

THEATRE, MFA

The Master of Fine Arts degree in theatre has six areas of study:

- Acting
 - The Acting Concentration is a rigorously structured sequence of study that provides the actor a solid base of technique and proficiency in an array of acting styles and methods.
- Arts Management
 - The Arts Management Concentration offers a well-rounded education through coursework from the Department of Theatre and Dance, the Manderson Graduate School of Business, and the College of Communications and Information Sciences
- Costume Design and Production
 - The Costume Design and Production Concentration includes general and advanced courses in costume design, history, construction, and crafts.
- Design and Technical Production
 - The Design and Technical Production Concentration includes study in Lighting Design, Scenic Design, Sound Design, Technical Direction, and associated areas. Students are exposed to all areas within coursework throughout their time in the program. Students' realized production work can be centered around a particular area or they can have opportunities in multiple areas.
- Directing
 - The Directing Concentration is an intense three-year program with a dual focus on production and preparation for academia. It is geared towards nascent directors who have already mastered the basics of theatre directing and helmed a few productions (of any size or budget, including very small).
- Stage Management
 - The Stage Management Concentration is a production-oriented, three-year intensive that focuses on providing a diversity of management experience to candidates as well as ongoing mentorship and teaching opportunities in an academic environment.

Admissions

The Theatre MFA degree requires specialization and admission to one of the following areas of study: acting, arts management, costume design and production, design and technical production, directing, or stage management. Admission to the MFA degree program in theatre requires satisfaction of all admission requirements as described in the Admission Criteria section of this catalog. Admission is awarded based upon a portfolio review, interview, and acceptance into The University of Alabama Graduate School for specialization in arts management, costume design and production, design and technical production, directing, and stage management. Admission is awarded based upon audition, interview, and acceptance into The University of Alabama Graduate School for the acting specialization.

The MFA program is normally a three-year program. Students who hold the MA degree in theatre upon admission to the program may expect a shortened course of study, dependent upon faculty evaluation of the previous work. Students seeking such a shortened program must apply to have previous work evaluated. Normally, a two-year minimum residency is required for students with shortened programs. Courses related to Theatre in other Departments may be considered within the 45 required credit hours upon approval of the Area Head within a specialization and the involved Department.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Curricular Requirements

Should deficiencies in the student's undergraduate program be perceived, appropriate undergraduate courses will be required. While these undergraduate courses may not be counted toward the graduate degree, they may be taken in addition to the maximum allowable number of graduate hours.

All students must follow Plan II (non-thesis) and complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of graduate coursework for the degree. The MFA program has a required core curriculum and the individual program Concentrations have both required and elective coursework.

Continuation in the MFA degree program is contingent upon recommendation by the theatre faculty, following an annual review of the student's academic and production work. Students may be placed on probation following the review; students placed on probation have one semester in which to reestablish good academic standing. Under no circumstances will a student be permitted to continue in the program on probation for more than one semester.

Program Core		Hours
TH 551	Hist Of The Theatre I	3
TH 552	Hist Of The Theatre II	3
TH 600	Advanced Practicum I (1st Semester)	1
TH 600	Advanced Practicum I (2nd Semester)	1
TH 601	Advanced Practicum II (3rd Semester)	1
TH 601	Advanced Practicum II (4th Semester)	1
TH 603	Advanced Practicum III (5th Semester)	1
TH 603	Advanced Practicum III (6th Semester)	1
TH 695	Capstone Experience in Theatre	3
TH 600, TH 601, and TH 603 must be taken twice.		
Credit Hours Subtotal:		15

Concentrations

Acting Concentration		Hours
Select 45 hours from the following		
TH 540	Stage Movemnt Phys Acting	3
TH 541	Advanced Scene Study	3
TH 542	Careers In Prof Theatre	3
TH 543	Script Analysis Interprtn	3
TH 544	Period Acting Styles I	3
TH 545	Period Acting Styles II	3
TH 546	Adv Voice Speech Perform	3
TH 547	Stage Dialects	3
TH 548	Rehearsal Process	3
TH 554	Seminar Contemp Theatr	3
TH 555	Seminar Th Hy: Classic	3
TH 557	Sem Th Hy: American	3
TH 558	American Feminist Theatre	3
TH 570	Theatre Management	3
TH 575	The Singing Voice	2
TH 576	Intermediate Group Voice	2

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TH 582	Playwriting I Seminar	3
TH 602	Internship	1-3
TH 640	Prob Stage Move Phys Act	3
TH 641	Alexander Technique	3
TH 642	Teaching Acting	3
TH 649	Probs Th Arts: Perform	3
TH 690	Independent Study	3

Arts Management Concentration **Hours**

Select 45 hours from the following

TH 570	Theatre Management	3
TH 602	Internship	6
TH 643	Teaching Practicum	3
TH 670	Fundraising and Development	3
TH 671	Leadership in the Arts	3
TH 672	Venue and Event Management	3
TH 673	Financial Management	3
TH 674	Public Policy In Arts	3
TH 675	Business Legal Issues In Arts	3
TH 676	Marketing The Arts	3
TH 678	Board Relations and Planning	3
TH 679	Probs Th Arts: Managmt	3
TH 690	Independent Study	3
APR 572	Persuasive Communication	3
APR 582	APR Management	3
MGT 517	Leadership & Ethics	3
MGT 582	New Venture Development	3
MGT 586	Small Business Consulting	3
MKT 510	Prod Design Marketing Strategy	3
MKT 518	Mkting Mgmt & Decision Making	3

Arts Management concentration enrollment is capped at six students per year due to limited faculty resources.

Costume Design and Production Concentration **Hours**

Required courses in concentration (18 hours)

CTD 548	History Of Costumes	3
TH 531	Costume Construction I	3
TH 532	Draping & Drafting	3
TH 533	Basics of Costume Design	3
TH 537	Drawing for Stage Designs *	3
TH 635	Projects in Costume Design *	3

Credit Hours Subtotal: 18

Elective courses in concentration (select 27 hours or more) **27**
minimum

TH 535	Presentation for Designers	3
TH 536	Fabric Modification *	3
TH 538	Probs Th Arts: Crafts *	3
TH 632	Costume Construction II *	3
TH 633	Advanced Draping & Drafting *	3
TH 634	Costume Design for Music	3
TH 636	Costume Design through the Age	3
TH 637	Period Costume Construction *	3
TH 638	Advanced Tailoring Techniques	3

TH 639	Prob Th Art: Costuming *	1-3
CTD 546	Cult Dynam Apparel Text	3
TH 515	Properties Construction	3
TH 521	Period Decor	3
TH 525	Scene Painting	3
TH 528	Drawing and Rendering	3
TH 570	Theatre Management	3
TH 615	Lighting Technology	3
TH 621	History of Stage Design	3
TH 622	Scene Design I	3
TH 628	Prob Th Arts: Design *	1-3
TH 643	Teaching Practicum	1-3
TH 690	Independent Study	1-6
TH 698	Research Not Related to Thesis	3

*May be taken twice for Degree Credit

Design and Technical Production Concentration **Hours**

Required Courses in Concentration (18 Hours):

Should deficiencies in the student's undergraduate program be perceived, appropriate graduate or undergraduate courses will be required.

TH 520	Technical Direction	3
TH 525	Scene Painting *	3
TH 526	Sound Prod Tech Th Dn	3
TH 527	Computer Drafting For Theatre *	3
TH 615	Lighting Technology	3
TH 622	Scene Design I *	3

Credit Hours Subtotal: 18

Elective Courses in Concentration

Select 27 or More Hours:

TH 515	Properties Construction	3
TH 516	Rigging Fundamentals	3
TH 519	Electricity and Electronics	3
TH 525	Scene Painting *	3
TH 521	Period Decor	3
TH 527	Computer Drafting For Theatre *	3
TH 523	Drafting For Theatre	3
TH 528	Drawing and Rendering *	3
TH 530	Hy Costume For Stage	3
TH 531	Costume Construction I	3
TH 533	Basics of Costume Design	3
TH 535	Presentation for Designers	3
TH 536	Fabric Modification	3
TH 537	Drawing for Stage Designs *	3
TH 543	Script Analysis Interptn	3
TH 570	Theatre Management	3
TH 602	Internship *	3
TH 606	Stage Management I	3
TH 616	Lighting Design	3
TH 617	Projection Design	3
TH 618	Lighting Design III	1-3
TH 620	Structural Design for Theatre	3
TH 621	History of Stage Design	3

TH 622	Scene Design I *	3
TH 623	Scene Design II *	3
TH 628	Prob Th Arts: Design *	3
TH 643	Teaching Practicum *	3
TH 644	Advanced Teaching Practicum *	1 to 3
TH 658	Probs Th Arts: Technology *	3
TH 672	Venue and Event Management	3
TH 690	Independent Study *	3
TH 698	Research Not Related to Thesis *	3

*May be taken twice for Degree Credit

Other courses may be considered for electives as approved by the Area Concentration Head.

Directing Concentration

Hours

Select 45 hours from the following

TH 561	Advanced Directing	3
TH 663	Graduate Directing Studio I	3
TH 664	Graduate Directing Studio II	3
TH 521	Period Decor	3
TH 526	Sound Prod Tech Th Dn	3
TH 554	Seminar Contemp Theatr	3
TH 555	Seminar Th Hy: Classic	3
TH 557	Sem Th Hy: American	3
TH 558	American Feminist Theatre	3
TH 570	Theatre Management	3
TH 582	Playwriting I Seminar	3
TH 602	Internship	1-10
TH 616	Lighting Design	3
TH 621	History of Stage Design	3
TH 622	Scene Design I	3
TH 642	Teaching Acting	3
TH 643	Teaching Practicum	1-3
TH 669	Probs Th Arts: Directg	3
TH 672	Venue and Event Management	3
TH 690	Independent Study	3
TH 698	Research Not Related to Thesis	3

The program typically accepts one new MFA candidate a year.

Stage Management Concentration

Hours

Select 45 hours from the following

TH 606	Stage Management I	3
TH 521	Period Decor	3
TH 526	Sound Prod Tech Th Dn	3
TH 527	Computer Drafting For Theatre	3
TH 533	Basics of Costume Design	3
TH 537	Drawing for Stage Designs	3
TH 554	Seminar Contemp Theatr	3
TH 555	Seminar Th Hy: Classic	3
TH 557	Sem Th Hy: American	3
TH 558	American Feminist Theatre	3
TH 570	Theatre Management	3
TH 582	Playwriting I Seminar	3
TH 602	Internship	1-10

TH 615	Lighting Technology	3
TH 620	Structural Design for Theatre	3
TH 621	History of Stage Design	3
TH 622	Scene Design I	3
TH 634	Costume Design for Music	3
TH 642	Teaching Acting	3
TH 643	Teaching Practicum	1-3
TH 672	Venue and Event Management	3
TH 690	Independent Study	3
TH 698	Research Not Related to Thesis	3

The program typically accepts one new MFA candidate in stage management a year.

Transfer Credit

Subject to approval by the department chairperson and the dean of the Graduate School, in specified programs, a maximum of 15 credit hours of graduate work may be transferred from another institution. These hours must be in theatre or in a closely allied subject, and they must contribute to the student's educational objective.

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

Comprehensive Exam/Capstone

MFA Theatre students follow the Plan II program requirements, as described by the Graduate School, to complete their degree. For the Department of Theatre and Dance, a requirement for this degree plan is that a student must complete a culminating or capstone experience. The Capstone Experience is one in which students are expected to integrate prior learning and demonstrate mastery of their field of study. At a minimum, this will typically take the form of one or more of the following:

- A research paper, a policy and practice paper, or equivalent experience
- A public performance or exhibition along with a contextualizing paper
- A practicum or internship

Every Capstone submittal must include a significant writing component. The specific topic of a student's individual Capstone will be chosen by the beginning of their final year in the program. Each student's Capstone work must be an individual project rather than a group project. While it is understood that students often work together on particular productions, the nature and choice of an individual student's Capstone must be such that their work can be individualized and reviewed as a distinct piece of work so that their grade is reflective of the work they have done, rather than the work of a group. In some cases, the actual development of the project or documentation of the Capstone may occur over multiple semesters, depending on the concentration and the direction of the Area Head.

Work on a student's capstone will be performed under the TH 695 Capstone Experience in Theatre course. Each student will receive an individual grade within that course that not only reflects what they have submitted but also reflects their demonstration of their overall mastery of their field of study. Each student's submission must be complete and submitted to their Area Head by the last day of Final Exams in their last semester. Any submittal past that date will be penalized according to the discretion of their Area head.

Each student's submittal must be in the form of a single digital file of an appropriate digital format. The most preferred format would be a Portable Document File (PDF). Files from particular software products

such as Microsoft Word will not be accepted. The contents of the file should be appropriately organized as if for publication. This file will be submitted as directed by the student's individual Area Head. It is advised that the student have their Area Head review their materials and progress throughout the process to ensure that the final product the student will be submitting is acceptable.

The Area Head will thoroughly review what the student has submitted before making any determination of a grade assignment. With the grade assignment, the Area Head will provide the student with a digital copy of the formal review of their submittal. The Area Head will then take the student's submittal and their formal review to save within the digital repository for MFA Theatre Capstone Projects so that they can be held for archival purposes.

Capstone Projects are evaluated with scores of 1 (unacceptable) to 4 (exemplary) on the following competencies:

- Competency 1: Mastery of fundamental technical skills and methods
- Competency 2: Mastery of specialized skills appropriate to area/ Capstone Project
- Competency 3: Well-articulated conceptual framework for the project
- Competency 4: Demonstrated fulfillment of project in alignment with the project proposal or planning
- Competency 5: Demonstrated problem-solving abilities and creative, critical thought processes
- Competency 6: Clarity of supporting materials that provide explanation of the project
- Competency 7: Critical assessment of the work and the creative process
- Competency 8: Clear description of the development of skills or acquisition of new skills related to the production of the project
- Competency 9: Professionalism throughout the process

Students must receive a score of 3 or higher on competencies 1 and 2, on at least 2 competencies within 3-6, and on at least 2 competencies within 7-9 to successfully pass their Capstone Experience.

Time Limits for Degree Completion Requirements

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Student Progress Requirement

The Concentration areas will hold reviews at the end of the 1st-4th semesters for each MFA candidate. Students in their final year are reviewed through the Capstone Project process. The review is designed to give graduate students an idea of their progress towards the successful completion of their degree program, identify strengths and weaknesses, document areas of professional and personal development, and evaluate assistantship duties (as applicable). Faculty will provide numerical scores from 1 (unacceptable) to 4 (exceeds expectations) on academic progress, work ethic, professional development, and assistantship duties (as applicable), as well as provide narrative commentary to support the scores. For scores of 2 or 1 in any given area, a student may be placed on probation and a specific plan for improvements will be included to implement in the following semester. Should students not be able to implement the necessary improvements by their next review, continuing to earn a score of 2 or 1, they may be dismissed from the program. Two weeks before their review students must complete a self-assessment of their skills and progress in response to the Department Self-Reflection instructions to submit to their Area

advisor. Before the review meeting, the faculty will submit the completed assessment to the student with the scores and written comments, so the conversation can be more focused during the meeting. In addition to the verbal conversation, students may add additional comments to the written review before signing. Signed and completed reviews will be stored digitally by the Department for archival purposes.

Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

Academic Grievances Information

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

Scholastic Requirements

Graduate School information on Scholastic Requirements.

Graduate School Deadlines Information

Information on the Graduate School Deadlines.

Application for Graduation Information

Information on the Application for Graduation.