THEATRE, B.F.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description
Not all options are available at every campus. Contact the campus you are interested in attending to determine which options are offered.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre offers two options: Design and Technology, and Stage Management.

Design and Technology Option
The B.F.A. degree in Theatre with the Design and Technology option is intended to develop a level of competence that will enable students who wish to pursue professional careers in theatre design, theatre technology and related entertainment fields to prepare themselves for specialized graduate studies, specialized professional training and/or immediate participation in creative work. The prescribed core curriculum introduces students to each of the theatre design areas and provides them with a basic skill level in technology. The curriculum also features acting, directing, script analysis, theatre history and criticism. Students choose an emphasis area after their third semester to focus their awareness, their capabilities and their critical faculties or abilities in their area of interest.

Stage Management Option
For the B.F.A. degree in Theatre with the Stage Management option is intended to provide students with specialized training leading to a high level of competence in the stage management field. Graduates should be able to begin professional work or pursue further training at the graduate level. The Stage Management option is intended to educate students for a career in stage management for theatre.

What is Theatre?
Theatre is an interdisciplinary approach to sharing stories through text, design, movement, and more. It’s reflective of the cultures and societies that produce it. Theatre is a sensory experience for the viewer and the participant—it brings together art, culture, entertainment, and more in productions that provoke and inspire an audience.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You like being in theatre but don't necessarily want to be onstage!
- You like being around highly creative people working on highly creative projects.
- Working with others through collaboration makes you hum.
- You love being a part of something from start to finish, and you're fascinated by the way design and theatrical elements come together, then this may be the major for you!

Entrance to Major
Acceptance into the Design and Technology option is based on a faculty interview and portfolio review. Acceptance into the Stage Management option is based on a faculty interview and production book review.

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

For more specific information on entrance procedures for the Stage Management option, please visit the website for the College of Arts and Architecture (https://theatre.psu.edu/programs/stage-management-bfa-requirements).

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre, both Design and Technology and Stage Management options require a minimum of 120 credits:

<table>
<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>Electives</td>
<td>3-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>70-78</td>
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</table>

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

0-6 credits included in the Requirements for the Major.

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). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
This includes 0-6 credits of General Education courses: Sound Design emphasis—3 credits of GN courses and 3 credits of GA courses. Scene Design emphasis—3 credits of GA courses.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade 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). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Option
Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better
Select an option

Requirements for the Option
Design and Technology Option (33-36 credits)

Code  Title  Credits
THEA 250  Introduction to Scene Design  3
THEA 251  Theatre Drafting Techniques  2
THEA 260  Introduction to Costume Design  3
THEA 270  Introduction to Lighting Design  3
THEA 280  Introduction to Technical Direction for the Theatre  3
THEA 285  Introduction to Sound Design  3
THEA 289  Theatre Production Practicum  1
THEA 401  Theatre History I: Ancient to 1700  3
THEA 481  Stage and Production Management  3

Requirements for the Option
Additional Courses Require a grade of C or better
Select 6 credits of the following:

Code  Title  Credits
THEA 456  Scenic Projects for Production  1
THEA 457  Scene Design for Production  3
THEA 466  Costume Construction for Production  3
THEA 467  Costume Design for Production  3
THEA 477  Lighting Design for Production  3
THEA 487  Technical Projects for Production  3
THEA 489  Theatre Production Practicum  3
THEA 464  History of Fashion I  3
THEA 465  History of Fashion II  3

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 15-18 credits from the following:

a. Costume Design/Technology

THEA 146  Basic Theatrical Makeup  2
THEA 253  Scene Painting  3
THEA 261  Introduction to Costume Construction Techniques  3
THEA 460  Advanced Topics in Costume Design  3
THEA 461  Advanced Topics in Costume Construction and Technology  3
THEA 464  History of Fashion I  3
THEA 465  History of Fashion II  3

b. Scene Design

THEA 253  Scene Painting  3
THEA 450  Advanced Topics in Scene Design  3
THEA 453  Advanced Scene Painting  3
THEA 456  Scenic Projects for Production  3
THEA 457  Scene Design for Production  3
THEA 466  Costume Construction for Production  3
THEA 467  Costume Design for Production  3
THEA 477  Lighting Design for Production  3
THEA 487  Technical Projects for Production  3
THEA 489  Theatre Production Practicum  3
THEA 464  History of Fashion I  3
THEA 465  History of Fashion II  3

Select 3 credits from the following:
THEA 460  Advanced Topics in Costume Design
THEA 470  Advanced Topics in Lighting Design
THEA 480  Advanced Topics in Technical Direction for the Theatre

Select 3 credits of the following:

ARTH 111  Ancient to Medieval Art
ARTH 112  Renaissance to Modern Art
THEA 451  Drafting, Drawing, and Painting for the Theatre
THEA 458  Digital Imaging for the Theatre
THEA 460  Advanced Topics in Costume Design
THEA 470  Advanced Topics in Lighting Design
THEA 480  Advanced Topics in Technical Direction for the Theatre
THEA 485  Sound for Theatre Production

c. Lighting Design
THEA 253  Scene Painting
THEA 482  Technical Production - Rigging
THEA 485  Sound for Theatre Production
THEA 470  Advanced Topics in Lighting Design
THEA 472  Lighting Technology

d. Sound Design
INART 50  The Science of Music
INART 258A  Fundamentals of Digital Audio
THEA 482  Technical Production - Rigging
THEA 484  Sound Recording Techniques
THEA 485  Sound for Theatre Production

e. Scenic Technology
THEA 253  Scene Painting
THEA 482  Technical Production - Rigging
THEA 470  Advanced Topics in Lighting Design
THEA 480  Advanced Topics in Technical Direction for the Theatre
THEA 485  Sound for Theatre Production

Stage Management Option (28 credits)

Prescribed Courses

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better
THEA 146  Basic Theatrical Makeup 2
THEA 220  Acting II 3
THEA 289  Theatre Production Practicum 1
THEA 322  Voice and Speech I 2
THEA 324  Movement for Actors I 2
THEA 486  Stage Management for Production 9
THEA 496  Independent Studies 6

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select 3 credits of the following:

THEA 405  Theatre History: American Theatre
THEA 407W  Women and Theatre
THEA 408W  History of American Musical Theatre
THEA 412  African American Theatre
THEA 464  History of Fashion
THEA 465  History of Fashion II

Learning Outcomes

B.F.A. Design and Technology

- Prepare students for the next phase of their career, either as working professionals or graduate students.
- Provide a well-rounded experience and emphasize the value of every area in Design and Technical Theatre.
- Forge a collegial atmosphere that lends itself to effective collaboration and communication throughout the School of Theatre.
- Inspire an interest in other areas of the arts and humanities, and promote a lifelong passion for learning.
- Facilitate the acquisition of life skills, in addition to technical knowledge.

Expected Learning Outcomes for Stage Management

- Learn professional standards of reading a play for production, preparing for rehearsals as well as technical rehearsals.
- Demonstrate skills for managing and maintaining performances and performance levels.
- Create an environment for the collaboration of artists, developing teams, and building team dynamics.
- Learn the fundamentals of management and financial for performance and events.
- Gain an understanding of organizational structure as well as the union structure of the entertainment industry.

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 need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

University Park

Travis DeCastro
Professor in Charge-Stage Management, Associate Director for Production
116 Theatre Building
University Park
814-865-0621
wtd2@psu.edu
Suggested Academic Plan
Stage Management Option at University Park Campus

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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Third Year

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Total Credits 120

* 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

1 ADDITIONAL COURSES (3 credits)

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.

Design and Technology Option at University Park Campus

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.

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### Additional Course for Major (see list)*  
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<td>THEA 280*</td>
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<td>THEA 481†</td>
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|  | **16** | **14** |

**Total Credits 120**

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

**ADDITIONAL COURSES** (9 credits)
- Select 6 credits from THEA 456(1), THEA 457(1), THEA 466(1), THEA 467(1), THEA 477(1), THEA 487(1), THEA 489(1) (Sem: 3-8)  
- Select 3 credits from THEA 464(3) or THEA 465(3) (Sem: 5-8)

**SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS** (15-18 credits)
Select 15-18 credits from one of the following emphases a, b, c, d, or e

a. **Costume Design/Technology**: THEA 146(2), THEA 253(1), THEA 261(3), THEA 460(3-6), THEA 461(3-6), THEA 464(3), or THEA 465(3) (Sem: 3-8)

b. **Scene Design**: THEA 253(1), THEA 450(6), THEA 453(2) (Sem: 3-8)  
Select 3 credits from: THEA 460(3), THEA 470(3), THEA 480(3) (Sem:6-8)

Select 3 credits from: ARTH 111 GA(3), ARTH 112 GA(3), THEA 451(1), THEA 458(1), THEA 460(3), THEA 470(3), THEA 480(3), THEA 485(3-6) (Sem: 3-8)

c. **Lighting Design**: THEA 253(1), THEA 482(3), THEA 485(3-6), THEA 470(6), THEA 472(2) (Sem: 3-8)

d. **Sound Design**: INART 50 GN(3), INART 258A GA(3), THEA 482(3), THEA 484(3), THEA 485(3-6) (Sem: 3-8)

e. **Scenic Technology**: THEA 253(1), THEA 482(3), THEA 470(3), THEA 480(6), THEA 485(3-6) (Sem: 3-8)

**Note**: Acceptance into the Design and Technology option is based on a faculty interview and portfolio review. Acceptance into the Stage Management option is based on a faculty interview and production book review. Both options require a minimum of 120 credits.

**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.

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**Career Paths**
Successful graduates will be prepared to begin professional work or pursue further training at the graduate level.

**Careers**

The Theatre Production option prepares students for both entry-level and management positions in national and regional venues/production companies. Students may also pursue careers in film or television production. The Stage Management option prepares students for careers as arts managers, tour managers, arena management, casting directors, office managers, production managers, any advance planning careers.
Opportunities for Graduate Studies
While graduates of the programs in State Management and Design and Technology may opt to pursue master of fine arts (M.F.A.) programs in specialized topics or focus areas, professional practice opportunities are readily available to bachelor of fine arts graduates.

MORE INFORMATION (https://theatre.psu.edu/programs/mfa-program)

Professional Resources
• United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) (http://www.usitt.org)

Accreditation
The Bachelor of Fine Arts in 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 (https://nast.arts-accredit.org)

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