

THEATER, BA

Banner Code: AR-BA-THR

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The BA degree stresses 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 and screen.

Students complete the theater core. To organize their advance work within the major, students elect a course of study from five concentrations:

- Performance (Acting and Directing)
- Design and Technical Theater
- Playwriting and Dramaturgy
- Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12
- Theater Studies

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

Mason Core

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Oral Communication	3
	Information Technology	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
ENGH 101	Composition (Mason Core) ¹	3
ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core) ¹	3
Core Requirements		
	Literature	3
	Arts ²	3
	Natural Science ³	7
	Western Civilization/World History	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Total Credits		37

¹ Nonnative speakers of English with limited proficiency in the language may substitute ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) for ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core). Students must attain a minimum grade of C in ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) or ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core), as well as in ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core), to fulfill degree requirements.

² Course must fall outside the major.

³ Must include at least one laboratory science course.

Major

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.

Code	Title	Credits
THR 150	Greeks to Restoration (Mason Core)	3
THR 151	Romanticism to Present (Mason Core)	3
THR 191	Theater Support/Engagement ¹	0
THR 196	Performance or Design Practicum	1
THR 197	Stage or Literary Practicum	1
THR 198	Theatrical Construction Practicum	1
THR 199	Production Run Crew Practicum	1
THR 201	Stage Management	3
THR 210	Acting I (Mason Core)	3
THR 230	Fundamentals of Production (Mason Core)	3
THR 300	Voice and Speech	3
Select one course from the following:		3
THR 303	Movement for Actors	
THR 304	Advanced Movement for Actors	
THR 305	Unarmed Stage Combat	
THR 329	Directing	3
THR 350	Script Analysis	3
THR 411	Great Film Directors (Mason Core)	3
or THR 412	Great Film Performances (Mason Core)	
Synthesis		3
THR 440	Advanced Studies in Directing/ Dramaturgy (Mason Core)	
or THR 496	Text in Production (Mason Core)	
Design in the Discipline		3
Select one course from the following:		
THR 333	Scenic Design	
THR 334	Lighting Design	
THR 335	Costume Design	
THR 339	Principles of Design	
THR 345	Puppetry	
or permission of Director		
Writing in the Discipline		3
Select one course from the following:		
THR 380	Playwriting I	
THR 381	Playwriting II	
THR 382	Screenplay Workshop	
THR 482	Advanced Screenplay Workshop	
THR 484	Translation Adaptation for Stage Screen	
or permission of Director		
Dramatic Literature		3

THR 351	Dramatic Theory and Criticism
THR 352	Dramatic Literature Seminar
THR 355	Moral Vision in American Theater
THR 359	World Stages (Mason Core) ²
THR 395	Theater as the Life of the Mind (Mason Core)
THR 424	Contemporary Women Playwrights
or permission of Director	
Total Credits	46

¹ Must be taken four times during course of study.

² May fulfill either Mason Core Global Understanding requirement or dramatic literature requirement but not both.

Theater Concentrations

Theater majors earning a BA in Theater must select one of the following concentrations:

Concentrations

- Concentration in Design and Technical Theater (DTT)
- Concentration in Performance (PFM)
- Concentration in Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12 (THEA)
- Concentration in Theater Studies (THST)

Concentration in Design and Technical Theater (DTT)

Provides a foundation of knowledge, technique, and experience in one or more areas of theater design and technology in preparation for advanced study and professional work in the field.

Code	Title	Credits
THR 339	Principles of Design	3
Select two courses from the following:		6
THR 313	Event Technical Production	
THR 314	Lighting Stagecraft	
THR 315	Sound Engineering	
THR 332	History of Fashion and Dress	
THR 343	Costume Technology	
or permission of Director		
Select one course from the following:		3
THR 316	Scene Painting	
THR 330	Seminar in Technical Theater	
THR 331	Drafting and Model Making	
THR 333	Scenic Design	
THR 334	Lighting Design	
THR 335	Costume Design	
THR 337	Sound Design	
THR 342	Makeup Design	
THR 434	Advanced Lighting Design	
or permission of Director		
Upper-Level Theater Electives		12
12 credits of 300-400 level THR coursework		
Total Credits		24

Concentration in Performance (PFM)

Designed for the serious student of acting and directing with professional aspirations. Solid grounding in the fundamentals of performance analysis

and basic training of the actor's instrument are complemented by a rigorous, sequential instruction in the various facets of the actor's craft.

At its core, the Performance Concentration is a blend of Modern and Classical actor training using a Stanislavski-grounded approach balanced with techniques for understanding texts written two hundred years before "motivation" and "characterization" entered the critical vocabulary. Rounding out the curriculum is specialized study in vocal production and movement technique. Matriculation in this program expresses a profound commitment to a rigorous intellectual, physical and emotional investigation of the discipline of performance over a two-year period. Professional development is enhanced with ongoing student progress reviews, support and advising from Performance Concentration faculty.

Code	Title	Credits
THR 301	Advanced Study in Voice	3
THR 310	Acting II	3
or permission of Director		
Select one course from the following:		3
THR 320	Performance Studio	
THR 321	Acting Shakespeare	
THR 340	Advanced Studies in Directing	
THR 410	Acting for the Camera	
THR 420	Advanced Performance Studio	
or permission of Director		
Select one course from the following:		3
THR 304	Advanced Movement for Actors	
THR 305	Unarmed Stage Combat	
THR 365	Characterization	
THR 405	Advanced Stage Combat	
THR 421	One-Person Show	
THR 423	Audition Techniques: Stage and Camera	
THR 427	Musical Theater Workshop	
or permission of Director		
Upper-Level Theater Electives		12
12 credits of 300-400 level THR coursework		
Total Credits		24

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

Designed for students interested in pursuing theater education. In addition to transcript review and the submission of an essay detailing goals for the concentration, students must:

- Have earned 45 to 60 credits.
- Submit scores for the Praxis Core (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) tests to the committee. (It is strongly recommended that students take the Praxis Core tests as soon as ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core), a course in literature, and a course in mathematics have been completed.)
- Maintain an overall GPA of 2.80 in all course work 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 fulfilling THR 448 Foundations of Theater Education, THR 449 Elementary Theater Education, THR 450 Secondary Theater Education, EDRD 300 Literacy and Curriculum Integration, EDUC 301 Educating

Diverse and Exceptional Learners, and EDUC 302 Human Growth and Development students must complete 15 weeks of a full-time student teaching internship (THR 455 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. In addition, students must pass the VCLA before student teaching.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
THR 448	Foundations of Theater Education	3
THR 449	Elementary Theater Education	3
THR 450	Secondary Theater Education	3
EDRD 300	Literacy and Curriculum Integration	3
EDUC 301	Educating Diverse and Exceptional Learners	3
EDUC 302	Human Growth and Development	3
Six credits of		6
THR 455	Theater Education Internship	
Total Credits		24

Concentration in Theater Studies (THST)

Designed for the Theater generalist or the writer specializing in playwriting, screenwriting, production dramaturgy, season planning, theater criticism, and translation/adaptation for the stage. The Concentration in Theater Studies requires each student to work with a faculty adviser to craft an individualized course of study that challenges their development conceptually and creatively for a total of 24 credits of upper-division (300-400 level) THR courses.

General Electives

Code	Title	Credits
BA students must use general electives for one of the following. After fulfilling one of these options, the remaining general electives may be taken inside or outside of the department. All students are required to take a minimum of 45 credits of upper-division courses (300-400 level).		13

Demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language (0-9 credits)

Complete a minor (15-21 credits)

Complete a double major outside their primary field of study (15-21 credits)

Complete a double degree outside their primary field of study (15-21 credits)

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.

Accelerated Master's

Theater, BA/Arts Management, Accelerated MA

Overview

Undergraduates in Theater may apply to the accelerated master's degree in Arts Management. If accepted, students will be able to earn a BA in Theater and an MA in Arts Management after satisfactory completion of 150 credits.

Students choosing the accelerated option must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. The regular designed timeframe would be a start in the Fall and the completion in the Summer five years later, but longer time frames may also be available.

See AP6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree for policies related to this program. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to accelerated master's programs must have completed at least 75 credits that apply to their undergraduate degree (with at least 24 credits at Mason) and no more than 90 credits. Applicants should submit an Accelerated Master's Program Application, available from the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) Graduate Studies. It includes the proposed conferral date for the undergraduate degree and the two graduate courses that are to be applied to the undergraduate degree.

Interested students should contact the Arts Management Program Office for more details about the application process.

Accelerated Option Requirements

As an undergraduate, the accelerated master's student is to complete the two graduate courses indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program application with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all coursework and in coursework applied to their major. On completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form (which shall incorporate all of the Graduate Admission requirements of the university) and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. The Internal Internship (AMGT 740 Internal Internship) will be within Theater at Mason (generally with the School of Theater). Students will begin their master's program in the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree, and they may also begin in the summer term.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. The ability to take courses for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with permission of the School of Theater.

Permission to take a graduate course for reserve graduate credit is normally granted only to Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation and must be approved by the Dean's Office.

To apply these credits to the master's degree, students must request that the credits be moved from the undergraduate degree to the graduate degree using the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.