

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]
- 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. ^{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.		
Hours		0
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		
Hours		0
Fall		
THTR:6140	Advanced Acting	3
THTR:6150	Vocal Technique	3

THTR:6160	Movement Technique	3
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 ^f	3
Theatrical Analysis course ^d		3
Final Exam ^g		
Hours		9
Total Hours		72

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. ^{a, b}		
Students must maintain a Graduate College program GPA of 3.00 or higher. ^c		
Hours		0
First Year		
Any Semester		
Foundational elective ^d		6
Hours		6
Fall		
THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^e	1
THTR:5600	Orientation to Graduate Studies	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^f	1
Design I course ^g		3
Design I course ^g		3
Hours		9
Spring		
THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^e	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^f	1
Design II course ^h		3
Design II course ^h		3
Theatrical Analysis course ⁱ		3
Hours		11
Second Year		
Any Semester		
MFA Comprehensive Evaluation ^j		
Foundational electives ^d		6
Additional electives ^k		6
Hours		12
Fall		
THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^e	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^f	1
Design III course ^l		3
Hours		5
Spring		
THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^e	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^f	1
Theatrical Analysis course ⁱ		3
Hours		5
Third Year		
Any Semester		
Foundational electives ^d		6
Additional electives ^k		6
Hours		12
Fall		
THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^e	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^f	1
Design III course ^l		3
Hours		5

Spring

THTR:5200	Graduate Design Seminar ^e	1
THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced ^f	1
Theatrical Analysis course ⁱ		3
THTR:7601	MFA Thesis ^m	3
Final Exam ⁿ		
Hours		8
Total Hours		73

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.

Hours	0
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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 ^d	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop	3

Hours	13
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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 ^d	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop	1
Theatrical Analysis course ^e		3

Hours	13
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Second Year

Any Semester

MFA Comprehensive Evaluation ^f

Hours	0
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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
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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
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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
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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		
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 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.

j 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.

k Successful completion of all requirements.

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

Hours	0
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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 ^d		3

Hours **11**

Second Year**Any Semester**

MFA Comprehensive Evaluation ^e		0
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Hours **0**

Fall

THTR:3401	Topics in Dramatic Literature	3
THTR:5410	Dramaturgy	3
THTR:5420	Dramaturgy Practicum	2
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop	3

Hours **11**

Spring

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

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

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

Hours **11**

Total Hours **64**

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 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
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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

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

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

Hours **12**

Second Year**Any Semester**

MFA Comprehensive Evaluation ^g		0
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Hours **0**

Fall

THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop	3
Dramatic Literature course ^d		3

Hours **9**

Spring

THTR:6300	Guest Seminar ^e	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting	3
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop	3
Theatrical Analysis course ^f		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 ⁱ	3
Theatrical Analysis course ^f		3
Final Exam ^j		

Hours **12**

Total Hours **64**

- 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 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.^{a, b}

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

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:6500	Stage Management Seminar	2
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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		
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.
- 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 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.