THEATRE STUDIES - M.F.A.

College of the Arts
School of Theatre and Dance - Theatre Division
B141 Center for the Performing Arts
Kent Campus
330-672-2082
theatre@kent.edu
www.kent.edu/theatredance

Description
The Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Studies is a terminal degree designed for those who are interested in achieving the artistry and skills necessary to qualify them to be practicing professionals in the entertainment industry and/or professional theatre educators. The program normally is a three-year course of study.

The Theatre Studies major comprises the following concentrations:

• The Acting concentration prepares students to demonstrate a high degree of artistic potential and intellectual ability to enter the profession as practitioners. Intense practical training and scholarly activity culminate in a comprehensive project designed to measure the achievement of significant competence as artists and masters of their craft. The foundation of the training is rooted in the Stanislavsky System, which is bolstered by other major approaches to acting. Movement work incorporates Laban Movement analysis, masks and dance. Students have opportunities to work with guest directors from various professional backgrounds. Additionally, Porthouse Theatre may provide students with internship opportunities.

• The Acting for the Returning Professional concentration is designed to offer qualified performers with significant professional experience an opportunity to earn a terminal degree in their discipline.

• The Design/Technology–Scene Design concentration prepares students to achieve the artistry and skills necessary to qualify them to be practicing professionals in the and entertainment industry, professional theatre, and theatre education. Graduates of the program work successfully in regional theatres and higher education. They also work in commercial venues such as film, television and corporate entertainment.

• The Design/Technology–Lighting Design concentration provides students with the opportunity to work with current equipment and technology, including intelligent lighting with different moving lighting consoles (i.e., Grand MA, ETC ION and Strand) and design visualization software. Students also work on design projects in four very different theatre spaces: blackbox, large proscenium, thrust and open outdoor.

• The Design/Technology–Costume Design concentration provides students with the opportunity to work with current equipment and technology, including design visualization and design rendering software.

• The Design/Technology–Technical Direction concentration provides students with the opportunity to work with current equipment and technology in fully equipped laboratories and shops.

Fully Offered At:
• Kent Campus

Accreditation
National Association of Schools of Theatre

Admission Requirements
• Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university for unconditional admission
• Minimum 3.000 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000 point scale for unconditional admission
• Official transcript(s)
• GRE scores if GPA is below 3.0
• Résumé
• Goal Statement
• Three letters of recommendation
• Audition (for Acting concentrations) or portfolio review (for Design/Technology concentrations)
• Evidence of professional experience (for Acting for the Returning Professional concentration)¹
• English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
  • Minimum 525 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version)
  • Minimum 71 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version)
  • Minimum 74 MELAB score
  • Minimum 6.0 IELTS score
  • Minimum 50 PTE score

¹ Required evidence in support of admission may include, but not limited to, Broadway, regional, and/or international performance credits; film and television credits; awards of national recognition; professional union affiliation; publication in the field of expertise; significant record of mentoring; and certifications and/or designations in areas such as acting, voice and speech or stage combat. Program faculty will evaluate the submitted documentation of professional experience and determine eligibility and credit equivalency for the MFA degree. Acting for the Returning Professional concentration.

Program Learning Outcomes

Acting concentration
Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Articulate an individual acting process within the context of acting theory, and understand the process of other significant actors.
2. Understand and undertake voice and speech, movement and play analysis.
3. Articulate, both verbally and in writing, a working knowledge of historical, critical and theoretical content and the ways they inform playwriting and dramatic writing, the creation of roles and other aspects of production.
4. Know analytical- or academically-oriented theatre studies in areas related to and supportive of studies in acting such as history, theory, dramatic literature or performance studies.
5. Apply a broad range of acting knowledge, skills and styles in the creation and presentation of roles.
6. Perform in plays of various types and periods.

**Acting for the Returning Professional concentration**

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Employ a broad range of acting knowledge and skills in the creation and presentation of roles.
2. Perform in plays of various types and from various periods.
3. Understand and undertake voice and speech, movement and play analysis.
4. Synthesize professional work with advance study practices in production.
5. Apply pedagogical practices to some aspects of theatre or performance studies, such as a performance, historical period or theatre and performance theory.
6. Understand the role of mentorship as a working professional by demonstrating ability to model professional behavior in a performance context.

**Design and Technology concentrations**

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Unify all design elements used in a professional production.
2. Know 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.
3. Acquire creative and technical ability to develop the design of a production from concept to finished product.
4. Understand information resources associated with theatrical design and production.
5. Produce full working drawings for at least two fully mounted productions.
6. Know play analysis 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 decor and costumes, drawing, color theory, lighting, two- and three-dimensional design and computer/digital technology and require the ability to integrate them in production design and execution.
9. Know health and safety practices associated with theatre production.
10. Communicate and navigate effectively within the field of professional theatrical production design.
11. Work with theatre professionals in their processes of production and demonstrate an understanding of professional ethics and practice.

**Program Requirements**

**Major Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 51113</td>
<td>THEATRE IN A MULTICULTURAL AMERICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or THEA 51115</td>
<td>LGBTQ THEATRE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or THEA 51191</td>
<td>VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR:THEATRE HISTORY/ LITERATURE/THEORY</td>
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**Acting Concentration Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 60992</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or THEA 61992</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 61000</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE STUDY IN THEATRE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 61309</td>
<td>MASTER OF FINE ARTS COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT IN ACTING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or THEA 61310</td>
<td>MASTER OF FINE ARTS DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY CULMINATING PROJECT</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 62092</td>
<td>PRACTICUM:DESIGN/TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or THEA 62192</td>
<td>PRACTICUM:PERFORMANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 65000</td>
<td>HISTORY, HISTORICISM, THEORY AND PRACTICE IN THEATRE AND DRAMA</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Concentrations**

Choose from the following:

- Acting
  - Acting for the Returning Professional
  - Design/Technology - Costume Design
  - Design/Technology - Lighting Design
  - Design/Technology - Scene Design
  - Design/Technology - Technical Direction

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 60

1 Students must choose a minimum of 6 credit hours from either course in their area of concentration.
### Acting for the Returning Professional Concentration Requirements

**[MFA-THEA-ARP]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 51303</td>
<td>ACTING I FOUNDATIONS/STANISLAVSKI AND MICHAEL CHEKHOV</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or THEA 51304</td>
<td>ACTING II: SCENE STUDY-MODERN AMERICAN REALISM</td>
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<tr>
<td>or THEA 61303</td>
<td>ACTING III SCENE STUDY-NATURALISM AND ABSURD</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 51701</td>
<td>MOVEMENT, FORM AND SPACE I-THE ACTOR'S PHYSICAL INSTRUMENT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or THEA 61701</td>
<td>MOVEMENT, FORM AND SPACE II-NEUTRAL AND CHARACTER MASK</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51803</td>
<td>VOICE AND SPEECH I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or THEA 61803</td>
<td>VOICE AND SPEECH II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or THEA 61804</td>
<td>VOICE AND SPEECH III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 63192</td>
<td>MENTORSHIP IN PERFORMANCE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or THEA 64192</td>
<td>MENTORSHIP AT PORTHOUSE</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Concentration Electives, choose from the following:**

- THEA 51027 | ADVANCED PLAYWRITING                                               | 3            |
- THEA 51095 | SPECIAL TOPICS                                                     |              |
- THEA 51191 | VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR-THEATRE HISTORY/LITERATURE/THEORY         |              |
- THEA 51301 | ACTING FOR THE CAMERA I                                            |              |
- THEA 51302 | ACTING FOR THE CAMERA II                                           |              |
- THEA 51401 | ADVANCED DIRECTING                                                 |              |
- THEA 51702 | MOVEMENT AND DANCE FOR ACTORS                                      |              |
- THEA 51703 | STAGE COMBAT                                                       |              |
- THEA 51808 | ACTING STYLES I-SHAKESPEARE                                        |              |
- THEA 61096 | INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION-THEATRE AND DRAMA                          |              |
- THEA 61098 | RESEARCH                                                           |              |
- THEA 61303 | ACTING III SCENE STUDY-NATURALISM AND ABSURD                        |              |
- THEA 61305 | ACTING STYLES II: GREEK AND COMEDY OF MANNERS                       |              |
- THEA 61703 | MOVEMENT, FORM AND SPACE III                                       |              |
- THEA 61806 | SINGING FOR THE ACTOR                                              |              |
- THEA 62392 | PRACTICUM: PERFORMANCE PEDAGOGY                                     |              |
- THEA 65192 | TEACHING PRACTICUM                                                 |              |

**Minimum Total Credit Hours:** 36

### Design/Technology—Lighting Design Concentration Requirements

**[MFA-THEA-DTLT]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 51420</td>
<td>THEATRICAL DRAFTING II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51521</td>
<td>ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 51522</td>
<td>DESIGN STUDIO: LIGHTING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 51526</td>
<td>ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 51622</td>
<td>DESIGN STUDIO:SCENERY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 61306</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS:DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 61528</td>
<td>DESIGN PROCESS AND COLLABORATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 61623</td>
<td>DIGITAL RENDERING THEATRE DESIGN</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Design Electives, choose from the following:**

- THEA 51095 | SPECIAL TOPICS                                                     |              |
- THEA 51523 | SOUND DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY I                                      |              |
- THEA 51524 | DESIGN STUDIO: COSTUME                                             |              |
- THEA 51525 | PROPS AND CRAFTS                                                   |              |
- THEA 51527 | SOUND AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY II                                     |              |
| THEA 51531 | THEATRICAL RIGGING                                                 |              |
| THEA 51621 | PRESENTATION MEDIA                                                 |              |
| THEA 61096 | INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION-HISTORIC TEXTILES                          |              |

**Minimum Total Credit Hours:** 36

### Design/Technology—Scene Design Concentration Requirements

**[MFA-THEA-DTSC]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51524</td>
<td>DESIGN STUDIO: COSTUME</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51529</td>
<td>ADVANCED WIG AND MAKEUP TECHNIQUES-STAGE AND SCREEN</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51621</td>
<td>PRESENTATION MEDIA</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51624</td>
<td>HISTORY OF COSTUME AND TEXTILES FOR THEATRE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>THEA 61306</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 61525</td>
<td>MILLINERY AND 3-D CHARACTERS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 61528</td>
<td>DESIGN PROCESS AND COLLABORATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 61623</td>
<td>DIGITAL RENDERING THEATRE DESIGN</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Design Electives, choose from the following:**

- THEA 51095 | SPECIAL TOPICS                                                     |              |
- THEA 51523 | SOUND DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY I                                      |              |
- THEA 51524 | DESIGN STUDIO: COSTUME                                             |              |
- THEA 51525 | PROPS AND CRAFTS                                                   |              |
| THEA 51527 | SOUND AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY II                                     |              |
| THEA 51531 | THEATRICAL RIGGING                                                 |              |
| THEA 51621 | PRESENTATION MEDIA                                                 |              |
| THEA 61096 | INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION-HISTORIC TEXTILES                          |              |

**Minimum Total Credit Hours:** 36
Design Electives, choose from the following: 15
- THEA 51095 SPECIAL TOPICS
- THEA 51430 ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION THEORY
- THEA 51521 ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY I
- THEA 51522 DESIGN STUDIO: LIGHTING
- THEA 51524 DESIGN STUDIO:SCENERY
- THEA 51526 ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY II
- THEA 51531 THEATRICAL RIGGING
- THEA 51560 THEATRE FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY
- THEA 61096 INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION:THEATRE AND DRAMA

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 36

Design/Technology—Technical Direction Concentration Requirements
[MFA-THEA-DTTD]

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<tr>
<td>THEA 51420</td>
<td>THEATRICAL DRAFTING II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>THEA 51525</td>
<td>PROPS AND CRAFTS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51621</td>
<td>PRESENTATION MEDIA</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51622</td>
<td>DESIGN STUDIO:SCENERY</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 61306</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS:DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
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<td>DIGITAL RENDERING THEATRE DESIGN</td>
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</table>

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 36

Residency Requirement

Students are required to remain in residence for the three years to complete the program (excluding, if appropriate, the internship). At a minimum, acting students must audition for all main stage productions and accept the roles assigned to them; and design/technology students must complete one production assignment and work on one other production each semester. Students may not undertake any work outside the School of Theatre and Dance without petitioning the appropriate area faculty and receiving written permission prior to auditioning/interviewing. Returning professionals in acting are exempt from this requirement but need to keep the school informed of absences.

Professional Experience Evaluation

Students accepted into the Acting for the Returning Professional concentration have the potential to earn a maximum 15 credit hours for their professional experience toward the degree. Program faculty will determine the acceptability of professional experience submitted and calculate the number of credit hours that can be earned. While applicant’s creative activities may encompass more than 15 credit hours, a maximum of 15 credit hours may be applied to the plan of study. The professional experience will be evaluated and awarded through THEA 61098 as the candidate matriculates through the degree program.

Documentation to be submitted in support of returning professional qualification includes the following:

1. Copy of the contract(s) from a production company or theatre company
2. Theatrical playbills or programs which contain the applicant’s name and role
3. Evidence of reviews and promotional materials
4. Awards, nominations and or certification documents
5. Written explanation of the professional experience presented, and its influence on current professional and educational endeavors

The documentation will be evaluated and approved by the acting area faculty, and the candidate will be notified of returning professional credit.

Graduation Requirements

- The Acting and Design/Technology concentrations are an intensive, three-year, professional training program requiring the completion of 60 hours of graduate credit depending on the area of concentration.
- The culminating project requirements for the Design and Technology concentrations include: documentation, portfolio presentation and an exit interview. Documentation consists of a design analysis, process journal, relevant research and other supporting materials (photos, links to the candidate’s website, etc). 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 would 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.
- The comprehensive project requirements for the Acting concentration and Acting for the Returning Professional concentration includes: performing in three approved productions, documentation and assessment. Each student chooses a graduate faculty advisor in the acting area during the second semester. The student is required to present each of the three roles, as s/he is cast, with a rational for the role’s significance and relevance as part of the comprehensive project. After the completion of each role, the student is required to meet with the acting area for assessment and evaluation. Upon completion of the third role, the student will create a comprehensive project summary by compiling all appropriate documentation and submit it for approval of the acting area. The student will register for THEA 61309 for each of the three roles. Students in the Acting for the
Returning Professional concentration have the option to focus upon one task for the M.F.A. comprehensive project. The topic proposal shall be approved by area faculty. The returning professional project completion process follows the process outlined above.