



PERFORMING ARTS (THEATRE) | COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

B.A. IN PERFORMING ARTS (THEATRE)

Theatre is an art. Through classroom study and production experience, students are encouraged to develop an individual point of view and aesthetic expression through theatrical collaboration.

Theatre is a liberal art and engenders a synthesis of critical and creative thinking that is foundational to lifelong learning and personal excellence in any field. Interdisciplinary by nature, the theatre degree program offers an excellent and well-rounded liberal arts education.

Theatre students are encouraged to produce contemporary and classic work of relevance to their unique audience, to promote and contribute to the vitality of the arts in our region, and to honor the remarkable cultural diversity of our constituency through civic engagement.

Theatre majors are prepared for entry-level technical theatre, design, and performance positions. Students are prepared for acceptance into competitive Master of Fine Arts (MFA) and Master of Arts (MA) theatre programs.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of a B.A. in Theatre requires a total of 120 credit hours, which includes a minimum of 39 credit hours in degree-specific requirements, including 12 hours in theatre core courses; six in production experience; six in laboratory; six in history, literature and theory; and nine credit hours of theatre electives. 15 credit hours within the major must be at the 300-level or higher.

COURSEWORK

Theatre Major Lecture Courses and Labs

- Acting I
- Design for the Theatre
- Directing
- Production Lab (6 credits – choose 2 of the following)
- Stagecraft I
- Costuming I
- Stage Lighting
- History of the Theatre II and II
- Senior Performance Project and Capstone Seminar

- Production Practicum (6 individual credits)
- Theatre Electives (9 credits)

Students are advised to determine an area of concentration in consultation with a principal teacher in their chosen area (acting, directing, design, stage management, technical production, dramaturgy, etc.).

Practicum credit is given for approximately 40 hours of assigned work on any IU Northwest production. Assignments are finalized in the first week of the semester. Students are encouraged to apply for significant creative and crew positions prior to the semester of a production.

Students should consult with the department and their advisor for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content and academic counseling.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

All IU Northwest theatre faculty members have earned graduate degrees in their respective fields and hold active memberships in the various professional organizations in their specialties, including the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology.

The theatre program is known for offering classes with a high level of student/teacher interaction. The program emphasizes individual attention with abundant opportunities for personal exploration and growth. Students at all grade levels act, direct, design, stage manage, research, critique, and produce theatre art in close collaboration with faculty, student peers and respected visiting artists.

Through writing, research, and discussion-based classes, students learn to think critically and historically about the performing arts. Core theatre courses offer broad introductory and intermediate-level study in all areas of theatre art and production. Theatre majors have the opportunity to identify a specific area of concentration within the program's upperlevel offerings. Internships and independent study in acting, design, theatre technology, and dramaturgy can be arranged for advanced students.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A B.A. IN PERFORMING ARTS?

Graduates often find career opportunities in theatre, film and television, including:

- Arts Management
- Directing
- Scenic Design
- Costume Design
- Lighting Design
- Sound Design
- Theatre Production
- Acting
- Playwriting
- Stage Management
- Educational Theatre

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Students have opportunities to design, build and act in multiple theatre productions, as well as work on various production crews through Theatre Northwest, the production company of the Department of Performing Arts.

In addition, all auditions for Theatre Northwest productions are open to the campus and community. Students can earn academic credit for practical work on all aspects of theatre production.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The Department of Performing Arts has an active student organization, The Broadway Drama Society, which is open to all students, with offices held by theatre students.

RELATED DEGREE OPTIONS

- Minor in Performing Arts

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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