

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEATRE



Why the MA in Theatre?

The MA program in Theatre at Bowling Green State University is designed to provide students with fundamentals essential for the development of independent thought and expression, ingredients necessary for creative scholarship and artistry in the theater. Students are afforded a basic understanding of theatre and performance history, theory, criticism, and research methods and their application to practical work in theatre. Students may pursue one of two courses of study: the M.A. Thesis Track (i.e., Plan I), or the M.A. Portfolio Track (i.e., Plan II).

Why the MA in Theatre at BGSU?

Graduates from the MA program in Theatre at BGSU find careers in education, community and professional theatres, as well as other fields related to or drawing on theatre-making and theatre studies skills. Many go on to seek more advanced study in the field, pursuing MFA and PhD degrees.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared:

- To analyze diverse performance texts from various historical periods and cultural backgrounds.
- To demonstrate fluency in the theories, criticisms, and research methodologies in the interdisciplinary fields of theatre and performance.
- To use performance as the site and process for critical, cultural, and historical understandings.
- To develop skills in theatre design and technologies.
- To develop the ability to collaborate in theatre production as a dramaturg, actor, director, designer and/or technician.
- To communicate and present knowledge as a scholar-artist-citizen in professional formats.
- To develop teaching skills.
- To develop and carry out advanced scholarly and creative research.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Jonathan Chambers, Professor and Graduate Studies Coordinator, Department of Theatre and Film, College of Arts & Sciences, at jonathc@bgsu.edu or 419-372-9618.

Program strengths and uniqueness

- The graduate faculty in the Department of Theatre and Film at BGSU are accomplished researchers and artists, many of whom have achieved national and international recognition for their scholarly and creative work.
- The Department of Theatre and Film is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.
- Graduate faculty seek to create a learning and theatre-making environment for graduate students that encourages collaboration and rigorous intellectual inquiry.
- MA students in Theatre at BGSU are encouraged to participate in theatre productions and seek ways of integrating those artistic experiences with their research interests.
- While the course of study typically takes two years, motivated students may complete the MA program in one calendar year.
- The graduate faculty engage in an ongoing review of the MA curriculum, to ensure that it corresponds with ever-evolving disciplinary norms.

Professional opportunities

Many graduates from the MA program in Theatre have sought out more advanced study, pursuing both MFA and PhD degrees. Those who are interested in the PhD, frequently choose to continue their education at BGSU. Students have also found employment in secondary education, higher education, as well as the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. The graduate faculty is committed to enhancing placement assistance for MA program graduates, through contacts with potential employers and continued development of the program of study in light of advances in the discipline and demands of the market.



"The theatre program at BGSU uniquely emphasizes both technical and academic skills by providing practical, hands-on experiences in tandem with robust coursework. Faculty and staff consistently offer individualized attention to help students achieve their goals at BGSU and beyond. My professional and personal lives are stronger thanks to this program."

— Tessa Vaschel, '17, Executive Director, Davis Arts Council, Layton, UT

Admission requirements

Admission to the MA in Theatre program requires completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a minimum undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale (or its equivalent). Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted.

Applicants are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), a CV/resume, a sample of critical writing, a personal statement of purpose for attending graduate school, and three letters of reference.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTEA), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement.

Cost of tuition

Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/bursar for current information on tuition and fees.

Financial assistance

A limited number of scholarships and graduate assistantships are available on a competitive basis for full-time students who qualify. For more information, please contact the department.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.

Fall Application Deadline: Applications and supporting materials should be received by January 15th to receive fullest consideration for admission and funding. Applications received after that will be reviewed for admission, but consideration for financial assistance may be limited based on available funds.

Spring/Summer Application Deadlines: Applications and supporting materials should be received at least four weeks prior to the start of the term. Graduate assistantships are generally not available for students starting in the spring or summer.

Curriculum

A total of 30 credit hours are required for the MA in Theatre degree.

Core (minimum 21 credit hours)

- THFM 6590: Research Methods in Theatre and Performance Studies (3)
- Minimum 2 courses (6 credits) from History & Literature/Theory/Criticism
- Minimum 2 courses (6 credits) from Performance Studies/Practice
- Minimum 2 courses (6 credits) from Design & Technical Theatre

Supplemental Coursework (minimum 6 credit hours)

- Minimum of 2 approved graduate level courses (3 credits each, 5000+ level), offered in the Department of Theatre and Film.
- Upon prior approval by the Graduate Coordinator of the Department of Theatre and Film, students may take courses from other departments to fulfill electives.

Portfolio or Thesis Credits

- Minimum of 3 credits of THFM 6910 (Directed Research in Portfolio Development) are required for those students in the M.A. Portfolio Track.
- Minimum of 3 credits of THFM 6990 (Thesis Research) are required for those students in the MA Thesis Track.

History & Literature/Theory/Criticism Course Options

- THFM 5650: Period, Style, and Form
- THFM 6600: Theatre/Performance in Cultural Context I
- THFM 6610: Theatre/Performance in Cultural Context II
- THFM 6620: Theories of Theatre and Performance (May be repeated when topic changes)
- THFM 6700: Performance and Theatre in the Americas (May be repeated when topic changes)

Performance Studies/Practice Course Options

- THFM 6630: Introduction to Performance Studies
- THFM 6640: Directing Practice
- THFM 6670: Staging Image and Text (May be repeated when topic changes)
- THFM 6680: Performance Studies (May be repeated when topic changes)
- THFM 6690: Theatre for Young Audiences
- THFM 6710: Theatre Organization and Management
- THFM 6820: Performance Theory and Practice (May be repeated when topic changes)

Design & Technical Theatre Course Options

- THFM 5720: Scene Design
- THFM 5730: Costume Design
- THFM 5740: Lighting Design
- THFM 5750: Scene Painting