

Theatre Arts, MFA

Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts in theatre arts requires a minimum of 64–70 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a graduate program grade-point average of 3.00. The degree offers subprograms in acting, design, directing, dramaturgy, playwriting, and stage management. A thesis is required for all subprograms. Typically students complete six semesters in residence (internships may be substituted).

The graduate program is dedicated to the creative development of theatre artists. Graduates have a solid background in major performance theories, dramatic literature, and practices of the past and present as well as in the craft of their chosen specialties.

Special attention is given to understanding the role and importance of live theatre in society. Interactions among the various theatre disciplines are emphasized, both in classes and through the department's extensive production program. Particular emphasis is placed on the development of new works for the theatre.

Students must maintain consistent academic and artistic growth throughout their six semesters as MFA students in the department. Students who fail to make this progress are placed on academic probation and given one additional semester to demonstrate their qualifications for earning the degree.

Contact the Department of Theatre Arts for specific information on any of the MFA specialty areas.

Common Requirements

Core Requirements

Students in all subprograms complete the following coursework. Students in the stage management subprogram must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in THTR:7601 MFA Thesis.

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
THTR:5600	Orientation to Graduate Studies	1
THTR:7601	MFA Thesis	3

Dramatic Literature

Students in the acting, design, directing, playwriting, and stage management subprograms must complete 9 s.h. from the following course list. Students in the dramaturgy subprogram must complete 18 s.h. from the course list. Playwriting and dramaturgy students must earn a B-minus or higher in all dramatic literature courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
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:3440	American Drama Since 1900	3
THTR:3462	African American Drama	3
THTR:4420	Dramatic Theory	3

THTR:4630	London Performance Study	3
ENGL:3287	Shakespeare	3
ENGL:3320	Modern British Drama	3

Acting Subprogram

The MFA in theatre arts with a subprogram in acting requires 64 s.h. of graduate credit. In addition to the common requirements, the acting subprogram requires the following coursework.

Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher each time they take THTR:6140, THTR:6150, and THTR:6160.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these (51 s.h.):		
THTR:3875	Topics in Digital Performing Arts	3
THTR:4695	Performance Practicum	1
THTR:5890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
THTR:6140	Advanced Acting (taken three times for 3 s.h. each)	9
THTR:6150	Vocal Technique (taken five times for 3 s.h. each)	15
THTR:6160	Movement Technique (taken five times for 3 s.h. each)	15
THTR:6170	Graduate Acting: Special Topics	3
THTR:6605	Graduate Career Preparation	2

Design Subprogram

The MFA in theatre arts with a subprogram in design requires 70 s.h. of graduate credit. In addition to the common requirements, the design subprogram requires the following coursework.

Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in all subprogram courses, with the exception of THTR:5200 Graduate Design Seminar.

Design Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
THTR:3211	Period Styles	3
THTR:4270	Scenic Art	3

Design Primary Area

Course #	Title	Hours
Three courses (9 s.h.) from one area:		
Scenic Design		
THTR:3230	Scenic Design I	3
THTR:4230	Scenic Design II	3
THTR:5230	Scenic Design III	3
Costume Design		
THTR:3240	Costume Design I	3
THTR:4240	Costume Design II	3
THTR:5240	Costume Design III	3
Lighting Design		
THTR:3250	Lighting Design I	3
THTR:4250	Lighting Design II	3
THTR:5250	Lighting Design III	3

Design Secondary Area

Students take two courses (6 s.h.) from scenic design, costume design, lighting design, sound design, or media design.

Scenic Design

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
THTR:3230	Scenic Design I	3
One of these:		
THTR:3235	Production Design for Film, Television, and New Media	3
THTR:4230	Scenic Design II	3

Costume Design

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
THTR:3240	Costume Design I	3
One of these:		
THTR:3208	Mask and Puppet Design	3
THTR:3210	Makeup and Hair Design for Stage, Film, and New Media	3
THTR:4240	Costume Design II	3

Lighting Design

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
THTR:3250	Lighting Design I	3
One of these:		
THTR:3270	Entertainment Design	3
THTR:4250	Lighting Design II	3

Sound Design

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
THTR:3260	Sound Design for the Theatre	3
THTR:3630	Special Topics in Theatre Arts (when topic is audio plays)	3

Media Design

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
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:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:5890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3

Design Additional Courses

Students take 36 s.h. of additional coursework, including THTR:5200 Graduate Design Seminar, THTR:6691 Projects in Theatre Advanced, and electives.

Students must take THTR:5200 each semester in which they are enrolled (six times total). They enroll for a minimum of 1 s.h. per semester for a minimum of 6 s.h. total. Students are permitted to enroll in the course for a maximum total of 12 s.h.

Students are required to enroll in THTR:6691 each semester in which they are enrolled (six times total). They enroll for a minimum of 16 s.h. total, a maximum of 5 s.h. per semester.

Students complete additional electives from the following list to total 36 s.h. in additional courses. Additional courses may be used for this requirement with advisor approval.

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:3208	Mask and Puppet Design	3
THTR:3210	Makeup and Hair Design for Stage, Film, and New Media	3
THTR:3215	Sewing Techniques for Theatre Costuming	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:3250	Lighting Design I	3
THTR:3260	Sound Design for the Theatre	3
THTR:3270	Entertainment Design	3
THTR:3510	Introduction to Arts Management	3
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:4230	Scenic Design II	3
THTR:4240	Costume Design II	3
THTR:4250	Lighting Design II	3
THTR:4290	Design: Special Topics	1-3
THTR:4510	Arts Leadership Seminar	3
THTR:4630	London Performance Study	3
THTR:5230	Scenic Design III	3
THTR:5240	Costume Design III	3
THTR:5250	Lighting Design III	3
THTR:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:5890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3

Directing Subprogram

The MFA in theatre arts with a subprogram in directing requires 69 s.h. of graduate credit. In addition to the common requirements, the directing subprogram requires the following coursework.

Directing Required Courses

Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher each time they take THTR:6180 Director's Seminar.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these (32 s.h.):		
THTR:5410	Dramaturgy	3
THTR:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:6180	Director's Seminar (taken six times for 3 s.h. each)	18
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop (taken six times, once for 3 s.h. and five times for 1 s.h.)	8

Directing Design Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these (6 s.h.):		
THTR:3208	Mask and Puppet Design	3
THTR:3230	Scenic Design I	3
THTR:3235	Production Design for Film, Television, and New Media	3
HOLD for new costume design course		
THTR:3250	Lighting Design I	3
THTR:3260	Sound Design for the Theatre	3
THTR:3270	Entertainment Design	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:4270	Scenic Art	3
THTR:4290	Design: Special Topics	3
THTR:5890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
May include one of these:		
THTR:3240	Costume Design I	3
THTR:4240	Costume Design II	3

Directing Acting and Voice Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these (6 s.h.):		
THTR:3120	Theatre Movement	3
THTR:3110	Voice for the Actor	3
THTR:3151	Voice for the Actor II	3
THTR:3160	Movement Styles	3
THTR:4144	Acting: Special Topics	3
THTR:6140	Advanced Acting	3
THTR:6150	Vocal Technique	3
THTR:6160	Movement Technique	3
THTR:6170	Graduate Acting: Special Topics	3

Directing Electives

Students take 12 s.h. in electives from four theatre arts courses (prefix THTR) numbered 3000 or above. Additional courses from outside the department may be reviewed and approved by the student's advisor.

Dramaturgy Subprogram

The MFA in theatre arts with a subprogram in dramaturgy requires 67 s.h. of graduate credit. In addition to the common requirements, the dramaturgy subprogram requires the following coursework.

Dramaturgy Required Courses

Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in THTR:5410 Dramaturgy. They must earn a grade of B-minus or higher each time they take THTR:5420 Dramaturgy Practicum.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these (39 s.h.):		
THTR:5410	Dramaturgy	3
THTR:5420	Dramaturgy Practicum (taken six times for 3 s.h. each)	18
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop (taken six times for 3 s.h. each)	18

Dramaturgy Electives

Students take 6 s.h. in elective coursework. Though they may select any theatre arts course (prefix THTR) numbered 3000 or above, students are strongly encouraged to select from the following list as these courses enhance the dramaturgy subprogram with coursework in playwriting, writing for film or television, directing, and digital arts. Courses numbered 3000 or above from outside the department may be used with an advisor's approval.

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:3320	Writing for Film	3
THTR:3325	Iowa Writers' Room	3
THTR:3615	Action! Engage! Art! Creative Placemaking for the Public Good	3
THTR:3875	Topics in Digital Performing Arts	3
THTR:4180	Directing I	3
THTR:4185	Directing: Special Topics	3
THTR:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:5890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
THTR:6180	Director's Seminar	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting	3
TRNS:7460	Translation Workshop	3

Playwriting Subprogram

The MFA in theatre arts with a subprogram in playwriting requires 67 s.h. of graduate credit. In addition to the common requirements, the playwriting subprogram requires the following coursework.

Playwriting Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these (45 s.h.):		
THTR:6300	Guest Seminar (taken three times for 3 s.h. each)	9

THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting (taken six times for 3 s.h. each)	18
THTR:7300	Playwrights Workshop (taken six times for 3 s.h. each)	18

Playwriting Electives

Students take 9 s.h. in elective coursework. Though they may select any theatre arts course (prefix THTR) numbered 3000 or above, students are strongly encouraged to select from the following course list. Courses numbered 3000 or above from outside the department may be substituted with an advisor's approval.

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:3320	Writing for Film	3
THTR:3325	Iowa Writers' Room	3
THTR:3615	Action! Engage! Art! Creative Placemaking for the Public Good	3
THTR:3875	Topics in Digital Performing Arts	3
THTR:4180	Directing I	3
THTR:4185	Directing: Special Topics	3
THTR:5410	Dramaturgy	3
THTR:5420	Dramaturgy Practicum	3
THTR:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:5890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3
THTR:6180	Director's Seminar	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting (may be repeated)	3
TRNS:7460	Translation Workshop	3

Stage Management Subprogram

The MFA in theatre arts with a subprogram in stage management requires 69 s.h. of graduate credit. In addition to the common requirements, the stage management subprogram requires the following coursework.

Stage Management Required Courses

Students must earn a grade of B-minus or above in THTR:3501 and THTR:5510. They must earn a grade of B-minus or higher each time they take THTR:5500, THTR:6500, and THTR:6691.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these (41 s.h.):		
THTR:3501	Stage Management I	3
THTR:3510	Introduction to Arts Management	3
or THTR:4510	Arts Leadership Seminar	
THTR:4180	Directing I	3
THTR:5500	Stage Management: Special Topics (taken three times for 3 s.h. each)	9
THTR:5510	Production Management	3
THTR:6500	Stage Management Seminar (taken six times for 2 s.h. each)	12

THTR:6691	Projects in Theatre Advanced (taken six times, four times for 1 s.h. each and two times for 2 s.h. each)	8
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Stage Management Design Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these (6 s.h.):		
THTR:3208	Mask and Puppet Design	3
THTR:3210	Makeup and Hair Design for Stage, Film, and New Media	3
THTR:3211	Period Styles	3
THTR:3215	Sewing Techniques for Theatre Costuming	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:3250	Lighting Design I	3
THTR:3260	Sound Design for the Theatre	3
THTR:3270	Entertainment Design	3
THTR:3510	Introduction to Arts Management	3
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:4230	Scenic Design II	3
THTR:4240	Costume Design II	3
THTR:4250	Lighting Design II	3
THTR:4290	Design: Special Topics	3
THTR:4510	Arts Leadership Seminar	3
THTR:5230	Scenic Design III	3
THTR:5240	Costume Design III	3
THTR:5250	Lighting Design III	3
THTR:5880	Installations and Interactive Performance	3
THTR:5890	Producing and Directing Digital Video	3

Stage Management Electives

Students take three elective courses for a total of 9 s.h. They may select theatre arts courses (prefix THTR) numbered 3000 or above, or courses from the following list.

Course #	Title	Hours
DANC:3060	Western Concert Dance History: Romantic to Contemporary	3
EALL:7475	ePortfolio in College Teaching	3
MUS:6540	Survey of Operatic Literature	3

GRAD:6217	Seminar in College Teaching	3
GRAD:7385	Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	3
GRAD:7400	Practicum in College Teaching	3
MBA:8120	Management in Organizations	3
MGMT:3500	Nonprofit Organizational Effectiveness I	3
MGMT:4600	Nonprofit Ethics and Governance	3
MGMT:9230	Managing and Preventing Conflict	3
MGMT:9240	Inclusive Leadership	3