Academic Assessment Plan
Department of Theatre

Department of Theatre Mission
The Department of Theatre strives to create an environment in a diverse and international university community where students discover, experience and celebrate what theatre does best:

Inspire the imagination, Illuminate the spirit and Awaken the intellect

OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS:

DEGREE PROGRAM: BA & MFA IN THEATRE

A. To offer a challenging undergraduate theatre education within a liberal arts setting.
   I. Provide diverse and integrated coursework servicing theatre majors and minors as well as non-majors.
   II. Foster an environment in which classroom study and practical experience in production are of equal and complementary value
   III. Prepare students for a career in theatrical expression and commercial application in the performing arts through the study of design, acting, playwriting, directing, technical theatre, and dramatic literature.
   IV. Prepare students within each focused area to apply and succeed at the graduate level, and/or entry into the professional field.

B. To create and present a diverse season of significant live theatre in order to train students and engage audiences with high quality productions.
   I. Select plays that will challenge all students within the productions.
   II. Produce plays and projects that encompass a wide range of theatrical material and production styles, and will enhance the cultural life of the community.
   III. Create and produce new works for the theatre.

C. To foster a creative atmosphere which will encourage faculty and students to take intellectual and artistic risks.
   I. Create and maintain a secure and safe environment.
   II. Develop and maintain open communication.
   III. Enhance self-confidence.
   IV. Foster collaborative opportunities across disciplines.

D. To develop cultural diversity in the Department of Theatre by:
   I. Course work.
II. Production Selection.
III. Recruitment of students and faculty.

1. BA IN THEATRE

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Develop a general knowledge of the creation and implementation of live theatrical presentations in both performance as well as technical skills.
- Develop a distinct skill set within their chosen area of concentration.
- Understand the history and criticism of world theatre.
- Develop an appreciation for contemporary theatre practices, styles, and literature.

DIRECT ASSESSMENT METHODS:
- All theatre majors must take an upper level theatre history course containing a writing-intensive component that also serves the “Senior Writing Requirement.”
- All theatre majors participate in a capstone event, Senior Progress Review, where they must complete a series of assignments in order to demonstrate their academic skills. Students are asked to complete the following:
  - A portfolio of work in a focused area of study of their choosing.
  - A professional resume and headshot.
  - An essay outlining their participation in departmental activities, courses, and productions.
  - Participation in a follow-up interview with a faculty mentor. The faculty members within the student’s focused area of study evaluate each student’s presentation.

INDIRECT ASSESSMENT METHODS:
- Course grades and average GPA of theatre majors.
- Honors, awards, and scholarships earned by students and alumni.
- Student acceptance into MFA programs in design, acting, directing, and playwriting.
- Student participation in regional and national auditions and portfolio presentations.
- Student’s hired at summer stocks, regional theatres, professional theatres, and other allied performance and/or design and technology companies.

TIMELINES FOR DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:
- Upon completion of the Senior Progress Review, all participating senior theatre majors will submit their completed portfolio of documents to the Faculty Curriculum Committee.
- The SPR is administered during the final week of the fall semester.
- The Faculty Curriculum Committee (FCC) will collect and analyze the data and document key findings and trends.

USE OF RESULTS:
- The FCC will write a report of the findings and share them with the chair and vice chair.
- Results will be communicated to the rest of the faculty at the first faculty meeting of the spring semester.
- The chair and the FCC will recommend any curricular adjustments if the responses show that students are not prepared adequately to matriculate to the next level of theatre production.