

SCHOOL OF THEATER

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Fairfax Campus

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Mission

The School of Theater at George Mason University provides students with a dynamic and collaborative program in an inclusive learning environment which promotes creativity, initiative, and greater awareness of diverse identities and cultural experiences. Whether study in the School of Theater at George Mason University leads to a career in professional theater or enriches a future elsewhere, we engage the whole artist-citizen by combining practical training and liberal arts education. Our students learn through classroom instruction, individualized mentorship and hands-on experience while contributing to the success of thought-provoking plays and musicals in multiple venues.

Undergraduate Programs

Theater BA and BFA

The School of Theater offers Bachelor of Arts (BA) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/theater-ba/>) and Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/theater-bfa/>) degrees. The Bachelor of Arts offers students a broad liberal arts engagement while the Bachelor of Fine Arts offers immersive engagement within a specific discipline.

Theater BA

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree supports the breadth of a liberal arts education in the belief that such study, combined with serious practical training and experience, offers the best preparation for a life in theater, on stage and screen, or beyond. BA students are encouraged to follow their passions within theater aligning advanced coursework in one area of study or electing to explore various disciplines within the field. BA students are also encouraged to expand other interests across the university through their general electives, minors, or additional majors.

Theater BFA Concentrations

The Bachelor of Fine Arts prepares students for graduate study or entry into the profession through rigorous, concentrated, and individualized training. Theater majors pursuing a BFA degree complete a concentration in one of the following areas: Design for Stage and Screen, Performance for Stage and Screen, Musical Theater Performance, Sound Engineering and Design, or Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12.

Certification for Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12

The Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12 concentration is approved by the Virginia State Department of Education and administered through the College of Education and Human Development, which is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Upon degree conferral and completion of all requirements, students will

be eligible to apply for Virginia state licensure. Minimum scores on the VCLA tests must be achieved before state licensure is granted.

Designed for students interested in pursuing theater education. Students accepted into the concentration in Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12 must:

- Maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 in all coursework completed at Mason and in course work at all institutions of higher learning combined.
- Earn no grade lower than a C in theater and professional education courses needed for graduation.

Upon completion of all required coursework students must complete 15 weeks of a full-time student teaching internship (THR 455 (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/search/?P=THR%20455>) Theater Education Internship). Applications for placement, subject to approval of the unit, are submitted to the Field Placement Specialist in the College of Education and Human Development at the beginning of the previous semester (September 15 or February 15). In addition, students must complete CPR/First Aid training and pass the VCLA before student teaching.

Graduate Programs

Accelerated Master's Program

The School of Theater offers a Theater, BA/Arts Management, Accelerated MA option which allows undergraduate students to take graduate classes that can be used towards a designated Master's degree. Undergraduates who wish to pursue the accelerated Master's route should talk to their academic advisor first to see if they qualify. Students are eligible to apply for this accelerated program once they have earned at least 60 undergraduate credits toward their Bachelor's degree and may take up to 18 credits of graduate coursework after successfully completing 75 undergraduate credits. Students who have earned more than 100 credits will not be considered. Students must be approved by their academic advisor and formally apply and be accepted to the Master's program through an Accelerated Master's application. For more information about admissions requirements and the application process, students should visit the college website (<http://cvpa.gmu.edu>).

Visual and Performing Arts, MFA

The School of Theater offers one concentration under the Master of Fine Arts, Visual and Performing Arts degree (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/visual-performing-arts-mfa/#requirementstext>): Theater. Applicants to the program must designate which concentration they intend to apply for on the application. Each concentration has its own unique set of admissions requirements and program requirements.

Graduate Certificate

Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate

The Teaching Theater PK-12 Graduate Certificate (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/teaching-theatre-graduate-certificate/>) is a pre-service program that prepares students for Theatre Arts licensure by the Commonwealth of Virginia. In conjunction with the College of Education and Human Development, the Certificate curriculum consists of graduate-level Theater and Education courses, field experience observation and pre-service teaching internship.

Upon degree conferral and completion of all requirements, students will be eligible to apply for Virginia state licensure. Minimum scores on the VCLA tests must be achieved before state licensure is granted.

Students must complete 15 weeks of a full-time student teaching or on-the-job internship (THR 555 (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/search/?search=THR+555>) Theater Education Internship). Applications for placement, subject to approval of the unit, are submitted to the Field Placement Specialist in the College of Education and Human Development at the beginning of the previous semester (September 15 or February 15). In addition, students must complete CPR/First Aid training and pass the VCLA before student teaching.

Faculty

School Faculty

Professors

Branner, Davis, Gero, Johnsen-Neshati, Kurtz (Emeritus), McDonald

Associate Professors

Alman, Dunayer, Janis, Walsh

Assistant Professors

Gardiner

Administrative Faculty (Instructional)

Horner, Lechter

Adjunct Faculty

Armstrong, Cox, Dahm, Dunayer, Eisenson, Enos, Gaines, Goldstein, Hopkins, Kessinger, Lennon, Lee, Maaty, Pacheco, Robinson Jr., Ressegger-Slone, Salins

Requirements & Policies

Requirements

Admission Requirements

Entrance to the program is by audition/interview or portfolio review. Information about the audition process, including dates, can be found on the School of Theater website (<https://theater.gmu.edu/>). Admission to the university is determined by the Office of Admissions (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/>).

Program Audition, Portfolio Requirements

Students interview with a faculty panel in order to apply to become a Theater major. Additionally, actors audition for the program; designers and technicians undergo a portfolio review (B.A. candidates may opt to submit an essay); generalists, theater educators, and writers provide written statements as described on the School of Theater website (<https://theater.gmu.edu/>). See additional details on the College of Visual & Performing Arts Admissions page (<https://cvpa.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/school-theater-admissions/>).

We are looking for:

- An appropriate level of craft and artistry.
- Commitment to the work as demonstrated by preparation for the interview, audition, and/or portfolio review.

- A willingness to accept direction, criticism and mentoring.
- A willingness and ability to collaborate with students, faculty, and professionals.

Students must schedule their audition or interview through SlideRoom (<https://gmucvpa.slideroom.com/#/login/program/43722>). Additional details can be found on the College of Visual & Performing Arts Admissions page (<https://cvpa.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/school-theater-admissions/>). You will receive an email confirmation of your program audition or portfolio review date.

If you have any questions, please contact the School of Theater (<https://theater.gmu.edu/>). An applicant may request a virtual appointment during business hours. In person Theater major program auditions, portfolio reviews, and interviews will take place within the School of Theater on the Fairfax Campus.

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated writing-intensive in their major at the 300 level or above. Students seeking a BA or BFA in Theater fulfill this requirement by successfully completing THR 350 Script Analysis (Mason Core) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), THR 482 Advanced Screenplay Workshop (Mason Core) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) or THR 351 Dramatic Theory and Criticism (Mason Core) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>).

Production Requirements

Participation in Theater at Mason productions is expected of all declared majors. Students must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA to participate in Theater at Mason productions.

Theater Honors Program

See the Theater, BA (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/theater-ba/#honorstext>) or Theater, BFA (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/theater-bfa/#honorstext>) for specific details.

BA/BFA Policies

Students seeking to earn a BA or BFA as a second bachelor's degree, either concurrently or sequentially, must complete all Theater degree requirements. Students must earn a minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA in their major. A student must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to complete a BA with a concentration or a BFA.

Programs

- Audio Production Minor
- Design and Technical Theater Minor
- Event Technical Production Minor (CVPA)
- Teaching Theatre PK-12 Graduate Certificate
- Theater Minor
- Theater Performance Minor
- Theater, BA
- Theater, BFA