semester not registered for THTR:7601, one elective is typically taken, but students may opt to take two courses this semester.
j. The 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 for the student's final evaluation.
k. Successful completion of all requirements.
Playwriting 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,b

Spring
THTR:3401 Topics in Dramatic Literature 3
THTR:5420 Dramaturgy Practicum 2
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 3
Theatrical Analysis course d 3

Total Hours 11

Third Year

Fall
THTR:5420 Dramaturgy Practicum 2
THTR:6310 Special Topics in Playwriting 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 3
Foundational elective f 3

Total Hours 11

Spring
THTR:5420 Dramaturgy Practicum 2
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 3
THTR:7601 MFA Thesis g 3
Theatrical Analysis course d 3
Final Exam h

Total Hours 11

Second Year

Any Semester

MFA Comprehensive Evaluation g

Total Hours 0

First Year

Fall
THTR:5600 Orientation to Graduate Studies 1
THTR:6310 Special Topics in Playwriting 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 3
Dramatic Literature course d 3

Total Hours 10

Spring
THTR:6300 Guest Seminar e 3
THTR:6310 Special Topics in Playwriting 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 3
Theatrical Analysis course f 3

Total Hours 12

Third Year

Fall
THTR:6310 Special Topics in Playwriting 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 3
Foundational elective h 3

Total Hours 9

Spring
THTR:6310 Special Topics in Playwriting 3
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 3
THTR:7601 MFA Thesis g 3
Theatrical Analysis course f 3
Final Exam j

Total Hours 12

Total Hours 64

Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher. e

a Maximum of 82 s.h. may be counted toward the degree. Students need to be enrolled for at least 9 s.h., but no more than 15 s.h., each semester.
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.
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d Complete at least 9 s.h. for requirement; see the General Catalog and department website for specifics. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.
e 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 a comprehensive evaluation (comps) 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.
f Select a course in collaboration, directing, or other creative area; work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate level coursework.
g 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.
h Successful completion of all degree requirements.
of concentration and receive no letter grade below B-minus or a U (unsatisfactory) in the primary area.
d Choose from THTR:3401 or other dramatic literature course.
e Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate level coursework.
f Complete at least 9 s.h. for requirement; see the General Catalog and department website for specifics. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.
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 a comprehensive evaluation (comps) 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 Select a course in directing, dramaturgy or collaboration; work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate level coursework.
i Consists of a full-length play, along with a short (4-6 pages) introduction placing the work in the context of the students’ 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 has been read and/or produced in the first two years.
j Successful completion of all requirements.

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. Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher.

Hours 0

First Year

Fall

THTR:5600 Orientation to Graduate Studies 1
THTR:5500 Stage Management: Special Topics d 3
THTR:6500 Stage Management Seminar 2
THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced 1
Design course e 3

Hours 10

Spring

THTR:4180 Directing I 3
THTR:5510 Production Management f 3
THTR:6500 Stage Management Seminar 2
THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced 1
Theatrical Analysis course g 3

Hours 12

Second Year

Any Semester

MFA Comprehensive Evaluation h

Hours 0

Fall

THTR:4510 Arts Leadership Seminar 3
THTR:5500 Stage Management: Special Topics d 3
THTR:6500 Stage Management Seminar 2
THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced 2

Focus Area elective i 3

Hours 13

Spring

THTR:6500 Stage Management Seminar 2
THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced 1
Design course e 3
Focus Area elective i 3
Theatrical Analysis course g 3

Hours 12

Third Year

Fall

THTR:5500 Stage Management: Special Topics d 3
THTR:6500 Stage Management Seminar 2
THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced 2
THTR:7601 MFA Thesis j 1
Focus Area elective i 3

Hours 11

Spring

THTR:5500 Stage Management Seminar 2
THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced 1
THTR:7601 MFA Thesis j 2
Acting course k 3
Theatrical Analysis course g 3
Final Exam l 1

Hours 11

Total Hours 69

a Maximum of 82 s.h. may be counted toward the degree. Students need to be enrolled for at least 9 s.h., but no more than 15 s.h., each semester.
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.
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d Course topics typically offered on a three-year rotation.
e Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework.
f For stage managers; work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework.
g Complete at least 9 s.h. for requirement; see the General Catalog and department website for specifics. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.
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 a comprehensive evaluation (comps) 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 at least 9 s.h. of Individualized Path electives; work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.
j May consist of either a major production or a research project.
k Select an acting course for non-graduate actors; work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework.
l Successful completion of all requirements.