

# Department of Theatre Arts

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The programs offered by UI's Department of Theatre Arts are designed to encourage the development of the whole person, which is the hallmark of a liberal arts education.

Through the study of drama, students learn how to use the elements of theatre as performance as well as process. Performance experience helps students gain a deeper understanding of themselves and human behavior. Students learn how to manipulate space, lighting, color and texture in the studies of design. Collaborative participation in the creative process helps students develop the teamwork skills needed to be effective and successful members of contemporary society.

The study of film encourages students to explore the relationship between film as an expressive art, and the interaction between films and the cultural and society of which they are a part. Through the study of film forms and structures; mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, sound, screenwriting and acting students learn how these elements create meaning and shape an audience's understanding of film narrative.

Arts and entertainment is one of this country's fastest growing sectors, and the career options continue to expand along with its economic impact. The career prospects are vast literally hundreds of possibilities in professional theatre, film, television, education, playwriting, drama-turgy, arts management and production, art therapy and recreational drama for special populations. The department's program of study offers a solid foundation for competitive placement in distinguished graduate programs.

The B.A. and B.S. degrees are available for students interested in the study of theatre within a liberal arts background, or as part of a teacher education program. The B.F.A. is a rigorous, competitive program of study for students interested in pursuing careers in professional theatre. An audition or portfolio review as well as faculty approval are required for acceptance in the program. The progress of B.F.A. candidates is monitored closely each semester, utilizing performance juries and portfolio reviews. A core of theatre work is required of all theatre majors. Specialization is available in performance or design at the undergraduate level, and students enjoy flexibility in shaping their studies according to particular goals or interests. Minors are available in theatre for those students wishing to expand the focus of their degree program.

Mainstage productions, which include collaborative partnerships with the university's music and dance programs, helps students foster a close working relationship with faculty, and enable the kind of growth that comes through working with professional artists. Class projects and studio work are fully integrated with the department's mainstage season to create a balance between theory and skill development.

The department also offers Idaho's only M.F.A. in theatre, and students may select an area of emphasis in acting, directing or design and/or technology (with specialization in scenery, costumes or lighting). Numerous opportunities exist to design, perform and direct productions, which are considered an integral part of graduate training. If qualified, graduate students may assist in teaching basic course work to undergraduates. Admission requires a minimum of 3.0 GPA, a statement of goals or intent, three letters of recommendation, and a portfolio of design work or a 4-6 minute audition tape.

The department has two mainstage theatre venues as well as a performance studio that is used for productions, rehearsals and classroom. The elegant 417-seat Hartung Theatre features a semi-thrust proscenium stage, new digital lighting and fully-equipped shops for scenery and costume construction. The Kiva Theatre is an intimate 125-seat performance studio, equipped for flexible staging, including theatre-in-the-round. The 50-seat Arena, which is used for both productions and as a class laboratory, is also managed by the Student Theatre Organization for its Arena Stage Series to showcase student directors, designers and actors.

The Hartung Theatre is home to Idaho Repertory Theatre, the university's professional summer theatre company, which was established in 1953. Numerous theatre artists participate in the summer productions working with professional designers, directors and actors from across the country. Students are also encouraged to seek out internships with other professional theatre companies to enhance their studies.

For more information on the department, its programs of study and theatre productions, visit our web site at [www.uitheatre.com](http://www.uitheatre.com), or call (208) 885-6465.

## Courses

See Part 6 for courses in Theatre Arts (The).

## Undergraduate Curricular Requirements

### THEATRE ARTS (B.A. or B.S.)

To be eligible for graduation, theatre arts students taking B.A./B.S. options in theatre must achieve a minimum grade of C in all theatre courses required by their major. To participate in departmental productions, a student must maintain a minimum 2.50 overall GPA.

Required course work for students pursuing the B.A. in theatre arts includes (1) the university requirements (see regulation J-3), (2) the general CLASS core requirements, and (3) the theatre arts core courses listed below.

Required course work for students pursuing the B.S. in theatre arts includes (1) the university requirements (see regulation J-3), (2) the general CLASS core, an established minor, or courses in a related field approved by the Theatre Arts Department (20 cr), and (3) the theatre arts core courses listed below.

The 100 Theatre and Film Seminar (3 cr)  
The 103, 104 Theatre Technology I, II (8 cr)  
The 105-106 Basics of Performance (6 cr)  
The 110 Convocation (1 cr taken in at least 4 different semesters) (4 cr)  
The 201 Scene Design I (3 cr)  
The 202 Costume Design I (3 cr)  
The 205 Lighting Design I (3 cr)  
The 207 Theatrical Make-up (3 cr)  
The 305 Intermediate Acting (3 cr)  
The 320 Theatre Management (2 cr)  
The 371 Play Analysis (3 cr)  
The 390 Theatre Workshop (at least 1 cr in 4 different semesters) (4 cr)  
The 468 Theatre History I (3 cr)  
The 469 Theatre History II (3 cr)  
The 471 Directing (3 cr)  
The 473 Senior Capstone Seminar (1 cr)  
The 483 Senior Capstone Project (1 cr)  
Electives in design/production (3 cr)

## **THEATRE ARTS (B.F.A.)**

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is a rigorous training program for students wishing to pursue a career in the professional theatre. Admittance to the B.F.A. program in theatre requires an audition or portfolio review and faculty approval. B.F.A. candidates are closely monitored throughout enrollment utilizing performance juries and portfolio reviews each semester. Specific areas of study within the degree include (but are not limited to) acting, technical production, scenery, lighting, or costume design. Individual courses are selected in consultation with an advisor, so the degree is tailored as closely as possible to a student's specific needs and interests. Students are encouraged to seek out internships with professional theatre companies as part of their program of study.

To be eligible for admittance, continued candidacy, and graduation, the B.F.A. candidate in theatre arts must achieve a minimum grade of C in each theatre course required for the major. To participate in departmental productions, a student pursuing the B.F.A. must maintain a minimum 3.00 overall GPA each semester.

Required course work includes (1) the university requirements (see regulation J-3), (2) the departmental requirements for the B.S. or B.A., and (3) a 30-credit area of departmentally approved emphasis.

## **MUSICAL THEATRE (B.F.A.)**

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre is a rigorous training program for students wishing to pursue a career in musical theatre. Admittance to the B.F.A. program in musical theatre requires a voice audition, acting audition or portfolio review, and faculty approval. B.F.A. candidates are closely monitored throughout enrollment utilizing performance juries and portfolio reviews each semester. Students are encouraged to seek out internships with professional theatre companies as part of their program of study.

For information on an undergraduate major in Musical Theatre, see the School of Music section.

## **Academic Minor Requirements**

### **TECHNICAL THEATRE MINOR**

The 103, 104 Theatre Technology I, II (8 cr)  
The 201 Scene Design I (3 cr)  
The 202 Costume Design I (3 cr)  
The 205 Lighting Design I (3 cr)  
The 207 Theatrical Make-up (3 cr)  
Upper-division technical theatre course work (3 cr)

## THEATRE ARTS MINOR

The 103, 104 Theatre Technology I, II (8 cr)  
The 105, 106 Basics of Performance (6 cr)  
The 207 Theatrical Make-up (3 cr)  
The 305 Intermediate Acting (3 cr)  
The 471 Directing (3 cr)

## Graduate Degree Program

The Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Idaho is a rigorous three-year, 60-72 hour degree designed for talented students wishing to prepare themselves for a career in the professional theatre. Degree tracks in areas of design, directing, performance and technical production are built around specific curriculum categories and individual courses are selected by the candidate in consultation with his or her major professor. Student progress is monitored by portfolio review or performance jury each semester. Exit procedures from the program include a creative project and comprehensive exam.

Candidates must fulfill the general requirements of the Graduate College and a minimum of 60 credits from the course groupings listed below:

**STUDIO AREA (12-16 cr).** A minimum of 12 credits are taken in course work directly related to an area of specialization. The studio area of study is individualized to the candidate's specific needs and areas of weakness. Candidates will enroll in M.F.A. Studio each semester of residence excluding summers.

**RELATED STUDIO AREA (9-12 cr).** A minimum of 9 credits are taken in a related studio area which generally pertains directly to the candidate's area of specialization.

**CRAFT AREA (8-12 cr).** A minimum of 8 credits are taken in courses to develop specific skills associated with the studio area.

**HISTORY/LITERATURE/CRITICISM (9-12 cr).** A minimum of 9 credits are taken in history or literature courses which relate directly to the studio area. Courses taken to fulfill this requirement might include dramatic literature, social history, art history, architectural history, and theatre history.

**INTERNSHIP (12 cr).** A maximum of 12 credits of The 598, Internship, are taken to augment course work with professional experiences with professional regional theatres in the area.

**MFA JURY/PORTFOLIO REVIEW (6 cr).** A minimum of 6 credits of The 515, MFA Jury/Portfolio Review, must be completed with a grade of B or better before the awarding of the degree. A maximum of 1 credit of The 515 may be taken each semester.

**M.F.A. EXIT PROCEDURES (3 cr).** Exit procedures vary with the area of specialization. In each case the exit procedure revolves around a thesis project or exam completed sometime in the last two semesters of residence. Projects are designed in consultation with the candidate's graduate committee. Candidates must enroll in The 596, M.F.A. Exit Project, during the semester the project is undertaken.