MASTER OF FINE ARTS (M.F.A.) MAJOR IN THEATRE (DESIGN CONCENTRATION)

Major Programs
A Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree with a major in Theatre will prepare students for the field of theatre, more specifically to direct theatre, lead a theatre, or to teach theatre. This degree will provide students with a strong theoretical and practical education in preparing productions so that they might have long, fruitful careers in theatre or higher education. It will also hone student skills in critical thinking, problem solving, creative analysis, and application of the craft to real world projects so that they might excel in today's quickly changing and ever diverse theatre and academic environments.

Application Requirements
The items listed below are required for admission consideration for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Submission instructions, additional details, and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College's website (http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu). International students should review the International Admission Documents webpage (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/admission-documents/international) for additional requirements.

- completed online ApplyTexas application
- $40 nonrefundable application fee
- $50 nonrefundable international evaluation fee (if applicable)
- baccalaureate degree (preferably a B.A. or B.F.A. in theatre) from a regionally accredited university
- official transcripts required from each four-year institution where course credit was granted
- minimum 2.75 GPA in your last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
- minimum 24 undergraduate hours in theatre
- GRE scores not required
- non-academic practical theatre experience
- resume/CV
- statement of purpose detailing the student’s area of specialty, related background information, and goals in pursuing the M.F.A. in theatre
- theatre portfolio (preferably electronic) which may include rehearsal prompt books of past directing projects, design sketches and renderings, production photos, DVDs, reviews, and/or items showing process and aesthetic
- two letters of recommendation

TOEFL or IELTS Scores
Non-native English speakers who do not qualify for an English proficiency waiver:

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and
- minimum individual module scores of 6.0

This program does not offer admission if the scores above are not met.

Degree Requirements
The Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree with a major in Theatre concentration in design requires 60 semester credit hours.

Course Requirements

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Choose 27 hours from the following:

- TH 5338 Advanced Stage Lighting
- TH 5340 Professional Internship
- TH 5345 Advanced Studies in Costume Design
- TH 5346 Historical Costume Research
- TH 5347 Advanced Costume Construction
- TH 5351 History of Architecture and Interiors for Theatrical Design
- TH 5355 Scene Painting
- TH 5356 Theatrical Drafting: Vectorworks
- TH 5357 Scene Design
- TH 5359 Advanced Screenwriting
- TH 5360 Problems in Theatre
- TH 5361 Oregon Shakespeare Festival Intensive
- TH 5365 Backgrounds of Modern Drama
- TH 5367 Studies in Dramatic Theory and Criticism
- TH 5369 Contemporary World Theatre and Drama
- TH 5371 Classical and Renaissance Drama

Total Hours 60

Comprehensive Examination Requirements
All candidates for graduate degrees must pass one or more comprehensive examinations.

Master's level courses in Theatre: TH
Courses Offered

Theatre (TH)

TH 5199B. Thesis.
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

TH 5299B. Thesis.
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.
2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

TH 5301. Drama Research.
An examination of problems and research techniques in drama. Historical, critical, descriptive, and experimental research approaches will be surveyed and basic procedures in research report writing will be considered. Required of theatre majors.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5302. Text Analysis, Research and Interpretation.
This course reviews various methods of analysis of a dramatic text. This includes inductive, deductive, structural, and methodical approaches. It also examines techniques for production research and explores issues of interpretation that affect the development of a play's translation into a production on stage.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5303. Conceptualization and Composition.
This course investigates conceiving and developing a production concept and/or production context. It also explores how the concept/context is useful in the formation of a plan of staging. Finally, it examines potential blocking and staging implications that result from conceptualization and context, as well as composition implications.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5304. Web Series Creation.
This course focuses on the techniques of creating a web series, script writing and development. It explores the fundamentals of film production and web publication, including marketing and identifying a target audience.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5305. Web Series Creation II.
This course is a continuation of the Web Series course and specifically focuses on production of a web series. Students will write, direct, and produce their own web series for publication on the internet. Prerequisite: TH 5304 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5310. Graduate Assistant Development.
This course is required as a condition of employment for graduate teaching and instructional assistants. This course covers topics related to employment responsibilities. This course does not earn graduate degree credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Graduate Assistantship|Exclude from Graduate GPA
Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

TH 5312. Director/Designer Collaboration.
This course examines the nature of director/designer collaboration. Areas studied and developed include the director's visual perceptions, visual interpretations, and visual choices. In addition, attention is focused on discovering and uncovering these characteristics embedded in theatrical texts.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5313. History of Directing and Scenography.
This course is a historical survey of the work of directors and designers. Particular emphasis will be on seminal production plans for notable directors and designers of the 20th and 21st centuries.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5320. Directing Theatre Activities.
Designed to assist any teacher in directing theatre activities. During the course, students will direct plays or scenes. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

TH 5323. Shakespeare Through Performance.
This intensive summer study abroad program immerses students in the language and culture of Shakespeare's plays. Incorporating a performance-based approach to the study of Shakespeare, this course includes theatrical workshops taught by professionals at leading international theatres, including the Royal Shakespeare Company.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This intensive study abroad program immerses students in the language and culture of Shakespeare's plays. In Stratford, academic workshops are led by scholars from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Through immersion in the cultural environment in which the plays were produced, students gain insight into the context that shaped Shakespeare's theatre.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5330. Stage Management.
An in-depth seminar in stage management, including organization, techniques, and practices for managing stage productions from initial planning through performance.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TH 5331. Television Writing.
This course focuses on the techniques of writing for television, including both half-hour situational comedies and hour-long dramas. Students will pitch story ideas, develop beat sheets, write treatments, and complete written scripts. Prerequisite: TH 5354 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5332. Stage Properties.
This course trains students in the craft, artistry and management of stage properties for careers in theatre, film and the entertainment industry.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5333. Advanced Television Writing.
This course focuses on the techniques of creating a television series, including script writing and development, film production, and post-production editing. Students will spin a character from a network or cable television series and create a new series based on that character. Graduate students will act as co-producers. Prerequisite: TH 5331 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5334. Figure Drawing for Theatre Design.
This course covers drawing the human figure using traditional media, technique and application. Intended for the theatre designer, this course places special emphasis on aspects of drapery as they relate to the human figure.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5335. Lighting Design (undergraduate).
This course will concentrate primarily on the aesthetics of stage lighting, and will cover such topics as: viewer psychological and physiological responses as they pertain to visual perception; color; script analysis; use of light in creating both static and dynamic visual compositions; development and graphic representation of a theatrical lighting design.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5342. MFA Studio I.
This course focuses on work with actors. Students will explore various rehearsal methods, motifs and strategies. Students will direct two short scenes for class and explore effective ways of working with actors. In addition, students will observe directors and acting coaches in the department work with and coach actors.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5343. MFA Studio II.
Builds upon the work of MFA Studio I. This course examines additional techniques for working with actors as well as tools the director can use to shape each unit of performance text in order to build a dramatic story on stage. Students will analyze, rehearse and perform a one-act play. Prerequisite: TH 5342 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5345. Advanced Studies in Costume Design.
Costume problems for entire productions
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5346. Historical Costume Research.
This course is a study of clothing, accessories, and customs of selected theatrical periods as an approach to costuming period plays.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5347. Advanced Costume Construction.
Advanced studies in the construction of costumes for the stage, techniques in sewing, pattern drafting/design as well as accessories/crafts construction.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5348. Graphic Representation.
Students will study and practice drawing and painting techniques, as well as rendering with other media, including markers.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5350. Second Year Project.
Students in the second year of the MFA in Theatre will direct, design, or write for a departmental production. The course includes a written report of the project that demonstrates an understanding of the creative process of the chosen discipline. Prerequisite: Completed at least 18 graduate hours towards their M.F.A.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 3 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This course is a study of architecture and interiors throughout history as it impacts design for theatre. This course will look at periods of design from ancient Egypt to the early Twentieth Century.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TH 5352. MFA Studio III.
MFA Studio III is the student's second year project. The course includes all phases of directing a play, from conception and research, to rehearsal and performance. Prerequisite: TH 5343 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5353. MFA Studio IV.
A primary focus of the course is on experimental theatre. Students rehearse and perform scene work from 20th and 21st century plays, and put together a final experimental performance project. Prerequisite: TH 5343 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5354. Playwriting.
A seminar in the art and craft of playwriting, from initial idea through a completed draft of a play. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5355. Scene Painting.
Theory and practice of scene and costume painting as developed in the Italian Renaissance and continuing into new media available today. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5356. Theatrical Drafting: Vectorworks.
This course is a study of computer techniques and procedures used in the preparation of design and technical drawings for theatrical scenery and lighting.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5357. Scene Design.
Seminar on design, emphasizing presentation and justification of executed renderings or models for selected plays. Emphasis on styles of staging, settings, lighting and properties, and their relationship to the complete production. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5358. Screenwriting.
This course offers a comprehensive study of the art and craft of writing screenplays. During a semester of intensive writing, readings, script analyses, and critiques, writers complete assignments in storytelling, character, structure, and script development. Each writer completes a full-length screenplay as the capstone project for the semester.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5359. Advanced Screenwriting.
This course focuses on the development and revision of full-length screenplays. May be repeated for credit with different emphasis. Prerequisite: TH 5358 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5360. Problems in Theatre.
Designed to give supervised experience to qualified advanced students in theatre history, playwriting, directing, acting, technical, or other theatre problems. Research problems or actual production problems may be chosen. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5361. Oregon Shakespeare Festival Intensive.
This course examines theatre production with a specific focus on directors and directing at this country's largest Shakespeare theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Students will study issues of translating the current seasons' nine plays from script to stage, as well as analyzing the perspectives and choices of each director's production.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5363. Directing for Film.
An in-depth examination of directing theories and procedures for film with practical filming and editing exercises. May be repeated with different emphasis for additional credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5364. Stage Directing.
Development of skills in analysis, research, staging, and production, with practical experience provided by directing scenes.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5365. Backgrounds of Modern Drama.
An analysis of those developments in dramatic literature that formed the basis of modern drama. Primary emphasis will be on nineteenth- and twentieth-century European and American drama.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5366. Directing Styles.
A study of directing different dramatic styles. Students will direct a one-act play during regular semesters. Prerequisite: TH 5364 with a grade of "C" or better, or permission of instructor.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

The study of dramatic theory and criticism from Aristotle to the present.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TH 5369. Contemporary World Theatre and Drama.
Studies of current trends in world theatre and drama.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5371. Classical and Renaissance Drama.
Seminar in Greek, French Neoclassical, and English Renaissance theatre,
with intensive examination of selected works by Sophocles, Euripides,
Shakespeare, and Marlowe. Primary focus will be on analysis of the plays
as performance texts, and on the historical cultural environments in
which the plays were created and first performed.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5372. Theory and Practice of Dramaturgy.
Study of the practical application of historical research and textual
analysis in the production of period plays and new works. Emphasis upon
the dramaturg as an instrument of collaboration between members of the
artistic team and as a facilitator of audience outreach.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5373. Advanced Film Directing.
An in-depth examination of narrative filmmaking that includes screenplay
analysis, storyboarding, scheduling the shoot, directorial techniques,
staging actors, camera placement, filming on location, and editing.
Prerequisite: TH 5363 with a grade of "C" or better.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5374. Art History for Theatrical Design.
This course focuses on major art movements since the Renaissance.
Baroque, Rococo, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism,
Expressionism, Surrealism, and other movements from throughout the
world are studied in relationship to their use by theatrical designers.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5375. Advanced Playwriting.
This course focuses on an in-depth study of the techniques of playwriting
and the variety of styles that a playwright might employ. The course
culminates with the writing of a full-length play. Prerequisite: TH 5354
with a grade of "C" or better.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A study of directors, theories, and problems of directing in the
contemporary theatre. May be repeated with different emphasis for
additional credit.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5378. Play Development Lab.
This course provides a laboratory workshop development process for
new plays. It provides a structured environment for rigorously revising
student-written works. Prerequisites: TH 5375 with a grade of "C" or
better, or instructor approval.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5381. Automated Lighting.
Automated Lighting will explore and practice methods and approaches
for basic uses of multi-attribute lighting technology. We will investigate
a variety of moving light and LED technology and control as well as
methods of properly documenting and cueing with these complex tools.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5382. MFA Studio V.
This course offers a study of and experience in preparing and directing
Shakespeare: from inception of a given approach to handling the
language issues to performance. This course examines how professional
directors actually work on production for major Shakespeare theatres in
America.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.*
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5383. MFA Studio VI.
This course continues the styles work started in MFA Studio V. It focuses
on directing projects from multiple periods and styles of plays. Scenes
will be drawn from several periods of dramatic literature including Ancient
Greece, the English Restoration, Moliere, Georgian, and other High
Comedy texts. Prerequisite: TH 5382 with a grade of "C" or better.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5387. Directing Practicum.
Study of and experience in choosing, preparing and directing a theatre
production from analysis to performance. Attention is given to theatre
organization and management. May be repeated with different emphasis
for additional credit.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5389. Diagnostic Creative Project.
This project involves the design of a relatively simple theatrical
production that is produced by University Theatre. Complete production
plans are prepared under faculty guidance, followed by faculty evaluation
and debriefing after production. Requires Department Approval.
*3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.*
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TH 5398. Final Creative Project.
To be taken the last year of training. This project requires the student to direct a major University Theatre production. The student must demonstrate mastery of directing. A complete written report of the project must be approved by a faculty committee. The report is a part of the final examination for the degree of Master of Arts with a major in Theatre for students in Directing.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 2 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5399A. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until student has completed the thesis in Theatre 5399B.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

TH 5399B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

TH 5599B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.
5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

TH 5640. Professional Internship.
This course provides professional hands-on experience in the theatre or film industry; it is intended for students who do a full-time internship over the summer or during a regular full semester. Consent of instructor required.
6 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 40 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Lab Required
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

TH 5999B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.
9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit