

Master of Fine Arts - Theatre

Plan Description

The Master of Fine Arts is a three-year program offering advanced tracks in Costume, Lighting, Scenic, Technical Direction, Performance, and Stage Management. Actors, designers, stage managers, and technicians receive comprehensive and specialized training in preparation for careers in the professional theatre and the broader entertainment industry. While deeply committed to the individual theatre artist, the program fosters and encourages an integrated and collaborative approach to theatre. Graduate students are provided opportunities through the department's Nevada Conservatory Theatre to work alongside national and international theatre professionals in all disciplines. Courses in related areas of study such as entertainment engineering and design, dance, music, film and/or other disciplines approved by track advisors are encouraged for graduate students to meet the ever expanding expectations of the entertainment industry.

For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes please visit the Degrees Directory.

Learning outcomes for specific subplan tracks can be found below:

Master of Fine Arts - Theatre; Design/Technology Tracks

Master of Fine Arts - Theatre; Performance Track

Master of Fine Arts - Theatre; Stage Management Track

Plan Admission Requirements

Application deadlines

Applications available on the UNLV Graduate College website.

All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements.

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Graduate College, the following department application materials must be uploaded into the online application:

Transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended, showing an undergraduate degree in theatre and the date awarded. (An acceptable alternative undergraduate major coupled with satisfactory practical experience in theatre may be deemed equivalent to an undergraduate major in theatre.)

A written statement (500 words or less) of the applicant's purpose in pursuing graduate study.

Two letters of recommendation sent by former instructors, employers, or other professionals who can evaluate the applicant's potential to complete graduate study.

Design and Technology Tracks: Costume, Lighting, Scenic and Technical Direction

In addition to general materials requested by the Department of Theatre, students must submit a portfolio for consideration by the respective Faculty and Staff. It should outline their creative process as well as catalogue their creative ideas and experience. Applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the campus for an onsite interview.

Performance Track

In addition to general materials requested by the Department of Theatre (see above), students must audition either in person or through submission of a video. The audition should contain the following:

Two contrasting selections, one of which must be classical (pre-18th Century) and in verse. The total audition should not exceed four minutes in length.

A song selected from a Broadway musical not to exceed one minute in length. If the audition is in person, the song should be performed a cappella as no accompaniment will be provided. Video submissions may include accompaniment.

The M.F.A. in Performance Track admits a new class every three years.

Stage Management Track

In addition to general materials requested by the Department of Theatre (see above), submit electronically several pages from a sample prompt script and other paperwork generated as a stage manager. An interview with Stage Management faculty will be scheduled after application materials have been received.

Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.

Upon acceptance, each M.F.A. candidate will be assessed to determine skill level and training in specific track competencies as well as theatre history, dramatic literature, and theories of performance and/or production. Candidates may be required to enroll in courses that remedy deficiencies, enhance academic readiness and augment skill acquisition. Students with deficiencies in theatre history will be required to take THTR 681 and THTR 682 (Theatre History I and II) in lieu of 6 elective credits.

Plan Requirements

See specific subplan requirements below:

Design and Technology Tracks

Subplan 1: Costume Design

Subplan 2: Lighting Design

Subplan 3: Scenic Design

Subplan 4: Technical Direction

Performance Track

Subplan 5: Performance

Stage Management Track
Subplan 6: Stage Management

Subplan 1 Requirements: Costume Design

Total Credits Required: 60

Required Courses - Total Credits: 45

Scholarly Studies - Credits: 9

[Before] Complete the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 702 Graduate Seminar 3

[After] Complete 6 credits from the following courses.

THTR 661 Play Structure and Analysis 3

THTR 701 Research in Theatre and Drama 3

THTR 719 Dramaturgy 3

Emphasis Specific Studies - Credits: 36

Design Studios - Credits: 18

All of these or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 741 Costume Design Studio I 3 – 6

THTR 742 Costume Design Studio II 3 – 6

THTR 743 Costume Design Studio III 3 – 6

Advanced Skills - Credits: 9

Complete 9 credits of the following, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 601 Special Topics: Advanced
Costume Design II 3

Drawing/Rendering - Credits: 3

The following or other advisor-approved course.

THTR 610 Life Drawing for Stage & Screen

Focused Studies - Credits: 6

Select from the following or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 795 Supervised Individual Study	1 - 3
THTR 796 Internship	1 - 12

Elective Courses - Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of advisor-approved courses. Each emphasis offers a list of suggested Elective courses related to the emphasis or that enhance liberal arts studies. Recommended areas of study may include Art, Art History, Architecture, Dance, Engineering, English, Film, History, Hospitality, Languages, Literature, Management, Safety, Stage Technology, Structures, Television, Journalism, or other courses with Advisor's approval.

Creative Project - Credits: 3

Complete the following or other advisor-approved course.

THTR 797 Creative Project	1 - 12
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Subplan 2 Requirements: Lighting Design

Total Credits Required: 60

Required Courses - Total Credits: 42**Scholarly Studies - Credits: 9**

[Before] Complete the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 702 Graduate Seminar	3
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[After] Complete 6 credits from the following courses.

THTR 661 Play Structure and Analysis	3
THTR 701 Research in Theatre and Drama	3
THTR 719 Dramaturgy	3

Emphasis Specific Studies - Credits: 33**Design Studios - Credits: 18**

All of these, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 745 Lighting Design Studio I	3 – 6
THTR 746 Lighting Design Studio II	3 – 6
THTR 747 Lighting Design Studio III	3 – 6

Drafting/Rendering - Credits: 6

Select two of the following or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 606A Computer Drafting & Rendering: AutoCAD	3
THTR 606B Computer Drafting & Rendering: VectorWorks	3
THTR 606C Computer Drafting & Rendering: Digital Rendering	3

Focused Studies - Credits: 9

Select from the following or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 795 Supervised Individual Study	1 – 3
THTR 796 Internship	1 – 12

Elective Courses - Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of advisor-approved courses. Each emphasis offers a list of suggested Elective courses related to the emphasis or that enhance liberal arts studies. Recommended areas of study may include Art, Art History, Architecture, Dance, Engineering, English, Film, History, Hospitality, Languages, Literature, Management, Safety, Stage Technology, Structures, Television, Journalism, or other courses with Advisor's approval.

Creative Project - Credits: 6

Complete the following, or other advisor-approved course.

THTR 797 Creative Project	1 – 12
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Subplan 3 Requirements: Scenic Design

Total Credits Required: 60

Required Courses - Total Credits: 42

Scholarly Studies - Credits: 9

[Before]

Complete the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 702 Graduate Seminar	3
[After] Complete 6 credits from the following courses.	
THTR 661 Play Structure and Analysis	3
THTR 701 Research in Theatre and Drama	3
THTR 719 Dramaturgy	3

Emphasis Specific Studies - Credits: 33

Design Studios - Credits: 18

All of these or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 727 Scene Design Studio I	3
THTR 728 Scene Design Studio II	3 – 6
THTR 729 Scene Design Studio II	3 – 6

Drawing/Drafting - Credits: 9

The following or other advisor-approved course.

THTR 610 Life Drawing for Stage & Screen	
[Before] Select two of the following.	6
THTR 606A Computer Drafting & Rendering: AutoCAD	3
THTR 606B Computer Drafting & Rendering: VectorWorks	3
THTR 606C Computer Drafting & Rendering: Digital Rendering	3

Focused Studies - Credits: 6

Select from the following or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 795 Supervised Individual Study	1 – 3
THTR 796 Internship	1 – 12

Elective Courses - Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of advisor-approved courses. Each emphasis offers a list of suggested Elective courses related to the emphasis or that enhance liberal arts studies. Recommended areas of study may include Art, Art History, Architecture, Dance, Engineering, English, Film, History, Hospitality, Languages, Literature, Management, Safety, Stage Technology, Structures, Television, Journalism, or other courses with Advisor's approval.

Creative Project - Credits: 6

Complete the following or other advisor-approved course.

THTR 797 Creative Project

1 – 12

Subplan 4 Requirements: Technical Direction

Total Credits Required: 60

Required Courses - Total Credits: 42

Scholarly Studies - Credits: 9

[Before] Complete the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 702 Graduate Seminar 3

[After] Complete 6 credits from the following courses.

THTR 661 Play Structure and Analysis 3

THTR 701 Research in Theatre and Drama 3

THTR 719 Dramaturgy 3

Emphasis Specific Studies - Credits: 33

Technical Direction Studios - Credits: 18

All of these or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 732 Technical Direction Studio I 3 – 6

THTR 733 Technical Direction Studio II 3 – 6

THTR 734 Technical Direction Studio III 3 – 6

Management Studies - Credits: 3

Complete the following or other advisor-approved course.

THTR 638 Production Management 3

Drafting/Rendering - Credits: 6

Select two of the following or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 606A Computer Drafting & Rendering: AutoCAD	3
THTR 606B Computer Drafting & Rendering: VectorWorks	3
THTR 606C Computer Drafting & Rendering: Digital Rendering	3

Focused Studies - Credits: 6

Select from the following or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 795 Supervised Individual Study	1 – 3
THTR 796 Internship	1 – 12

Elective Courses - Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of advisor-approved courses. Each emphasis offers a list of suggested Elective courses related to the emphasis or that enhance liberal arts studies. Recommended areas of study may include Art, Art History, Architecture, Dance, Engineering, English, Film, History, Hospitality, Languages, Literature, Management, Safety, Stage Technology, Structures, Television, Journalism, or other courses with Advisor's approval.

Creative Project - Credits: 6

Complete the following, or other advisor-approved course.

THTR 797 Creative Project	1 – 12
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Subplan 5 Requirements: Performance

Total Credits Required: 60

Required Courses - Total Credits: 53

Scholarly Studies – Credits: 9

[Before] Complete the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 702 Graduate Seminar	3
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[After] Complete 6 credits from the following courses.

THTR 661 Play Structure and Analysis	3
THTR 701 Research in Theatre and Drama	3
THTR 719 Dramaturgy	3

Acting Technique – Credits: 8

Complete 8 credits of the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 771 Acting Studio

1-4

Scene Study Studio – Credits: 8

Complete 8 credits of the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 773 Scene Study

1-4

Voice and Movement Laboratory – Credits: 8

Complete 8 credits of the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 775 Sound and Movement Studio

1-4

Movement Studio – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 777 Movement for the Actor

1-3

Speech Studio – Credits: 4

Complete 4 credits of the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 779 Speech for the Actor

1-4

Audition Preparation – Credits: 2

Complete 2 credits of following course, or another advisor-approved course.

THTR 763 Audition Technique

2

Accent/Dialect Laboratory – Credits: 2

Complete 2 credits of the following course, or another advisor-approved course.

THTR 764 Accents & Dialects for the Actor

1-3

Focused Studies - Credits: 6

Select from the following, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 795 Supervised Individual Study	1 – 3
THTR 796 Internship	1 – 12

Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of advisor-approved courses. A list of suggested Elective courses related to the area or that enhance liberal arts studies will be provided. Recommended areas of study may include Art, Art History, Dance, Film, History, Literature, Music or other courses with Advisor's approval.

Creative Project - Credits: 1

Complete the following, or other advisor-approved course.

THTR 797 Creative Project	1 – 12
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Subplan 6 Requirements: Stage Management

Total Credits Required: 60

Required Courses - Total Credits: 45

Scholarly Studies – Credits: 9

[Before] Complete the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 702 Graduate Seminar	3
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[After] Complete 6 credits from the following courses.

THTR 661 Play Structure and Analysis	3
THTR 701 Research in Theatre and Drama	3
THTR 719 Dramaturgy	3

Stage Management Studio – Credits: 15

Studio courses include production assignments that enhance practical skills.

[Before]

Complete 6 credits of the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 736 Stage Management Studio I	1 – 4
[After] Complete 9 credits of the following course, or other advisor-approved courses.	
THTR 737 Stage Management Studio II	1 – 4

Management Studies – Credits: 9

Complete the following courses, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 636 Rehearsal Management	3
THTR 637 Theatre Management	3
THTR 638 Production Management	3

Entertainment and Fine Art Law – Credits: 6

Complete the following courses, or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 621A Entertainment & Fine Art Law I	3
THTR 621B Entertainment & Fine Art Law II	3

Focused Studies - Credits: 6

Select from the following or other advisor-approved courses.

THTR 795 Supervised Individual Study	1 – 3
THTR 796 Internship	1 – 12

Elective Courses – Credits: 12

Complete 12 credits of advisor-approved courses. A list of suggested Elective courses related to the area or that enhance liberal arts studies will be provided. Recommended areas of study include dramatic literature, communications, hospitality, film or other theatre courses as approved by advisor.

Creative Project – Credits: 3

Complete the following, or other advisor-approved course.

THTR 797 Creative Project	1 – 12
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Plan Degree Requirements

READING LIST A reading list will be given to each student upon acceptance to the program. This reading list will focus on studies in both general theatre and the student's track or emphasis. The list may include works in: theatre history, performance theory, period design and production history, dramatic criticism and dramatic literature. It is expected that the student will read all materials on the list and be prepared to answer questions of comprehension as part of the final defense / examination.

PRODUCTION REQUIREMENT Graduate students will participate in productions in all semesters as part of curricular requirements. Students are assigned roles in production by the Faculty with emphasis on advancing and challenging the skills of each candidate and developing their collaborative process. Performance graduates must audition and accept casting in all Nevada Conservatory Theatre productions and participate in film production assignments as cast. Design/Technology and Stage Management students will complete design assignments, managerial positions or stewardships in a variety of venues, styles, and areas. It is expected that students will accumulate a variety of diverse experiences in production / performance that add to and refine their resume and portfolio, preparing them for the rigors of professional theatre, film, and related fields. All designated assignments are considered extensions of studio and classroom learning progress and skill acquisition.

REGULAR ASSESSMENT The candidacy of all M.F.A.'s in Theatre is provisional subject to regular assessment. Students will be provided milestones to meet in each semester of study. Progress assessments of each candidate will be made by the Faculty of the track and shared with the student at the conclusion of each academic semester.

RETENTION AND PROGRESSION If regular assessment determines that a student's progress and performance is not satisfactory, the student will be given a formal warning of dismissal and placed on academic probation. The student will be presented with probationary conditions and a plan for improvement that must be accomplished by the end of the following semester. If, at the next semester review, the Advisor, Faculty of the track, and the Graduate Coordinator determine that the student has not met the probationary conditions, there may be a recommendation for dismissal or separation from the program.

CAUSES for PROBATION In accordance with the Graduate School, the following are cause for probation and/or dismissal from the program:

- failure to earn a minimum degree GPA of 3.0;
- unsatisfactory grades (including more than two incompletes, grades C or less, or repeated withdrawals from courses required for the degree program);
- failure to complete six (6) graduate credits per rolling three semesters (including summer) toward their program in order to meet UNLV enrollment requirements;
- failure to consult with their Advisor when requested;
- failure to establish a graduate Advisory Committee when required;
- failure to consult with graduate Advisory Committee when requested;
- failure to develop and submit an official, approved degree program;
- failure to establish the groundwork for an acceptable thesis, dissertation or culminating experience, and successfully defend the prospectus;
- failure of required comprehensive and/or qualifying examinations;
- failure to meet a department milestone or to pass the culminating experience; and
- failure to successfully defend a thesis, dissertation or culminating experience.

In addition to the above, in the Department of Theatre professionalism is essential to all aspects of theatrical production. The following are cause for probation and /or dismissal from the program:

- unprofessional conduct in the execution of production assignments and/or graduate assistant assignments, exhibiting attitudes, values and/or behaviors that are inconsistent with the collaborative teamwork required in a producing theatre environment;

- disrespect or unacceptable behavior toward faculty, guest artists, staff and/or students that undermines the teaching and production processes;
- inability to adequately handle the demands of a creative environment where deadlines and results matter, including, but not limited to: consistently not meeting deadlines in academic, rehearsal, design or shop settings; consistently being unable to manage personal difficulties so as not to interfere with the ability to meet academic and production responsibilities; displaying an inability to engage in a professional mentoring relationship with undergraduates in rehearsal/lab/shop environments; an inability to appropriately respond to supervision; an inability to engage in self-observation and reflection; and an inability to accept constructive criticism;
- abuse of non-prescription or prescribed substances;
- engaging in criminal behavior that has or could result in a felony conviction; or
- violation of provisions of the University Student Code of Conduct.

TERMINATION OF CANDIDACY Not meeting probationary conditions will result in termination. Continuation in the M.F.A. program is determined by the Faculty Advisor, Faculty of the track, the Graduate Coordinator, and the Chair.

Plan Graduation Requirements

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS Candidate must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 3.00.

FINAL DEFENSE / EXAMINATION All M.F.A. candidates will complete a final defense or examination reviewed by the student's Advisor or Advisory Committee, as appropriate. A candidate who successfully completes a final defense/examination will submit all appropriate paperwork to the Graduate College for graduation. A candidate who is unsuccessful in their final defense/examination will be presented conditions by the Advisor or Advisory Committee, as appropriate, to meet satisfactory expectations for completion of the defense process. If the candidate is unable to meet the conditions for completion, the student will be terminated from the program and will not proceed to graduation.

APPLY FOR GRADUATION The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing degree requirements.