

THEATRE STUDIES - M.F.A.

College of the Arts

School of Theatre and Dance - Theatre Division

B141 Center for the Performing Arts

Kent Campus

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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–Costume 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–Scene 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

For more information about graduate admissions, please visit the Graduate Studies admission website. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education's admission website.

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 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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
THEA 51113	THEATRE IN A MULTICULTURAL AMERICA	3

or THEA 51115	LGBTQ THEATRE	
or THEA 51191	VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR: THEATRE HISTORY, LITERATURE AND THEORY	
or THEA 61531	PERIOD STYLE FOR THEATRE DESIGNERS	
THEA 60992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP I ¹	6
or THEA 61992	PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP II	
THEA 61000	INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE STUDY IN THEATRE	3
THEA 61309	MASTER OF FINE ARTS COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT IN ACTING	3
or THEA 61310	MASTER OF FINE ARTS DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY CULMINATING PROJECT	
THEA 62092	PRACTICUM:DESIGN/TECHNOLOGY	6
or THEA 62192	PRACTICUM:PERFORMANCE	
THEA 65000	HISTORY, HISTORICISM, THEORY AND PRACTICE IN THEATRE AND DRAMA	3

Concentrations	
Choose from the following:	36
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 Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
THEA 51303	ACTING I FOUNDATIONS/STANISLAVSKI AND MICHAEL CHEKHOV	3
THEA 51304	ACTING II: SCENE STUDY-MODERN AMERICAN REALISM	3
THEA 51305	PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS:PERFORMANCE	3
THEA 51701	MOVEMENT, FORM AND SPACE I-THE ACTOR'S PHYSICAL INSTRUMENT	3
THEA 51803	VOICE AND SPEECH I	3
THEA 61303	ACTING III SCENE STUDY: NATURALISM AND ABSURD	3
THEA 61701	MOVEMENT, FORM AND SPACE II-NEUTRAL AND CHARACTER MASK	3
THEA 61803	VOICE AND SPEECH II	3
THEA 61804	VOICE AND SPECH III	3
Performance Electives, choose from the following:		9
THEA 51027	ADVANCED PLAYWRITING	
THEA 51095	SPECIAL TOPICS	
THEA 51191	VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR: THEATRE HISTORY, LITERATURE AND THEORY	
THEA 51301	ACTING FOR THE CAMERA I	
THEA 51302	ACTING FOR THE CAMERA II	
THEA 51308	MUSICAL THEATRE AUDITION	
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 61305	ACTING STYLES II: GREEK AND COMEDY OF MANNERS	
THEA 61703	MOVEMENT, FORM AND SPACE III	
THEA 61806	SINGING FOR THE ACTOR	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		36

Acting for the Returning Professional Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
THEA 51303	ACTING I FOUNDATIONS/STANISLAVSKI AND MICHAEL CHEKHOV	3
or THEA 51304	ACTING II: SCENE STUDY-MODERN AMERICAN REALISM	
or THEA 61303	ACTING III SCENE STUDY: NATURALISM AND ABSURD	
THEA 51701	MOVEMENT, FORM AND SPACE I-THE ACTOR'S PHYSICAL INSTRUMENT	3
or THEA 61701	MOVEMENT, FORM AND SPACE II-NEUTRAL AND CHARACTER MASK	
THEA 51803	VOICE AND SPEECH I	3
or THEA 61803	VOICE AND SPEECH II	
or THEA 61804	VOICE AND SPEECH III	
THEA 63192	MENTORSHIP IN PERFORMANCE	3
or THEA 64192	MENTORSHIP AT PORTHOUSE	
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		24
THEA 51027	ADVANCED PLAYWRITING	
THEA 51095	SPECIAL TOPICS	
THEA 51191	VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR: THEATRE HISTORY, LITERATURE AND 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–Costume Design Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
THEA 51524	DESIGN STUDIO:COSTUME	3
THEA 51529	ADVANCED WIG AND MAKEUP TECHNIQUES-STAGE AND SCREEN	3

THEA 51621	PRESENTATION MEDIA	3
THEA 51624	HISTORY OF COSTUME AND TEXTILES FOR THEATRE	3
THEA 61306	PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	3
THEA 61525	MILLINERY AND 3-D CHARACTERS	3
THEA 61528	DESIGN PROCESS AND COLLABORATION	3
THEA 61623	DIGITAL RENDERING THEATRE DESIGN	3
Design Electives, choose from the following:		12
ARTS 55300	TEXTILES: JACQUARD WEAVING	
ARTS 55304	TEXTILES: PICTORIAL WEAVING	
ARTS 64096	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION STUDIO ART	
THEA 51095	SPECIAL TOPICS	
THEA 51522	DESIGN STUDIO: LIGHTING	
THEA 51525	PROPS AND CRAFTS	
THEA 51622	DESIGN STUDIO:SCENERY	
THEA 60196	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION: HISTORIC TEXTILES	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		36

Design/Technology–Lighting Design Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
THEA 51420	THEATRICAL DRAFTING II	3
THEA 51521	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY I	3
THEA 51522	DESIGN STUDIO: LIGHTING	3
THEA 51526	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY II	3
THEA 51622	DESIGN STUDIO:SCENERY	3
THEA 61306	PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	3
THEA 61528	DESIGN PROCESS AND COLLABORATION	3
THEA 61623	DIGITAL RENDERING THEATRE DESIGN	3
Design Electives, choose from the following:		12
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: THEATRE AND DRAMA	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		36

Design/Technology–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 51622	DESIGN STUDIO:SCENERY	3
THEA 61306	PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	3
THEA 61528	DESIGN PROCESS AND COLLABORATION	3

THEA 61623	DIGITAL RENDERING THEATRE DESIGN	3
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:COSTUME	
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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
THEA 51420	THEATRICAL DRAFTING II	3
THEA 51430	ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION THEORY	3
THEA 51531	THEATRICAL RIGGING	3
THEA 51622	DESIGN STUDIO:SCENERY	3
THEA 61306	PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	3
THEA 61528	DESIGN PROCESS AND COLLABORATION	3
THEA 61623	DIGITAL RENDERING THEATRE DESIGN	3
Design Electives, choose from the following:		15
THEA 51095	SPECIAL TOPICS	
THEA 51521	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY I	
THEA 51525	PROPS AND CRAFTS	
THEA 51621	PRESENTATION MEDIA	
THEA 51522	DESIGN STUDIO: LIGHTING	
THEA 51524	DESIGN STUDIO:COSTUME	
THEA 51526	ADVANCED LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY II	
THEA 51560	THEATRE FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY	
THEA 61096	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION: THEATRE AND DRAMA	
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 rationale 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.