MUSICAL THEATRE, B.F.A.

Begin Campus: University Park
End Campus: University Park

Program Description
The major is intended to provide students with specialized training leading to a high level of competence in musical theatre. Graduates should be able to begin professional work or pursue further training at the graduate level. This major is intended for those students who wish to pursue a career as a musical theatre professional.

What is Musical Theatre?
The study of the human condition and how to authentically inhabit a dramatic circumstance. It is highly skilled, highly motivated, and curious students. It is an experienced and dedicated faculty focused on training individual artists and humans. It is an alumni base working successfully on Broadway and around the world. It is a high level of commitment. It is new musicals inspired by and written for our students. It is a production season that has many diverse opportunities to showcase and inhabit the classroom work students are doing. It is master classes with Broadway professionals and frequent trips to New York City to connect to the industry. It is an exhilarating degree program for those who seek careers in the professional musical theatre. It is artist training for the 21st century.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You are serious about a difficult and challenging career to go along with your passion for the musical theatre.
- You ask “which way to my authentic self” in addition to “which way to the stage.”
- You are ready for more work, more classes, more rigorous training, and more artistic fulfillment than you ever thought possible.

Entrance to Major
Acceptance into the major is based on an evaluative audition.

Additional Information
For more specific information on entrance procedures, please visit the website for the College of Arts and Architecture (https://theatre.psu.edu/programs/musical-theatre/musical-theatre-bfa-requirements).

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre, a minimum of 125 credits is required:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>86</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 6 credits of General Education GA courses.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.
Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

Code  Title  Credits
Prescribed Courses

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Theatre Courses:
THEA 1S  First-Year Seminar: Theatre Production Practices  1
THEA 100  The Art of the Theatre  3
THEA 115  B.F.A. Acting Foundations  2
THEA 132  Survey of Theatre Production Practice  3
THEA 150  Fundamentals of Design for the Theatre  3
THEA 225A  B.F.A. Acting Studio I  2
THEA 225B  B.F.A. Movement Studio I  2
THEA 225C  B.F.A. Voice/Speech Studio I  2
THEA 289  Theatre Production Practicum  1
THEA 401  Theatre History I: Ancient to 1700  3
THEA 425A  B.F.A. Acting Studio II  2
THEA 425C  B.F.A. Voice/Speech Studio II  2
THEA 427A  B.F.A. Acting Studio III  2
THEA 427C  B.F.A. Voice/Speech Studio III  2
Music Courses:
THEA 113  Musical Theatre Theory I  3
THEA 116  Musical Theatre Theory II  2
THEA 212  Musical Theatre Theory III  3
THEA 214  Musical Theatre Theory IV  3
VOICE 110  Voice: Secondary  2
VOICE 412  Musical Theatre Voice V  2
VOICE 462  Musical Theatre Voice VI  2
Dance Courses:
DANCE 231  Beginning Ballet I  1.5
DANCE 232  Beginning Ballet II  1.5
DANCE 241  Beginning Jazz I  1.5
DANCE 242  Beginning Jazz II  1.5
DANCE 251  Beginning Tap I  1.5
DANCE 252  Beginning Tap II  1.5
DANCE 382  Music Theatre Dance–Style I  1.5
DANCE 384  Music Theatre Dance–Style II  1.5
Musical Theatre Courses:
MUSIC 113  Music Theatre–Class Voice I  1
MUSIC 114  Music Theatre–Class Voice II  1
THEA 114  Music Theatre: Form and Analysis  3
THEA 223  Musical Theatre Performance I  2
THEA 224  Musical Theatre Performance II  2
THEA 408W  History of American Musical Theatre  3
THEA 423  Musical Theatre Performance III  2
THEA 424  Musical Theatre Performance IV  2

Additional Courses
Select 2 credits of the following:

MUSIC 89  University Choir
MUSIC 90  Glee Club
MUSIC 91  Oriana Singers
MUSIC 92  Chamber Music for Voices
MUSIC 93  Essence of Joy
MUSIC 94  Women’s Chorale
MUSIC 103  Concert Choir
MUSIC 104  Chamber Singers
MUSIC 467  Opera Workshop
THEA 326  Musical Theatre Performance Workshop (1 per semester, maximum of 3)
THEA 428  Musical Theatre Performance Studio V

Select one of the following:  1.5
DANCE 431  Advanced Ballet I
DANCE 441  Advanced Jazz I
DANCE 451  Advanced Tap I

Select one of the following:  1.5
DANCE 432  Advanced Ballet II
DANCE 442  Advanced Jazz II
DANCE 452  Advanced Tap II

Students may apply 6 credits of ROTC  0-6

Learning Outcomes
• Train students in singing, dancing, and acting by working through a set curriculum in each component area — and an integrated set of studio courses.
• Use casting and performance success to augment classroom training in order to better prepare students in the application of their skills.
• Promote a “total human” way of approaching musical theatre work through academic activities that encourage creative and diverse thinking.

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and-out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.
The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

**First Year**

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<th>Credits</th>
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<td>DANCE 231*</td>
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<td>ENGL 15, 15A, or 30†</td>
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<td>THEA 100 (GA, US;IL)‡</td>
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<td>THEA 113*</td>
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**Second Year**

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<td>THEA 212*</td>
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<td>THEA 223*</td>
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<td>THEA 425A*</td>
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<td>THEA 289*</td>
<td>1 VOICE 110*</td>
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<td>DANCE 251*</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>DANCE 382*</td>
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<td>THEA 401*</td>
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<td>2 VOICE 408W*</td>
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<td>1.5 VOICE 110*</td>
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<td>THEA 423*</td>
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<td>VOICE 412*</td>
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* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

**University Requirements and General Education Notes:**

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

**Career Paths**

This degree prepares you for a performance career in the professional musical theatre. Many of our students go on to perform on Broadway, tours, and on cruise ships. Recent alums are performing nationally and internationally in critically acclaimed shows. The program culminates

**Additional Courses:**

- Select 2 credits from MUSIC 085 GA(1), MUSIC 089 GA(1), MUSIC 090 GA(1), MUSIC 091 GA(1), MUSIC 092 GA(1), MUSIC 093 GA;US;IL(1), MUSIC 094 GA(1), MUSIC 103 GA(1), MUSIC 104 GA(1), MUSIC 467(1), THEA 326(1 per semester, maximum of 3), THEA 428(2) (Sem: 3-6)
- Select 3 credits, one from each of the following groups:
  a. DANCE 431(1.5), DANCE 441(1.5), DANCE 451(1.5) (Sem: 7-8)
  b. DANCE 432(1.5), DANCE 442(1.5), DANCE 452(1.5) (Sem: 7-8)

(Students may apply 6 credits of ROTC)
in a showcase in New York City attended by agents, professionals, and program alums.

**Careers**

Graduates of the B.F.A. in musical theatre program are prepared for careers in all aspects of performance including stage, television, and film. The degree also prepares graduates for jobs in casting, directing, choreography, music direction, and teaching.

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

Due to the well-rounded education students receive in the B.F.A. in musical theatre program, graduates leave with a foundation needed to pursue graduate study in theatre, in specialized areas such as acting, directing, and choreography for musical theatre.

**Professional Resources**

- Actors Equity Association (AEA) ([http://www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org))
- Screen Actors Guild (SAG)/American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) ([http://www.sagaftra.org/home](http://www.sagaftra.org/home))
- Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) ([http://sdcweb.org](http://sdcweb.org))

**Accreditation**

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).

Founded in 1965, the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) is an organization of schools, conservatories, colleges, and universities with approximately 188 accredited institutional members. It establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials for theatre and theatre-related disciplines, and provides assistance to institutions and individuals engaged in artistic, scholarly, educational, and other theatre-related endeavors.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF THEATRE ([https://nast.arts-accredit.org](https://nast.arts-accredit.org))

**Contact**

**University Park**

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theatre@psu.edu

http://theatre.psu.edu