

Theatre

Theatre is a major form of human expression emphasizing performance. Many cultures throughout world history have some form of theatre. Through characterization actors present performances that often give us insight into the human condition. Theatre is both a visual and aural experience where both the performers and their audience share in and make up the experience of theatre. The study of theatre embraces a broad range of subjects including acting, directing, and theatrical design. History, criticism, and literature of theatre, as well as performance for the moving image and new forms of theater are all part of a theatre education.

Pursuing Theatre at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in theatre within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate studies coordinator and an arts advising counselor.

Auditions are not required, as all of the theatre students will be pursuing a liberal arts degree with strong focus in theatre but without specialization in a specific area of theatre. It is important in the early stage of theatre education to understand basic principles of theatre and to participate in the ensemble nature of this art form. The BA degree is designed to meet the specifications of the National Association of Schools of Theatre and to prepare the student for successful entry into major theatre graduate programs in acting/directing, theatre history/literature/criticism, or theatre technology and design.

Theatre faculty advisors will be assigned to students when they declare a major in theatre. The advisor will assist the student throughout the course of study with the selection of theatre courses. In addition, an advisor in the Arts and Humanities will assist the student in planning for the successful completion of the General Education Curriculum (GEC).

Theatre Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts program is based on the traditional values of a liberal arts education. Within this major program, the student will receive broad exposure to and practice in a variety of theatre arts, literature, and history. The program is designed for students who wish to go on to graduate school, who wish to teach, who wish to work in the entertainment industry, or who want the benefits of a liberal arts education.

Educational Objectives

Students majoring in theatre will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- To provide opportunity for all members of The Ohio State University community—students, faculty, staff, and alumni—to

participate in the theatre art as performer, as technologist, or as spectator.

- To offer the citizens of the state of Ohio, the United States, and the international community, through courses, institutes, productions, lectures, and consultations, opportunities for theatre education and production.
- To conduct research and creative activities that will contribute to the enrichment of the university and to the field of theatre at large.
- To recognize theatre as an art form that has influence on the social and cultural aspects of our society as evidenced in various modes of theatrical production.
- To appreciate the historical contribution of playwrights and performances of the past and recognize the benchmark theatrical productions, historical periods, and the cultural diversity of the art form.
- To apply a variety of critical theories, methods, and research sources in the analysis of play texts and their performance.
- To write analyses of play productions that address aspects of performance including text, direction, design, construction, acting, and appropriateness of interpretation.
- To identify the fundamental elements of the art of acting and possess an understanding of the acting process.
- To execute and construct simple lighting, scenic, and costume designs with an understanding of concept, aesthetics, design unity, and modern technological practices.
- To realize the physical and vocal demands of the performer and practice techniques for improving these vital skills.
- To communicate effectively with the variety of artists involved in this unique collaborative art form through the skillful use of theatre vocabulary.
- To respond as an informed audience member who is able to make value judgments as to the quality of performance.
- To possess the requisite skills and educational background to gain entry into graduate education programs in theatre throughout the country for further training should that be their desire.
- To demonstrate an understanding of the theatre production process within the highest professional standards of the industry.
- To participate in performance, in design and technology work, in writing, in speaking, or as an audience member throughout his/her life with a basic enthusiasm for the theatre.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

- Opportunities in the Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu
- Opportunities at the Wexner Center: wexarts.org
- Learning communities for art majors: housing.osu.edu/lc.asp

For more information, check these web sites:

Department of Theatre: theatre.osu.edu

Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Theatre. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Theatre. Consult the departmental web site, theatre.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Introduction to Theatre	5
Technical Production Fundamentals I	5
Technical Production Fundamentals II	5
Craft of Acting	5
GEC courses	25
Arts Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	47

Sophomore Year:

Speech and Voice Studio I or Stage Movement Studio I	3
Script Analysis	3
Technical Production Fundamentals III	5
Technical Production Practicum	1
Production Run Crew Practicum	2
GEC courses	32
Total hours	46

Junior Year:

Production Practicum	3
Theatre Repertory I	5
Theatre Repertory II	5
Theatre Electives	5
GEC courses	30
Total hours	48

Senior Year:

Stage Directing	5
Theatre Repertory III	5
Theatre Electives	7
GEC courses	30
Total hours	47

These co-curricular experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about other cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Visit honors-scholars.osu.edu to learn more about the Arts Honors Program or the Arts Interdisciplinary Scholars Program.

Career Prospects in Theatre

Persons who graduate with a degree in theatre are found in just about all walks of life. Most people assume that the theatre profession is limited to actors who specialize in performing on stage, on television, or in films. The truth is, there are many professional positions including designers, stage managers, technicians, audience education specialists, box office managers, marketing and development personnel, and arts administrators that involve theatre expertise. These positions are not just found in regional, summer stock, and other theatre venues. People with theatre expertise are sought after in theme parks, museums, schools and educational institutions, digital media companies, and throughout the entertainment industry.

Theatre students learn to meet deadlines, to work with diverse groups of people toward a common goal, to analyze situations, to identify alternatives and then make the best choices, to accept responsibility for decisions, to communicate facts and feelings effectively, to understand others, and to think on their feet.

Competition is intense in most theatre positions, but those who are willing to work hard, develop the proper skills, and stay open to creative possibilities can find meaningful employment in the theatre or the broader cultural sector. Graduate programs in theatre offering a Master of Fine Arts or PhD degree are open to those with a theatre undergraduate degree to further their education and to become more specialized in the field. Many colleges and universities seek out theatre majors as ideal graduate students due to their unique exposure to such a varied discipline.

More About Theatre

Ohio State's theatre facilities include three theatres; three acting studios; a design studio; a new works lab; and scenery, lighting, and costume laboratories. Thurber Theatre, a proscenium-style theatre, seats 624 people. Bowen Theatre is an intimate thrust-style space, which seats 250 people. Theatre is also produced in the Studio Theatre, a small "black box" space which seats 75. With a typical seven- to ten-show season and the numerous rental activities hosted, all three spaces remain very busy.

Revised August 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the theatre program, please visit theatre.osu.edu.

Contact information:

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