

THEATER, BFA

Banner Code: AR-BFA-THR

Sara Simanski, Academic Advisor

A407 deLaski Performing Arts Building
Fairfax Campus

Phone: 703-993-6079

Email: ssimansk@gmu.edu

Website: <https://theater.gmu.edu/academics>

The BFA degree prepares students for graduate study or entry into the profession through rigorous, concentrated, and individualized training. All BFA students complete the theater core and are admitted into a chosen concentration to organize their advanced work within the major. Upon admission, BFA students will complete coursework in a specified area of emphasis through one of our five concentrations:

- Design for Stage and Screen
- Performance for Stage and Screen
- Musical Theater Performance
- Sound Engineering and Design
- Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Acceptance to a Theater Major is by successful completion of an audition/portfolio-review and interview. Information about the admission process, including dates, can be found on the School of Theater website (<https://theater.gmu.edu>). Admission to the university is determined by the Admissions Office.

Policies

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/>). Please note, all students are required to complete a minimum of 45 credits of upper-division courses (300-400 level).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

Mason Core

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
Oral Communication (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#oral)		3
Information Technology (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#information-technology)		3
Quantitative Reasoning (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#quantitative)		3

ENGH 101	Composition (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ¹	3
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ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ¹	3
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Core Requirements

Literature (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature)	3
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Arts (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts) ²	3
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Natural Science (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science) ³	7
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Global History (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global-history)	3
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Global Contexts (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#globalcontexts)	3
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Social and Behavioral Sciences (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#social-behavioral-science)	3
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Total Credits	37
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1

Nonnative speakers of English with limited proficiency in the language may substitute ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) for ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>). Students must attain a minimum grade of C in ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) or ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), as well as in ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), to fulfill degree requirements.

2

Outside the major. Students earning a concentration in Musical Theater Performance must take DANC 125 Modern/Contemporary Dance I (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 131 Beginning Jazz Technique (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 145 Ballet I (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 161 Beginning Tap Dance (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 225 Modern/Contemporary Dance II (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 231 Intermediate Jazz Technique (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 245 Ballet II (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), or DANC 331 Advanced Jazz Dance (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>).

3

Including one laboratory science

Major

Code	Title	Credits
Theater Core Requirements		
Note: All THR majors may not double count THR courses within the major. All THR courses count either towards the degree core or the concentration, but not both.		
THR 150	Global Theater Histories I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
THR 151	Global Theater Histories II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
THR 196	Production Practicum	1
THR 198	Construction or Admin Practicum	1

THR 199	Production Run Crew Practicum	1
THR 210	Acting I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
THR 230	Fundamentals of Production (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
THR 240	Introduction to Theatrical Design	3
THR 329	Directing	3
or THR 338	Production Stage Management	
THR 350	Script Analysis (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
THR 351	Dramatic Theory and Criticism (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3

Apex 3

Select one course from the following:

THR 440	Advanced Studies in Directing/ Dramaturgy (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 496	Text in Production (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	

Dramatic LiteratureSelect one course from the following: ¹ 3

THR 352	Dramatic Literature Seminar ²	
THR 353	Advanced Studies in Theater History	
THR 354	American Voices	
THR 359	World Stages (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 424	Contemporary Women Playwrights	

Total Credits 33

1

or with permission of Director

2

Musical Theater Performance concentration students must complete THR 352 for the Dramatic Literature requirement.

Concentrations

Theater majors earning a BFA in Theater must complete one of the following concentrations:

Concentrations

- Design for Stage and Screen Concentration (DSS)
- Musical Theater Performance Concentration (MTPF)
- Performance for Stage and Screen Concentration (PSS)
- Sound Engineering and Design (SEND)
- Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12 (THEA)

Design for Stage and Screen Concentration (DSS)

Code	Title	Credits
THR 339	Principles of Design	3
THR 492	Advanced Practicum ⁴	3

Design CourseSelect one course from the following: ¹ 3

THR 333	Scenic Design	
THR 334	Lighting Design	

THR 335	Costume Design	
THR 337	Sound Design	
Design and Technical Theater Electives		
Select five courses from the following:		15
THR 313	Event Technical Production	
THR 314	Lighting Stagecraft	
THR 315	Sound Engineering	
THR 316	Scene Painting	
THR 330	Seminar in Technical Theater	
THR 331	Drafting and Modeling	
THR 332	History of Fashion and Dress	
THR 333	Scenic Design	
THR 334	Lighting Design	
THR 335	Costume Design	
THR 336	Technical Direction	
THR 337	Sound Design	
THR 338	Production Stage Management	
THR 340	Advanced Studies in Directing	
THR 342	Makeup Design	
THR 343	Costume Technology	
THR 401	Professional Presentation	
THR 415	Advanced Sound Engineering	
THR 428	Musical Theater Ensemble ⁴	
THR 434	Advanced Lighting Design	
THR 437	Advanced Sound Design	
THR 490	Special Topics in Theater	
THR 491	Seminar on the Profession	
THR 492	Advanced Practicum ⁴	
THR 493	Collaborative Lab Experience ⁴	
THR 494	Field Experience	

Stage and Screen ElectiveSelect one course from the following: ¹ 3

THR 329	Directing	
THR 354	American Voices	
THR 382	Screenplay Workshop	
THR 411	Great Film Directors (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 412	Great Film Performances (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 484	Translation Adaptation for Stage Screen	

Connected Industry ElectivesSelect three courses from the following: ¹ 9

ARTH 315	Modern Architecture (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
ARTH 350	History of Photography (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
ARTH 373	Studies in 20th-Century Art of the United States (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
ARTH 375	Indigenous Arts of the US and Canada (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
AVT 110	Digital Design Studio (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ³	

AVT 180	New Media in the Creative Arts (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ³	
AVT 222	Drawing I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
AVT 232	Painting I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
AVT 262	Sculpture I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
AVT 309	Art as Social Action	
AVT 318	History of Graphic Design	
AVT 374	Sound Art I	
COMM 302	Media Theory	
DANC 390	Dance History I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
DANC 391	Dance History II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
FAVS 204	Film Art (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
FAVS 250	Business of Film and Television	
FAVS 255	Video Production for Film	
FAVS 331	Cinematography	
FAVS 333	Sound Editing and Recording	
GAME 250	Music for Film and Video	
MUSI 301	Music in Motion Pictures (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
MUSI 315	Music Technology	
MUSI 354	Electronic Composition	
MUSI 355	Recording Techniques	
TOUR 220	Introduction to Event Management	
TOUR 355	Event Logistics	
TOUR 440	Meetings and Conventions	
Total Credits		36

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or with permission of Director

2

May fulfill Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) Arts or Concentration requirement, but not both.

3

May fulfill Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) Information Technology & Computing or Concentration requirement, but not both.

4

Registration by audition/interview only. Students completing THR 428, THR 492, or THR 493 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

Musical Theater Performance Concentration (MTPF)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
THR 300	Voice and Speech	3
THR 306	Movement in Musical Theater	3
THR 310	Acting II	3
THR 320	Performance Studio	3

or THR 365	Characterization	
THR 406	Advanced Movement in Musical Theater	3
or DANC 331	Advanced Jazz Dance (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 427	Musical Theater Workshop	3
MUSI 108	Practical Musicianship ¹	3
or MUSI 115	Introduction to Music Theory	
MUSI 113	Aural Skills I ¹	1
MUSI 171	Keyboard Skills I ¹	1
MUSI 223	Applied Music in Voice	8
or MUSI 243	Applied Music in Voice	

Dance Course

Select one course from the following		3
DANC 145	Ballet I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 125	Modern/Contemporary Dance I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 225	Modern/Contemporary Dance II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 245	Ballet II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	

Ensemble

Select one course from the following: ²		3
THR 428	Musical Theater Ensemble ⁵	
THR 493	Collaborative Lab Experience ⁵	
THR 494	Field Experience	

Musical Theater Performance Electives

Select two courses from the following: ²		6
DANC 118	Global Dance Perspectives I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ³	
DANC 119	Dance in Popular Culture (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 125	Modern/Contemporary Dance I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 131	Beginning Jazz Technique (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 145	Ballet I (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 225	Modern/Contemporary Dance II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 231	Intermediate Jazz Technique (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 245	Ballet II (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
DANC 331	Advanced Jazz Dance (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) (200 level pre-requisite must be met) ⁴	
MUSI 102	Popular Music in America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	
MUSI 107	Jazz and Blues in America (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴	

MUSI 301	Music in Motion Pictures (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ⁴
THR 304	Advanced Movement for Actors
THR 305	Unarmed Stage Combat
THR 320	Performance Studio
THR 365	Characterization
THR 401	Professional Presentation
THR 405	Advanced Stage Combat
THR 406	Advanced Movement in Musical Theater
THR 410	Acting for the Camera
THR 412	Great Film Performances (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)
THR 420	Advanced Performance Studio
THR 421	One-Person Show
THR 425	Applied Techniques in Voice and Speech
THR 427	Musical Theater Workshop
THR 428	Musical Theater Ensemble ⁵
Total Credits	43

1

The School of Music offers placement tests in Theory, Sight Singing, Ear Training and Keyboard Skills for students with an exceptional level of competency or prior academic experience in these areas. Placement tests are optional. However, students must pass the specific placement tests in order to receive "credit-by-examination" to be applied for credit to the concentration. Opportunities to take the placement exams and additional exam details are posted on the School of Music website: music.gmu.edu (<https://music.gmu.edu>)

2

or with permission of Director

3

May fulfill Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) Global Contexts or Concentration requirement, but not both.

4

May fulfill Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) Arts or Concentration requirement, but not both.

5

Registration by audition/interview only. Students completing THR 428 and THR 493 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

Performance for Stage and Screen Concentration (PSS)

Code	Title	Credits
THR 300	Voice and Speech	3
THR 301	Advanced Study in Voice	3
THR 303	Movement for Actors	3
THR 304	Advanced Movement for Actors	3
THR 305	Unarmed Stage Combat	3
THR 310	Acting II	3
THR 320	Performance Studio	3
THR 329	Directing	3
THR 365	Characterization	3
THR 410	Acting for the Camera	3
THR 420	Advanced Performance Studio	3

or THR 421	One-Person Show	
THR 423	Audition Techniques: Stage and Camera	3
Performance Electives		
Select nine credits from the following: ¹		
THR 301	Advanced Study in Voice	9
THR 321	Acting Shakespeare	
THR 340	Advanced Studies in Directing	
THR 342	Makeup Design	
THR 401	Professional Presentation	
THR 405	Advanced Stage Combat	
THR 411	Great Film Directors (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 412	Great Film Performances (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 420	Advanced Performance Studio	
THR 421	One-Person Show	
THR 425	Applied Techniques in Voice and Speech	
THR 428	Musical Theater Ensemble ²	
THR 490	Special Topics in Theater	
THR 492	Advanced Practicum ²	
THR 493	Collaborative Lab Experience ²	
THR 494	Field Experience	
THR 497	Independent Study	
Total Credits		45

1

or with permission of Director

2

Registration by audition/interview only. Students completing THR 428, THR 492, or THR 493 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

Sound Engineering and Design Concentration (SEND)

Code	Title	Credits
THR 315	Sound Engineering	3
THR 337	Sound Design	3
THR 338	Production Stage Management	3
THR 339	Principles of Design	3
THR 415	Advanced Sound Engineering	3
THR 437	Advanced Sound Design	3
THR 492	Advanced Practicum ³	3
FAVS 333	Sound Editing and Recording	3
MUSI 254	Music and Technology	3
MUSI 355	Recording Techniques	3

Sound Engineering and Design Electives

Select five courses from the following: ¹		
AVT 374	Sound Art I	15
FAVS 433	Advanced Sound	
GAME 250	Music for Film and Video	
GAME 367	Writing and Editing Music and Sound	
MUSI 259	Music in Computer Technology (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ²	
MUSI 354	Electronic Composition	

THR 313	Event Technical Production	
THR 331	Drafting and Modeling	
THR 401	Professional Presentation	
THR 411	Great Film Directors (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
TOUR 200	Introduction to Tourism Management	
TOUR 355	Event Logistics	
Total Credits		45

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or with permission of Director

2

May fulfill Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) Information Technology and Computing or Concentration requirement, but not both.

3

Registration by interview only. Students completing THR 492 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12 Concentration (THEA)

Code	Title	Credits
THR 448	Foundations of Theater Education	3
THR 449	Elementary Theater Education	3
THR 450	Secondary Theater Education	3
EDRD 300	Literacy in Fine Arts, Health, and Physical Education	3
EDUC 301	Educating Diverse and Exceptional Learners	3
EDUC 302	Human Growth and Development	3
THR 455	Theater Education Internship	6
Content Area 1		
THR 340	Advanced Studies in Directing	3
Content Area 2		
THR 300	Voice and Speech	3
THR 303	Movement for Actors	3
THR 310	Acting II	3
THR 320	Performance Studio	3
Content Area 3		
THR 333	Scenic Design	
THR 338	Production Stage Management	

Theater Education Elective

Select one course from the following: ¹ 3

THR 301	Advanced Study in Voice	
THR 304	Advanced Movement for Actors	
THR 305	Unarmed Stage Combat	
THR 313	Event Technical Production	
THR 314	Lighting Stagecraft	
THR 315	Sound Engineering	
THR 321	Acting Shakespeare	
THR 336	Technical Direction	
THR 343	Costume Technology	
THR 352	Dramatic Literature Seminar	
THR 354	American Voices	

THR 359	World Stages (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 365	Characterization	
THR 410	Acting for the Camera	
THR 411	Great Film Directors (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 412	Great Film Performances (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 424	Contemporary Women Playwrights	
THR 425	Applied Techniques in Voice and Speech	
THR 440	Advanced Studies in Directing/ Dramaturgy (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
THR 492	Advanced Practicum ²	
Total Credits		48

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or with permission of Director

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Registration by interview only. Students completing THR 492 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

General Electives

Code	Title	Credits
	After fulfilling degree requirements, BFA students may use remaining general electives credits inside or outside of the department.	2-14
Total Credits		2-14

4-Year Plan

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater Sample Plan of Study

The sample plan below is a recommended sequencing of courses based on pre-requisites and scheduling. This may not fit every student's needs and is a guideline, not a requirement. Students should confirm major requirements with their academic advisor and with PatriotWeb Degree Evaluation to ensure they enroll in the proper courses and are on track to graduate.

First Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
THR 150		THR 151	3
THR 210		THR 240	3
THR 230		Concentration Elective	3
Mason Core	3	Mason Core	3
Mason Core	3	Mason Core	3
		Practicum	1
15		16	

Second Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
THR 350		3 THR 329 or LITER	3
Concentration Elective		3 THR 351	3
Concentration Elective		3 Concentration Elective	3
Mason Core		3 Concentration Elective	3
Mason Core		3 Mason Core	3
Practicum		1	
		16	15

Third Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
THR 338 or LITER		3 Concentration Elective	3
Concentration Elective		3 Concentration Elective	3
Concentration Elective		3 Concentration Elective	3
Mason Core		3 Mason Core (Suggested Lab Science)	4
Mason Core		3 Practicum	1
		15	14

Fourth Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
MC Apex (THR 440 or THR 496) OR MC ENGH 302		3 MC Apex (THR 440 or THR 496) OR MC ENGH 302	3
Concentration Elective		3 Concentration Elective	3
Concentration Elective		3 Concentration Elective	3
Concentration Elective		3 General Elective	3
Mason Core		3 General Elective	2
		15	14

Total Credits 120

Musical Theater Performance concentration students are required to complete 8 credits of MUSI 223: Applied Vocal Instruction as part of their concentration credits. These 1-credit private voice lessons are typically completed each semester and are incorporated into the 120-credit degree pathway.

Detailed four year plans and degree planning checklists can be found at <https://cvpa.gmu.edu/academics/undergraduate-student-resources> (<https://cvpa.gmu.edu/academics/undergraduate-student-resources/>).

Honors**Honors in the Major**

Highly-qualified students who have completed 75 credits may pursue advanced work leading to graduation with honors in the major. Students apply for Honors in Theater by submitting to the Director (by November 15 or April 15) a two-page written statement outlining their reasons for pursuing advanced coursework and specific professional goals, along with the names of two Mason theater faculty members who have agreed to serve as references.

Students satisfy the honors course sequence by taking three honors-specific courses from their chosen concentration. They must also maintain an overall GPA of 3.50 and a GPA of 3.75 within the major.