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. 2]
- Directing Subprogram [p. 3]
- Dramaturgy Subprogram [p. 3]
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- Stage Management Subprogram [p. 5]

Acting Subprogram

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Career</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Semester</td>
<td>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. ^a, ^b Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher. ^c 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>THTR:2890 Producing and Directing Digital Video</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>THTR:5600 Orientation to Graduate Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>THTR:6140 Advanced Acting</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THTR:6150 Vocal Technique</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THTR:6160 Movement Technique</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THTR:3202 Graphic Design for the Entertainment Industry</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>THTR:6140 Advanced Acting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>THTR:6150 Vocal Technique</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THTR:6160 Movement Technique</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theatrical Analysis course ^d</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
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<td>Second Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any Semester</td>
<td>MFA Comprehensive Evaluation ^e</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Hours</td>
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<td></td>
<td>THTR:6150 Vocal Technique</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THTR:6160 Movement Technique</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theatrical Analysis course ^d</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Total Hours</td>
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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 Complete at least 9 s.h. for requirement; see the 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 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.
# 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. 
Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher.  

| Hours | 0 |

### First Year
**Any Semester**

| Hours | 6 |

### Fall
- **THTR:5200**  Graduate Design Seminar  
- **THTR:5600**  Orientation to Graduate Studies  
- **THTR:6691**  Projects in Theatre Advanced  
- **Design I course**  
- **Design I course**  

### Spring
- **THTR:5200**  Graduate Design Seminar  
- **THTR:6691**  Projects in Theatre Advanced  
- **Design II course**  
- **Theatrical Analysis course**  

| Hours | 9 |

### Second Year
**Any Semester**

| Hours | 12 |

### Fall
- **THTR:5200**  Graduate Design Seminar  
- **THTR:6691**  Projects in Theatre Advanced  
- **Design III course**  

### Spring
- **THTR:5200**  Graduate Design Seminar  
- **THTR:6691**  Projects in Theatre Advanced  
- **Theatrical Analysis course**  

### Hours
| 11 |

### Third Year
**Any Semester**

| Hours | 12 |

### Fall
- **THTR:5200**  Graduate Design Seminar  
- **THTR:6691**  Projects in Theatre Advanced  
- **Design III course**  

### Hours
| 5 |

### Spring
- **THTR:5200**  Graduate Design Seminar  
- **THTR:6691**  Projects in Theatre Advanced  
- **Theatrical Analysis course**  
- **MFA Thesis**  
- **Final Exam**  

### Hours
| 8 |

### Total Hours
| 73 |

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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. Note: THTR:3211 and THTR:4270 are both typically offered only once every three years.
e Take for six semesters, 1 s.h. each time.
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.
m Consists 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.
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, b
Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher. c
Students are required to direct at least one play or workshop every semester, including a spring production in Iowa's New Play Festival.

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<th>Hours</th>
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First Year - Fall
THTR:3230 Scene Design I | 3 |
THTR:5410 Dramaturgy | 3 |
THTR:5600 Orientation to Graduate Studies | 1 |
THTR:6180 Director's Seminar | 3 |
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop | 3 |

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<thead>
<tr>
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Spring
THTR:2880 Installations and Interactive Performance | 3 |
THTR:5110 Acting for Graduate Non-Actors | 3 |
THTR:6180 Director's Seminar | 3 |
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop | 1 |
Theatrical Analysis course e | 3 |

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<th>Hours</th>
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Second Year - Any Semester
MFA Comprehensive Evaluation f

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<th>Hours</th>
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Fall
THTR:6180 Director's Seminar | 3 |
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop | 1 |
Design course g | 3 |
Movement course g | 3 |
Elective course h | 3 |

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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
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Spring
THTR:6180 Director's Seminar | 3 |
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop | 1 |
Theatrical Analysis course e | 3 |
Elective course h | 3 |

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Third Year - Fall
THTR:6150 Vocal Technique | 3 |
THTR:6180 Director's Seminar | 3 |
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop | 1 |
THTR:7601 MFA Thesis i, j | 3 |

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<tbody>
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Spring
THTR:6180 Director's Seminar | 3 |
THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop | 1 |

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Theatre Arts, MFA

Dramaturgy Subprogram

Course | Title | Hours
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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
Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher. c

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<th>Hours</th>
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THTR:7601 MFA Thesis | 3 |
Theatrical Analysis course e | 3 |
Final Exam k | 3 |

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<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
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</table>

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.
First Year

Fall
THTR:3401  Topics in Dramatic Literature  3
THTR:5420  Dramaturgy Practicum  2
THTR:5600  Orientation to Graduate Studies  1
THTR:7300  Playwrights Workshop  3

Hours  9

Spring
THTR:4420  Dramatic Theory  3
THTR:5420  Dramaturgy Practicum  2
THTR:7300  Playwrights Workshop  3
Theatrical Analysis course  3

Hours  11

Second Year

Any Semester
MFA Comprehensive Evaluation  

Hours  0

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

Hours  12

Spring
THTR:5600  Orientation to Graduate Studies  1
THTR:6310  Special Topics in Playwriting  3
THTR:7300  Playwrights Workshop  3

Dramatic Literature course  3

Hours  10

Total Hours  64

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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.

Playwriting Subprogram

Course  Title  Hours

First Year

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

Dramatic Literature course  3

Hours  10

Spring
THTR:5600  Orientation to Graduate Studies  1
THTR:6310  Special Topics in Playwriting  3
THTR:7300  Playwrights Workshop  3

Theatrical Analysis course  3

Hours  12

Second Year

Any Semester
MFA Comprehensive Evaluation  

Hours  0

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

Dramatic Literature course  3

Hours  9

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

Hours  12
Third Year

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

Hours 9

Spring
- THTR:6310 Special Topics in Playwriting 3
- THTR:7300 Playwrights Workshop 3
- THTR:7601 MFA Thesis 3
- Theatrical Analysis course f 3
- Final Exam 1

Hours 11

Total Hours 64

Stage Management 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, b
Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher. c

First Year

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

Hours 10

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

Hours 12

Second Year

Any Semester
MFA Comprehensive Evaluation h

Fall
- THTR:4510 Arts Leadership Seminar 3
d
- THTR:5500 Stage Management: Special Topics 3
- THTR:6500 Stage Management Seminar 2
- THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced 2
i
- Focus Area elective 3

Hours 13

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

Hours 12

Third Year

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

Hours 11

Spring
- THTR:6500 Stage Management Seminar 2

Note:
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.
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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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>11</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>69</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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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.