

THEATER, BA

Banner Code: AR-BA-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 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 four concentrations:

- Performance
- Design and Technical Theater
- Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12
- Theater Studies

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

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 Admissions Office. University-wide admissions policies can be found in the Undergraduate Admissions Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-policies/>) section of this catalog.

Policies

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/>).

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
----------	---	---

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

Core Requirements

Literature (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature)	3
--	---

Arts (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts) ²	3
---	---

Natural Science (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science) ³	7
--	---

Global History (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global-history)	3
--	---

Global Understanding (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global)	3
--	---

Social and Behavioral Sciences (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#social-behavioral-science)	3
--	---

Total Credits	37
----------------------	-----------

¹ Nonnative speakers of English with limited proficiency in the language may substitute ENGH 100 for ENGH 101. Students must attain a minimum grade of C in ENGH 100 or ENGH 101, as well as in ENGH 302, 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: 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	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 197	Literary Management Practicum	1
THR 198	Construction or Admin Practicum	1
THR 199	Production Run Crew Practicum	1
THR 201	Stage Management	3
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 300	Voice and Speech	3
THR 329	Directing	3
THR 350	Script Analysis	3
THR 411	Great Film Directors (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
or THR 412	Great Film Performances (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
Movement		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 306	Movement in Musical Theater

Synthesis **3**

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

Design/Tech in the Discipline **3**

Select one course from the following: ³

THR 240	Introduction to Theatrical Design ²
THR 313	Event Technical Production
THR 314	Lighting Stagecraft
THR 315	Sound Engineering
THR 316	Scene Painting
THR 330	Seminar in Technical Theater
THR 342	Makeup Design

Writing in the Discipline **3**

Select one course from the following: ³

THR 351	Dramatic Theory and Criticism
THR 380	Playwriting I
THR 382	Screenplay Workshop
THR 484	Translation Adaptation for Stage Screen

Dramatic Literature **3**

Select one course from the following: ³

THR 352	Dramatic Literature Seminar
THR 353	Advanced Studies in Theater History
THR 354	American Voices
THR 359	World Stages (Mason Core) (http:// catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) ¹
THR 424	Contemporary Women Playwrights

Total Credits **46**

¹ May fulfill either Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) Global Understanding requirement or dramatic literature requirement but not both.

² Design & Tech concentration students must complete THR 240 for the Design/Tech in the Discipline requirement.

³ or with permission of Director

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 15 credits from the following: ¹		15
THR 196	Production Practicum	
THR 197	Literary Management Practicum	
THR 198	Construction or Admin Practicum	
THR 199	Production Run Crew Practicum	
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 337	Sound Design	
THR 342	Makeup Design	
THR 343	Costume Technology	
THR 401	Professional Presentation	
THR 415	Advanced Sound Engineering	
THR 428	Musical Theater Ensemble ²	
THR 434	Advanced Lighting Design	
THR 437	Advanced Sound Design	
THR 492	Advanced Practicum ²	
THR 493	Collaborative Lab Experience ²	
Total Credits		18

¹ or with permission of Director

² Registration by audition/interview only. Students completing THR 428, THR 492, and THR 493 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

Concentration in Performance (PFM)

Designed for the serious student of acting 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
Select 12 credits from the following: ¹		12
THR 196	Production Practicum	
THR 197	Literary Management Practicum	
THR 198	Construction or Admin Practicum	
THR 199	Production Run Crew Practicum	
THR 304	Advanced Movement for Actors	
THR 305	Unarmed Stage Combat	
THR 306	Movement in Musical Theater	
THR 320	Performance Studio	
THR 321	Acting Shakespeare	
THR 340	Advanced Studies in Directing	
THR 365	Characterization	
THR 401	Professional Presentation	
THR 405	Advanced Stage Combat	
THR 410	Acting for the Camera	
THR 420	Advanced Performance Studio	
THR 421	One-Person Show	
THR 422	Performance: Process and Portfolio	
THR 423	Audition Techniques: Stage and Camera	
THR 427	Musical Theater Workshop	
THR 428	Musical Theater Ensemble ²	
THR 490	Special Topics in Theater	
THR 492	Advanced Practicum ²	
THR 493	Collaborative Lab Experience ²	
Total Credits		18

¹ or with permission of Director

² Registration by audition/interview only. Students completing THR 428, THR 492, and THR 493 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

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

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

- Maintain an overall GPA of 2.80 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 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 in Fine Arts, Health, and Physical Education	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 advisor to craft an individualized course of study that challenges their development conceptually and creatively for a total of 18 credits of upper-division (300-400 level) THR courses. Concentration coursework may also include THR 196, THR 197, THR 198, and THR 199.

General Electives

Code	Title	Credits
BA students must use some/all general electives to complete		13-19
a		
Minor		
Double Major ¹		
Double Degree ¹		
Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language		
Remaining electives ²		

¹ Must be outside student's primary major field of study.

² 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 and 400 level).

4-Year Plan

Bachelors of Arts in Theatre 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 201 or 210	3	THR 201 or 210	3
THR 230	3	THR Concentration Course	3

Mason Core (typically ENGH 101)	3	Mason Core (typically COMM 100 or 101)	3
Mason Core (typically Quantitative Reasoning)	3	Mason Core (typically Literature)	3
		15	15
Second Year			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
THR 350	3	THR 329	3
Movement or Design/Tech in the Discipline	3	THR Concentration Course	3
THR 300 or THR Concentration course	3	Movement or Design/Tech in the Discipline	3
Foreign Language or Minor	3	Foreign Language or Minor	3
Mason Core (typically Arts - outside the major)	3	Mason Core (typically HIST 100 or 125)	3
Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1	Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1
		16	16

Third Year			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Dramatic Literature or Writing in the Discipline	3	Dramatic Literature or Writing in the Discipline	3
THR 300 or THR Concentration Course	3	Film Study or THR Concentration Course	3
Mason Core (typically Lab science)	4	THR Concentration Course	3
Foreign language or Minor	3	Foreign Language or Minor	3
Mason Core (typically Information Technology)	3	Mason Core (typically Global Understanding)	3

		Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1
		16	16
Fourth Year			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Synthesis or THR Concentration Course	3	Synthesis or THR Concentration Course	3
Film Study or THR Concentration Course	3	Mason Core (typically ENGH 302)	3
Mason Core (typically Non-lab Science)	3	General Elective or Credit towards Minor	3
Mason Core (typically Social & Behavioral Sciences)	3	General Elective or Credit towards Minor	3
Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1	General Elective or Credit towards Minor	1
		13	13

Total Credits 120

Detailed four year plans and degree planning checklists can be found at <https://advising.gmu.edu/current-student/majors-at-mason/>.

Concentration in Theater Education for Theater Arts PK-12

First Year			
Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
THR 150	3	THR 151	3
THR 201 or 210	3	THR 201 or 210	3
THR 230	3	Mason Core (typically COMM 100 or 101)	3
Mason Core (typically ENGH 101)	3	Mason Core (typically Arts - outside the major)	3
Mason Core (typically Quantitative Reasoning)	3	Mason Core (typically Literature)	3
		15	15

Second Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Movement or Design/Tech in the Discipline		3 EDRD 300	3
THR 300		3 Movement or Design/Tech in the Discipline	3
THR 350		3 THR 329	3
Foreign Language or Minor		3 Foreign Language or Minor	3
Mason Core (typically HIST 100 or 125)		3 Mason Core (typically Information Technology)	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Dramatic Literature or Writing in the Discipline		3 Film Study or Synthesis	3
EDUC 301		3 Dramatic Literature or Writing in the Discipline	3
Foreign Language or Minor		3 THR 448	3
Mason Core (typically Lab Science)		4 Foreign Language or Minor	3
THR 198		1 Mason Core (typically Non-Lab Science)	3
		14	15

Fourth Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Film Study or Synthesis		3 THR 450	3
THR 449		3 THR 422 or 492	3
EDUC 302		3 Mason Core (typically ENGH 302)	3
Mason Core (typically Global Understanding)		3 Elective (or credits toward Minor)	1-3

Mason Core (typically Social & Behavioral Sciences)	3 THR 455 (Note: All coursework must be completed before registering for THR 455, which is typically taken in the ninth semester)	6-12
	15	16-24

Total Credits 120-128

Detailed four year plans and degree planning checklists can be found at <https://advising.gmu.edu/current-student/majors-at-mason/>.

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

Academically strong undergraduates in Theater may apply to the accelerated Master's Degree in Arts Management. If accepted, students will be able to earn a Theater, BA (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/theater/theater-ba/>) and an Arts Management, MA (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/management/arts-management-ma/>) after satisfactory completion of 150 credits.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>). For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in the Graduate Admission Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) section of this catalog.

Students are eligible to apply for this accelerated program once they have earned **at least 60 undergraduate credits**. After successfully completing

75 undergraduate credits, students must use at least 3 and no more than 12 credits of **advanced standing courses** (see below) to both complete the bachelor's degree and begin the masters. An additional six credits may be held in **reserve** for the master's degree, but cannot be used to complete the bachelors.

Important information on how to apply for this accelerated master's program can be found in the University's Accelerated Master's Application Guide. (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now/how-apply/accelerated-masters/>)

Accelerated Master's Admission Requirements

Undergraduate students admitted to the accelerated master's program pathway will be fully admitted into the MA program if they meet the following requirements, as verified on the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form (<https://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/BAMT.pdf>):

- Minimum overall GPA of 3.00
- Completion of specific undergraduate coursework
- Successfully meet Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and complete the application for graduation
- Minimum grade of B in each advanced standing course
- Submission of BAM Transition Form to Office of the University Registrar at the beginning of student's final undergraduate semester

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students in the Accelerated Pathway must choose from the following courses which can be taken as Advanced Standing or Reserve Graduate credit.# A minimum grade of B is required.

Code	Title	Credits
Advanced Standing courses (up to 12 credits with a minimum grade of B in each)		
AMGT 602	Seminar in Arts Management	3
AMGT 601	Fund Raising/Development I	3
AMGT 604	Public Relations and Marketing Strategies for the Arts I	3
AMGT 605	Finance and Budgeting for Arts I	3
Reserve Graduate Credit courses (up to 6 credits) taken while an undergraduate and will only count for the graduate degree program		
AMGT 603	The Arts in Society ¹	3
AMGT 606	Governance and Financial Management ²	3

1

Prerequisite: AMGT 602 Seminar in Arts Management

2

Prerequisite: AMGT 605 Finance and Budgeting for Arts I

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements, see AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees.