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 terminal 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
- Program Coordinator: Jakyung Seo | jseo1@kent.edu | 330-672-2055
- Graduate Coordinator: Yuko Kurahashi | ykurahas@kent.edu | 330-672-9483
- 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) 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
  - Minimum 100 Duolingo test score

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 60992 or THEA 61992</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL THEATRE INTERNSHIP I or II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 61000</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE STUDY IN THEATRE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 61306</td>
<td>PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
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THEA 6123  DIGITAL RENDERING THEATRE DESIGN 3
THEA 65000  HISTORY, HISTORICISM, THEORY AND PRACTICE IN THEATRE AND DRAMA 3
THEA 61094  COLLEGE TEACHING IN THEATRE 1 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

Culminating Requirement
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 51540</td>
<td>DRAPING FOR THE THEATRE I</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51621</td>
<td>PRESENTATION MEDIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 66001</td>
<td>COSTUME DESIGN I: SCRIPT ANALYSIS</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 66002</td>
<td>COSTUME DESIGN II: PERFORMANCE GENRES</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 66003</td>
<td>COSTUME DESIGN III: THEATRICAL STYLES</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>THEA 66004</td>
<td>COSTUME DESIGN IV: ADVANCED RENDERING</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>THEA 66005</td>
<td>COSTUME DESIGN V: RESEARCH METHODS</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 66006</td>
<td>COSTUME DESIGN VI: TEXTILES</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 66092</td>
<td>PRODUCTION COLLABORATION: COSTUME DESIGN/TECHNOLOGY (repeatable)</td>
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Concentration Electives, choose from the following: 10

ARTS 55300  JACQUARD: DIGITAL WEAVING
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

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 36

Scene Design Concentration Requirements

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<td>THEATRICAL DRAFTING II</td>
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<td>THEA 51525</td>
<td>PROPS AND CRAFTS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 51621</td>
<td>PRESENTATION MEDIA</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 63001</td>
<td>SCENIC DESIGN I: FOUNDATIONS IN SINGLE SET SCENIC DESIGN</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 63002</td>
<td>SCENIC DESIGN II: ADVANCED SINGLE SET SCENIC DESIGN</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 63003</td>
<td>SCENIC DESIGN III: DESIGNING BEYOND DRAMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 63004</td>
<td>SCENIC DESIGN IV: ADVANCED MULTI-SETTING DESIGN</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 63005</td>
<td>SCENIC DESIGN V: ENTERTAINMENT AND PRODUCTION DESIGN</td>
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<td>THEA 63006</td>
<td>SCENIC DESIGN VI: NON-TRADITIONAL AND SITE-SPECIFIC PERFORMANCES</td>
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<td>THEA 63192</td>
<td>PRODUCTION COLLABORATION: SCENIC DESIGN (repeatable)</td>
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THEA 65192  TEACHING PRACTICUM 36

Lighting Design Concentration Requirements

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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 51523</td>
<td>SOUND DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY I</td>
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<td>THEA 51562</td>
<td>ADVANCED PROJECTION DESIGN</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 65001</td>
<td>LIGHTING DESIGN I: DRAMA</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 65002</td>
<td>LIGHTING DESIGN II: MUSICAL THEATRE</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 65003</td>
<td>LIGHTING DESIGN III: DANCE AND OPERA</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>THEA 65004</td>
<td>LIGHTING DESIGN IV: NON-TRADITIONAL PRODUCTIONS</td>
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<td>THEA 65005</td>
<td>LIGHTING DESIGN V: ARCHITECTURAL AND INTERIOR LIGHTING</td>
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<td>THEA 65006</td>
<td>LIGHTING DESIGN VI: NEW TECHNOLOGY</td>
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<td>THEA 65092</td>
<td>PRODUCTION COLLABORATION: LIGHTING DESIGN (repeatable)</td>
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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

THEA 65192  TEACHING PRACTICUM 36
The Theatre Design and Technology major comprises the following concentrations:

- **Costume Design and Technology** concentration prepares students for careers in the entertainment industry, professional theatre or theatre education. Students study both design and crafts and wigs and makeup. Students also design costumes for theatre or theatre education. Students study both design and crafts and wigs and makeup. Students also design costumes for

### Graduation Requirements

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.

Theatre Design and Technology major comprises the following concentrations:

- **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 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 to work in four very different theatre spaces: black box, large proscenium, thrust and open outdoor.