THEATRE, BA

A background in theatre, music or art is most helpful but not required to be a successful theatre major. Performance experience can come from a variety of areas including high school theatre and musical performances, church plays, community theatres, etc.

Admission into the Major

Students are expected to formally declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students can declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab of myBama.

Special Opportunities

The Department of Theatre and Dance offers various programs of study leading to the BA degree in theatre. These program areas include acting, musical theatre, theatre management and administration, scene design and technical production and costume design and production. Please see the principal adviser in each of these areas for entrance requirements and a suggested course of study.

The highly-motivated student who seeks to be well prepared for either the profession or graduate education may choose to take more hours in the major than the specified 36. This plan of action is highly desirable and strongly advised, but is not required. If more than 42 hours are accrued in the major, the student will be exceeding the 120 credit hour requirement for graduation by the number of hours taken over the single subject 42 semester hour limit.

Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in theatre must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

Ancillary Courses

The theatre major does not require ancillary courses (for exceptions, see Theatre Major: Musical Theatre Track section of this catalog).

Required Minor

The theatre major requires the completion of a minor (for exceptions, see Theatre Major: Musical Theatre Track section of this catalog).

Additional Major Requirements

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an adviser in the major department for academic planning and to be approved for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with minor, College and University requirements.

Commercial theatre in NY, Chicago and LA, regional theatre, film and television, education, theme parks, cruise ships, scenery and costume studios, technical production companies.

Types of Jobs Accepted

film and television performance; production personnel in regional theatre; sales and technical personnel in production companies; high school educators; community theatre technical direction and business management; graduate school

Jobs of Experienced Alumni

executive director at 2nd Stage, NYC (Broadway Theater); engineer at major Las Vegas production firm; national Broadway tours; television and film acting; costume designer at major regional theater; technical director for major Broadway scenic studio; university and high school educators; management at all levels in entertainment industry

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center