



Theatre and Drama

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. In bringing together the talents of writers, performers, designers, and technical experts, the LSA Program in Theatre and Drama offers a comprehensive artistic preparation that can be applied to a variety of fields. Students interested in Actor, Director, or Designer training may audition for the Theatre B.F.A. degrees through the School of Music.

The Theatre and Drama program affords unique possibilities for student involvement in co-curricular productions, through which concentrators develop a wide range of communication, teamwork, and organizational skills.

Related fields include English and World Literature, Art History, Communication Studies, Screen Arts and Cultures, Anthropology, Museum Studies, and Business.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Communication Skills

- Public speaking
- Voice control/modulation
- Awareness/observation of listeners
- Communication through movement
- Speech writing

Analytical Skills

- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Understanding ideas/art within historical/social contexts
- Comparing and contrasting ideas/information
- Interpreting

Organizational Skills

- Collaboratively developing a complex project
- Interacting with colleagues in a team
- Working within timelines

Technical Skills

- Playwriting
- Design
- Carpentry
- Sound techniques
- Lighting techniques
- Theatrical makeup
- Costume design
- Orthographic projection

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer additional opportunities to add to

the skills you are developing in your classes. Other options include study abroad, off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.

FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Theatre concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, organizational skills may be equally useful whether working as a stage manager, a fundraiser, or an administrator. The acting student's presentation skills,

ability to face a public, and control of voice and body provide a solid base for communicating effectively with others. Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Theatre and Drama graduates.

Communication Skills

College instructor 📖
K-12 teacher
Reviewer/critic (newspaper, TV, Internet)
Public relations officer
Public relations director, performing arts center
Acquisitions editor, publishing
Theatrical agent
Drama therapist 📖
Research interviewer

Analytical Skills

Business manager (theatre)
Literary manager (theatre)
Legislative aide
Bank manager
Lawyer 📖

Organizational Skills

Operations manager
Stage manager
Audience developer, theatre company
Drama specialist, recreation department
Fundraiser
Education administrator
Librarian/information specialist 📖

Technical Skills

Actor
Theatre technician
Designer, lighting/costume/scene 📖
Playwright

📖 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The LSA B.A. degree curriculum of the Theatre and Drama Department combines the study of three areas: performance, history and dramatic literature, and design and technical production. The department offers numerous co-curricular production activities in addition to classroom experience. The concentration requires a minimum of 40 credits.

In addition, the School of Music offers professional training B.F.A.s in Performance and Design. Both degrees require a minimum of 45 hours outside the core curriculum and may include a variety of humanities and sciences.

Finally, the department offers an 18-credit minor in African-American Theatre.

Department of Theatre and Drama

2230 Walgreen Drama Center
1226 Murfin Avenue
734-764-5350
music.umich.edu/departments/theatre

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:

careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at:

studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu

facebook.com/careercenter.umich

twitter.com/careercenter

linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan

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