

THEATRE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY - M.F.A.

College of the Arts

School of Theatre and Dance - Theatre Division

www.kent.edu/theatredance

About This Program

Are you ready to take center stage in the world of theatre design and technology? The M.F.A. degree equips students with the artistry and skills to become practicing professionals. With a flexible curriculum and concentrations in costume design, lighting design, scene design and technical direction, this three-year program offers students the opportunity to explore their areas of interest and gain hands-on experience in all aspects of theatre production. Read more...

Contact Information

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- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Art, drama, and music teachers, postsecondary

- 5.6% faster than the average
- 116,300 number of jobs
- \$69,690 potential earnings

Film and video editors

- 21.6% much faster than the average
- 38,300 number of jobs
- \$67,250 potential earnings

Lighting technicians and media and communication equipment workers, all other

- 4.9% about as fast as the average
- 26,600 number of jobs
- \$70,980 potential earnings

Set and exhibit designers

- 1.2% slower than the average
- 15,200 number of jobs
- \$58,180 potential earnings

Accreditation

National Association of Schools of Theatre

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé
- Goal statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- Portfolio review
- Interview
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:¹
 - Minimum 71 TOEFL iBT score
 - Minimum 6.0 IELTS score
 - Minimum 50 PTE score
 - Minimum 100 DET score

¹ International applicants who do not meet the above test scores may be considered for conditional admission.

Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
 - Final deadline: August 1
- **Spring Semester**
 - Final deadline: January 1
- **Summer Term**
 - Final deadline: May 1

Applications will not be accepted after these deadlines.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
THEA 60992 or THEA 61992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP I PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP II	3
THEA 61000	INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE STUDY IN THEATRE	3
THEA 61094	COLLEGE TEACHING IN THEATRE ¹	3
THEA 61306	PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	3
THEA 61623	DIGITAL RENDERING THEATRE DESIGN	3

THEA 65000	HISTORY, HISTORICISM, THEORY AND PRACTICE IN THEATRE AND DRAMA	3
Major Elective, choose from the following:		3
THEA 51113	THEATRE IN A MULTICULTURAL AMERICA	
THEA 51115	LGBTQ THEATRE	
THEA 51191	VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR: THEATRE HISTORY, LITERATURE AND THEORY	
THEA 51625	HISTORY OF COSTUME AND TEXTILES FOR THEATRE	
THEA 61531	PERIOD STYLE FOR THEATRE DESIGNERS	
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
THEA 61310	MASTER OF FINE ARTS DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY CULMINATING PROJECT	3
Concentrations		
Choose from the following:		36
Costume Design and Technology		
Lighting Design		
Scene Design		
Technical Direction		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		60

¹ THEA 61094 is required for graduate assistants only; students not required to take the course will complete an advisor-approved elective to graduate with 60 credit hours.

Costume Design and Technology Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
THEA 51540	DRAPING FOR THE THEATRE I	3
THEA 51621	PRESENTATION MEDIA	3
THEA 66001	COSTUME DESIGN I: SCRIPT ANALYSIS	2
THEA 66002	COSTUME DESIGN II: PERFORMANCE GENRES	2
THEA 66003	COSTUME DESIGN III: THEATRICAL STYLES	2
THEA 66004	COSTUME DESIGN IV: ADVANCED RENDERING	2
THEA 66005	COSTUME DESIGN V: RESEARCH METHODS	2
THEA 66006	COSTUME DESIGN VI: TEXTILES	2
THEA 66092	PRODUCTION COLLABORATION: COSTUME DESIGN/TECHNOLOGY (repeatable)	8
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		10
ARTS 55300	JACQUARD: DIGITAL WEAVING ¹	
THEA 51095	SPECIAL TOPICS	
THEA 51525	PROPS AND CRAFTS	
THEA 51529	ADVANCED WIG AND MAKEUP TECHNIQUES-STAGE AND SCREEN	
THEA 51541	DRAPING FOR THE THEATRE II	
THEA 51734	COSTUME PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT	
THEA 52101	DYE TECHNIQUES AND FABRIC MODIFICATION	
THEA 52150	THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS: FOAM FABRICATION AND FIGURE FINISHING TECHNIQUES	
THEA 60196	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION: HISTORIC TEXTILES	
THEA 60992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP I	
THEA 61992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP II	

THEA 65192	TEACHING PRACTICUM	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		36

¹ Maximum 6 credit hours of ARTS 55300 may be applied toward concentration requirements.

Lighting Design Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
THEA 51523	SOUND DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY I	3
THEA 51562	ADVANCED PROJECTION DESIGN	3
THEA 65001	LIGHTING DESIGN I: DRAMA	2
THEA 65002	LIGHTING DESIGN II: MUSICAL THEATRE	2
THEA 65003	LIGHTING DESIGN III: DANCE AND OPERA	2
THEA 65004	LIGHTING DESIGN IV: NON-TRADITIONAL PRODUCTIONS	2
THEA 65005	LIGHTING DESIGN V: ARCHITECTURAL AND INTERIOR LIGHTING	2
THEA 65006	LIGHTING DESIGN VI: NEW TECHNOLOGY	2
THEA 65092	PRODUCTION COLLABORATION: LIGHTING DESIGN (repeatable)	8
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		10
THEA 51095	SPECIAL TOPICS	
THEA 51420	THEATRICAL DRAFTING II	
THEA 51430	ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION THEORY	
THEA 51521	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY I	
THEA 51524	DESIGN STUDIO: COSTUME	
THEA 51525	PROPS AND CRAFTS	
THEA 51526	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY II	
THEA 51527	SOUND AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY II	
THEA 51531	THEATRICAL RIGGING	
THEA 51560	THEATRE FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY	
THEA 51621	PRESENTATION MEDIA	
THEA 60992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP I	
THEA 61096	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION: THEATRE AND DRAMA	
THEA 61992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP II	
THEA 65192	TEACHING PRACTICUM	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		36

Scene Design Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
THEA 51420	THEATRICAL DRAFTING II	3
THEA 51525	PROPS AND CRAFTS	3
THEA 51621	PRESENTATION MEDIA	3
THEA 63001	SCENIC DESIGN I: FOUNDATIONS IN SINGLE SET SCENIC DESIGN	2
THEA 63002	SCENIC DESIGN II: ADVANCED SINGLE SET SCENIC DESIGN	2
THEA 63003	SCENIC DESIGN III: DESIGNING BEYOND DRAMA	2
THEA 63004	SCENIC DESIGN IV: ADVANCED MULTI-SETTING DESIGN	2
THEA 63005	SCENIC DESIGN V: ENTERTAINMENT AND PRODUCTION DESIGN	2

THEA 63006	SCENIC DESIGN VI: NON-TRADITIONAL AND SITE-SPECIFIC PERFORMANCES	2
THEA 63092	PRODUCTION COLLABORATION: SCENIC DESIGN (repeatable)	8
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		7
THEA 51095	SPECIAL TOPICS	
THEA 51430	ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION THEORY	
THEA 51521	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY I	
THEA 51526	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY II	
THEA 51527	SOUND AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY II	
THEA 51531	THEATRICAL RIGGING	
THEA 51560	THEATRE FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY	
THEA 51562	ADVANCED PROJECTION DESIGN	
THEA 60992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP I	
THEA 61096	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION: THEATRE AND DRAMA	
THEA 61992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP II	
THEA 65192	TEACHING PRACTICUM	

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 36

Technical Direction Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
THEA 51420	THEATRICAL DRAFTING II	3
THEA 51430	ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION THEORY	3
THEA 51531	THEATRICAL RIGGING	3
THEA 64001	THEATRE TECHNICAL DIRECTION I: FOUNDATIONS I	2
THEA 64002	THEATRE TECHNICAL DIRECTION II: FOUNDATIONS II	2
THEA 64003	THEATRE TECHNICAL DIRECTION III: TOURING PRODUCTIONS	2
THEA 64004	THEATRE TECHNICAL DIRECTION IV: EDUCATIONAL THEATRE	2
THEA 64005	THEATRE TECHNICAL DIRECTION V: MECHANICS AND AUTOMATION	2
THEA 64006	THEATRE TECHNICAL DIRECTION VI: HEALTH AND SAFETY	2
THEA 64092	PRODUCTION COLLABORATION: TECHNICAL DIRECTION (repeatable)	8
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		7
THEA 51095	SPECIAL TOPICS	
THEA 51521	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY I	
THEA 51525	PROPS AND CRAFTS	
THEA 51526	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY II	
THEA 51560	THEATRE FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY	
THEA 51621	PRESENTATION MEDIA	
THEA 60992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP I	
THEA 61096	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION: THEATRE AND DRAMA	
THEA 61992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP II	
THEA 65192	TEACHING PRACTICUM	

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 36

Progression Requirements

Students must pass semester reviews and are expected to participate in at least one main-stage production each semester, which may be in addition to any production design assignment.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- No more than one-half of a graduate student’s coursework may be taken in 50000-level courses.
- Grades below C are not counted toward completion of requirements for the degree.

Culminating Requirement

The culminating project requirements include documentation, portfolio presentation and an exit interview. Documentation consists of a design analysis, process journal, relevant research and other supporting materials (e.g., photos, links to the candidate’s website). The scope of work may include, but not necessarily be limited to, evidence of research, drawing and drafting, rendering and associated digital image, video or audio files, which will be presented at an exit interview. The topic of each M.F.A. candidate’s culminating project will be proposed by the candidate and based on faculty feedback from yearly portfolio and academic assessments. The student will register for THEA 61310 for the student’s project assignment. The process is then documented in a format appropriate for the project and presented to the faculty advisor.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Acquire creative and technical ability to develop the design of a production from concept to finished product.
2. Acquire advanced abilities in the unification of all design elements used in professional production.
3. Understand analytical or academically oriented theatre studies in areas related to and supportive of the work in the major field such as history, theory, dramatic literature and performance studies.
4. Understand information resources associated with theatrical design and production.
5. Produce full working drawings for mounted productions.
6. Analyze text, music and dance and the ways that historical, critical and theoretical content inform playwriting, acting, directing and design.
7. Communicate ideas clearly and effectively to the theatre community, production teams and the public.
8. Know the history of their area of specialization and have the ability to integrate that history into production design.
9. Know current technology, tools and methods in their area of specialization and have the ability to integrate technology into production design.
10. Know health and safety practices associated with theatre production.
11. Communicate and navigate effectively within the field of professional theatrical production design.
12. Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethics and practice.

Full Description

The Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Design and Technology is a terminal degree designed for those who are interested in achieving the artistry and skills necessary to qualify as practicing professionals in the entertainment industry and/or professional theatre educators. The program is a three-year course of study with a flexible curriculum for students to explore areas of special interest.

The Theatre Design and Technology major comprises the following concentrations:

- The **Costume Design and Technology** concentration prepares students for careers in the entertainment industry, professional theatre or theatre education. Students study both design and technology, including related areas such as dye techniques, costume crafts and wigs and makeup. Students also design costumes for main-stage departmental productions. The curriculum includes core classes in theatre history, dramatic theory and historical periods.
- The **Lighting Design** concentration balances instruction and experience in lighting design with instruction and experience in lighting technology. Studies include digital rendering, CAD, lighting technology and automated lighting. Students research and study all of aspects of theatrical lighting, including the design process from concept to execution, communication skills, integration of technology into design, documentation of the work and critical evaluation of the work.
- The **Scene Design** concentration balances focused classroom instruction with practical design and production experience. Students also study related artisan areas such as digital and traditional rendering techniques, 3D CAD, props, fabrication, scene painting and presentation techniques with particular emphasis on integrating contemporary digital techniques into the design process. The curriculum contains courses in construction theory, rigging, costume crafts and projection/media design.
- The **Technical Direction** concentration provides students with training and practical experiences in planning main stage productions for the School of Theatre and Dance. Studies focus on safety and all logistics of production assembly, including touring and dance. Technical directors have the opportunity work in four very different theatre spaces: black box, large proscenium, thrust and open outdoor.