Theater Arts

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About the Department

The Department of Theater Arts offers major curricula leading to the bachelor of arts (BA), bachelor of science (BS), master of arts (MA), master of fine arts (MFA) with a specialization in design, and doctor of philosophy (PhD) degrees. The master of science (MS) degree program is currently inactive. Courses in theater arts are available for students majoring in other disciplines who want to develop their communication skills and their ability to appreciate and evaluate what they see and hear.

The theater arts department offers a cross-disciplinary and liberal-arts education. Preprofessional courses provide vocational competence in teaching and in some aspects of commercial theater. Some students seek careers in commercial, educational, and community theaters as designers, actors, technicians, stage managers, or theater managers. Many continue specialized training in MFA degree programs or nondegree professional training schools. Some students use their liberal-arts background to pursue vocational opportunities that require advanced skills in communication and organization.

Students may gain practical experience in theater studies through University Theatre productions and other opportunities.

Theaters

The renovated Robinson Theatre has a proscenium stage and seats 300 people. The James F. Miller Theatre Complex includes the Hope Theatre, a "black box" arena theater seating 100–150 people, a lobby serving both theaters, a costume shop, and an expanded scene shop. The Pocket Playhouse, in Villard Hall, is a small proscenium stage and seats 75 people.

Technical Facilities

The scene shop is well equipped with power tools for wood and metal fabrication. Lighting equipment includes computerized controls and up-to-date instruments. The costume shop has power sewing and serging machines and a laundry and crafts area. Students are encouraged to sign up for production workshop classes or to practice their crafts as volunteers. Those who qualify for work-study financial aid are hired to assist in the shops. The shops are open every day.

Pocket Playhouse

Pocket Playhouse is the site for a series of productions presented by an elected student board.

University Theatre

The department's season is composed of productions in two venues: the Robinson Theatre and the new Hope Theatre. Faculty members and graduate students direct and design as many as six shows a year. Auditions are open to UO students, and admission for UO students is free.

Faculty

Nelson Barre, visiting assistant professor (playwriting, dramaturgy, theater history). BA, 2008, Wabash College; MA, 2010, Villanova; PhD, 2016, National University of Ireland. (2016)

Bradley Branam, assistant professor (technical direction, media design). BA, 2000, Luther College; MFA, 2009, Missouri, Kansas City. (2012)

Jeanette De Jong, assistant professor. BA, 1982, Puget Sound; MFA, 1984, Oregon. (2015)

Jerry Hooker, associate professor (scene designer). BA, 1978, Puget Sound; MFA, 1985, Utah State. (2001)

Theresa May, associate professor (dramatic literature, acting). BA, 1980, California, Irvine; MFA, 1983, Southern California; PhD, 2000, Washington (Seattle). (2007)

Michael Malek Najjar, associate professor (Arab American theater and performance, playwriting, performance theory). BA, 1993, New Mexico; MFA, 1999, York; PhD, 2011, California, Los Angeles. (2011)

Patricia Rodley, instructor pro tem (acting, voice and dialect) BA, 1992, Oregon; MA, 2005, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (London); PhD, 2014, Oregon. (2015)

Janet Rose, senior instructor (technical director, lighting designer). BFA, 1977, Florida Atlantic; MFA, 1979, Ohio. (1987)

John Schmor, associate professor (theory, history, acting). BA, 1984, Willamette; MA, 1989, PhD, 1991, Oregon. (1999)

Emeriti

Alexandra Bonds, professor emerita. BS, 1972, Syracuse; MA, 1974, Denver. (1979)

Robert Barton, professor emeritus. BA, 1967, Western Michigan; MA, 1968, PhD, 1977, Bowling Green State. (1980)

Faber B. DeChaine, professor emeritus. BS, 1952, Oregon; MA, 1953, Michigan State; PhD, 1963, Minnesota. (1964)

Grant F. McKernie, professor emeritus. BA, 1964, Northwestern; MA, 1965, PhD, 1972, Ohio State. (1979)

John C. Watson, associate professor emeritus. BA, 1964, Lewis and Clark; PhD, 1987, Oregon. (1987)

Jerry R. Williams, professor emeritus. BFA, 1964, Carnegie-Mellon; MA, 1965, Washington (Seattle). (1973)

The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.

- **Bachelor of Arts**
- **Bachelor of Science**
- **Minor**

Undergraduate Studies

For its undergraduate major program, the Department of Theater Arts has three principal objectives:

1. The attainment, by all of its majors, of a broad liberal arts education

2. Sufficient instruction to provide an appreciation of the different areas of theater
3. Direct experience in several aspects of theater production

Students study acting, directing, design, costume, lighting, stagecraft, history, dramatic literature, and theory. Courses in these fields are available to both majors and nonmajors.

In addition to the BA or BS degree requirements of the university, the following requirements are specified for students with a major in theater arts:

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
TA 210	Introduction to Design	4
TA 211–212	Theater Production I-II	8
TA 250	Acting I	4
TA 271	Introduction to Theater Arts	4
TA 367–369	History of the Theater I-III	12
TA 470	Majors Seminar	4
TA 490	Theater Capstone: [Topic] (Play Direction, Playwriting, Devising, Dramaturgy)	4
Three of the following: [1]		3
TA 321	Scenery Production	
TA 322	Costume Production	
TA 323	Lighting Production	
TA 324	Production	
Three upper-division courses in acting, directing, design, technical production, or playwriting		12
Three upper-division courses in history, literature, criticism, or dramaturgy [2]		12
Total Credits		**67**

1. Production assignments are 1–4 credits each.
2. With the consent of an advisor, a student may substitute a course in another department for one of these courses, selected from a list approved by the theater arts faculty.

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
TA 210	Introduction to Design	4
TA 211–212	Theater Production I-II	8
TA 250	Acting I	4
TA 271	Introduction to Theater Arts	4
TA 367–369	History of the Theater I-III	12
TA 470	Majors Seminar	4
TA 490	Theater Capstone: [Topic] (Play Direction, Playwriting, Devising, Dramaturgy)	4
Three of the following: [1]		3
TA 321	Scenery Production	
TA 322	Costume Production	
TA 323	Lighting Production	
TA 324	Production	
Three upper-division courses in acting, directing, design, technical production, or playwriting		12
Three upper-division courses in history, literature, criticism, or dramaturgy [2]		12
Total Credits		**67**

1. Production assignments are 1–4 credits each.
2. With the consent of an advisor, a student may substitute a course in another department for one of these courses, selected from a list approved by the theater arts faculty.

Grading Options

Some courses in theater arts are offered pass/no pass (P/N) only. Work counts toward fulfillment of the 180-credit requirement for a BA or BS only if satisfactorily completed.

Transfer Students

Transfer students must complete six 4-credit, upper-division courses and two of the production courses listed in the course list in residence at the University of Oregon.

Honors in Theater Arts

At the end of each academic year, the department's faculty selects certain graduating seniors and confers on them departmental honors. Criteria include academic performance as well as the quality of participation in the production program.

Minor Requirements

Course work for the minor must be completed with letter grades of mid-C or better. At least 16 credits must be taken at the university. One course in each of the following areas must be included:

- literature and criticism
- performance
- technical theater
- theater history

Theater arts courses	8
Upper-division theater arts courses	16
Total Credits	**24**

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Theater Arts

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
TA 271	Introduction to Theater Arts	4	
WR 121	College Composition I	4	
First term of first-year second-language sequence		4	
TA 250 or TA 210	Acting I or Introduction to Design	4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
TA 211	Theater Production I	4	

Second term of first-year second-language sequence			4
TA 250 or TA 251	Acting I or Acting II		4
WR 122 or WR 123	College Composition II or College Composition III		4
	Credits		**16**
Spring			
TA 212 or TA 210	Theater Production II or Introduction to Design	Overall UO GPA of 2.00 or higher	4
TA 250 or TA 252	Acting I or Acting III	Complete UO writing requiremer	4
General-education course			4
Third term of first-year second-language sequence		Meet with TA advisor	4
	Credits		**16**
	Total Credits		**48**

Course	Title		Credits	Milestones
Second Year				
Fall				
General-education course			4	
First term of second-year second-language sequence			4	
TA 321	Scenery Production		1	
TA 322	Costume Production		1	
TA 323	Lighting Production		1	
TA 324	Production		1	
TA 271 or TA 210 or TA 211	Introduction to Theater Arts or Introduction to Design or Theater Production I		4	
	Credits		**16**	
Winter				
Second term of second-year second-language sequence			4	
General-education courses			8	
TA 321 & TA 322 & TA 323 & TA 324 or TA 251	Scenery Production or Acting II		4	
	Credits		**16**	
Spring				
Third term of second-year second-language sequence		Overall UO GPA of 2.00 or higher	4	
General-education courses			8	
TA 321 & TA 322 & TA 323 & TA 324 or TA 252	Scenery Production or Acting III		4	
	Credits		**16**	
	Total Credits		**48**	

Course	Title		Credits	Milestones
Third Year				
Fall				
TA 367	History of the Theater I	Meet with TA advisor	4	
Group-satisfying courses			8	
Upper-division course with TA subject code			4	
	Credits		**16**	
Winter				
TA 368	History of the Theater II		4	
TA 470	Majors Seminar		4	
Group-satisfying courses			8	
	Credits		**16**	
Spring				
TA 369	History of the Theater III		4	
Upper-division course with TA subject code			4	
General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement			8	
	Credits		**16**	
	Total Credits		**48**	

Course	Title		Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year				
Fall				
TA 490	Theater Capstone: [Topic]	Meet with TA advisor	4	
Upper-division courses with TA subject code			8	
TA 321 & TA 322 & TA 323 & TA 324	Scenery Production and Costume Production and Lighting Production and Production		4	
	Credits		**16**	
Winter				
TA 490	Theater Capstone: [Topic]		4	
Upper-division course with TA subject code			4	
Elective courses			8	
	Credits		**16**	
Spring				
Elective courses		Overall UO GPA of 2.00 or higher	8	

Upper-division courses with TA subject code		8
Credits		**16**
Total Credits		**48**

Bachelor of Science in Theater Arts

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
TA 271	Introduction to Theater Arts	4	
WR 121	College Composition I	4	
TA 250 or TA 210	Acting I or Introduction to Design	4	
Mathematics course		4	
Credits		**16**	
Winter			
TA 211	Theater Production I	4	
WR 122 or WR 123	College Composition II or College Composition III	4	
TA 250 or TA 251	Acting I or Acting II	4	
Mathematics course		4	
Credits		**16**	
Spring			
TA 212 or TA 210	Theater Production II or Introduction to Design	4	
TA 250 or TA 252	Acting I or Acting III	4	Meet with TA advisor
General-education course		4	
Mathematics course		4	Overall UO GPA of 2.00 or higher
Credits		**16**	
Total Credits		**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Second Year			
Fall			
TA 321 & TA 322 & TA 323 & TA 324	Scenery Production and Costume Production and Lighting Production and Production	4	
TA 271 or TA 210 or TA 211	Introduction to Theater Arts or Introduction to Design or Theater Production I	4	
General-education courses		8	
Credits		**16**	
Winter			
TA 321 & TA 322 & TA 323 & TA 324 or TA 251	Scenery Production or Acting II	4	
General-education courses		12	
Credits		**16**	
Spring			
TA 321 & TA 322 & TA 323 & TA 324 or TA 252	Scenery Production or Acting III	4	
General-education courses		12	Overall UO GPA of 2.00 of higher
Credits		**16**	
Total Credits		**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Third Year			
Fall			
TA 367	History of the Theater I	4	Meet with TA advisor
General-education courses		8	
Upper-division course with TA subject code		4	
Credits		**16**	
Winter			
TA 368	History of the Theater II	4	
TA 470	Majors Seminar	4	
General-education course		4	
General-education or elective course		4	
Credits		**16**	
Spring			
TA 369	History of the Theater III	4	Overall UO GPA of 2.00 or higher
Upper-division course with TA subject code		4	
General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement		4	
General-education or elective course		4	
Credits		**16**	
Total Credits		**48**	

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
Fourth Year			
Fall			
TA 490	Theater Capstone: [Topic] (Overall UO GPA of 2.o0 or higher)	4	Meet with TA advisor
TA 321 & TA 322 & TA 323 & TA 324	Scenery Production and Costume Production and Lighting Production and Production	4	
Upper-division courses with TA subject code		8	
Credits		**16**	

Winter			
TA 490	Theater Capstone: [Topic]		4
Upper-division course with TA subject code			4
Elective courses			8
	Credits		**16**
Spring			
Upper-division courses with TA subject code		Overall UO GPA of 2.00 or higher	8
Elective courses			8
	Credits		**16**
	Total Credits		**48**

- **Master of Arts**
- **Master of Fine Arts**
- **Doctor of Philosophy**

Graduate Studies

The department offers graduate work leading to the master of arts (MA), master of fine arts (MFA), and doctor of philosophy (PhD) degrees. The master of science (MS) degree program is currently inactive. Students entering the master's degree program should have an undergraduate major in theater arts or the equivalent, while students entering the doctoral program should have completed a master's degree in theater arts or the equivalent.

Each graduate student is expected to show ability in both academic and production areas. During residence at the university, a student is expected to make a significant contribution in three areas out of the following seven: acting, directing, technical theater, management, playwriting, teaching, and design.

Master of Arts Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Graduate courses in theater arts [1]		44
TA 503	Thesis	12
TA 607	Seminar: [Topic] [2]	16
Total Credits		**72**

1. No more than 9 credits of Practicum: [Topic] (TA 609) may be applied toward degree requirements.
2. Course topic changes every term. The master of arts requires at least 16 credits (four seminars). The student may also take approved 600-level course work.

Additional Requirements

- A minimum grade point average of 3.00
- Language proficiency (course work or examination)
- Completion of approved thesis
- Faculty-guided artistic production in design, acting, directing, technical production, dramaturgy, and playwriting

Master of Fine Arts Degree Requirements

The following are minimum requirements, all of which must be taken for a letter grade with the exception of Research: [Topic] (TA 601) and Practicum: [Topic] (TA 609).

TA 601	Research: [Topic]	4
TA 607	Seminar: [Topic] [1]	8
TA 609	Practicum: [Topic]	16
Design and technology courses [2]		24
Theater history, literature, and theory courses at the 500 and 600 level		8
Related courses outside the department [3]		8
At least one course from acting, directing, dramaturgy, or stage management		4
Additional graded graduate-level theater arts course work		16
Total Credits		**88**

1. Course topics change every term. The MFA requires at least 8 credits. Students may also take approved and graded 600-level course work.
2. Must include at least one course each in lighting, scenery, and costumes.
3. With advisor approval, undergraduate courses at the 300 level may apply.

Additional Requirements

- A minimum grade point average of 3.00
- Completion and approval of a final project and written document

Specialization

Areas of specialization are set design, lighting design, technical direction, and costume design.

The master of fine arts degree does ***not*** require proficiency in a second language. Course work is substantially completed during the first two years; the MFA program typically takes three years to complete.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree Requirements

The PhD in theater arts requires nine courses in the first year and seven courses in the second year, including registration in 4 to 6 credits of independent reading toward the qualifying examinations in winter or spring terms of the second year. Students seeking the PhD must have demonstrated proficiency in a foreign language, either from two years of successful college course work or by passing a basic translation-comprehension exam.

Following completion of course work, students wishing to pass to doctoral candidacy must pass qualifying examinations. Within one month after advancement to doctoral candidacy, students must deliver a dissertation prospectus for committee approval. The degree is granted only with successful completion and full approval of a dissertation under Graduate School rules and deadlines.

Requirements Summary

- A minimum of 20 graded credits in 600-level graduate seminars
- At least 12 graded credits (or three 500- to 600-level courses) in a related field outside of theater arts

- Proof of reading comprehension in a foreign language (transcript credits or examination)
- Involvement in a faculty-guided artistic production in design, acting, directing, technical production, dramaturgy, and playwriting
- Qualifying examinations, oral defense, and approved prospectus
- At least 18 credits of Dissertation (TA 603)
- Completion of dissertation and approval of oral defense