

**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.

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The University of Arkansas is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

- II. Production Selection.
- III. Recruitment of students and faculty.

1. MFA IN THEATRE

MISSION:

The Master of Fine Arts is the terminal degree for practical theatre artists. Graduates are prepared to enter professional theatre, college and secondary education teaching, and/or allied fields. The degree challenges and focuses the advanced artist/scholar through a rigorous course of study in the classroom, laboratory, studio, and performance. The MFA in theatre supports the university's primary mission: *"to provide an internationally competitive education for undergraduate and graduate students in a wide spectrum of disciplines; contribute new knowledge, economic development, basic and applied research and creative activity; and provide service to academic/professional disciplines and society, all aimed at fulfilling its public land-grant mission to serve Arkansas and beyond as a partner, resource, and catalyst"* (U of A Mission Statement).

A. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT MEASURES:

SLO Type	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Degree Delivery
Knowledge	Explain, summarize and critique subject matter relevant to the discipline of performance, design, directing, or playwriting, including theory, history, and practice in theatre.	Successful completion of all coursework during 60-hour degree.	Campus
Skills	Translate knowledge into practical application in the context of live performances in classroom exercises, departmentally supported productions and presentations, and professional/outside production opportunities.	Performance of Project in lieu of Thesis and completion of Project Paper	Campus
Professional Behavior	Develop ethical behaviors, cultural sensitivity, teamwork and collaborative skills, collegiality, and communication skills relevant to working in the professional theatre and related fields.	Successful completion of a professional internship (Acting, Playwriting, Directing, and Design) Portfolio Review (Design) Delivery of personal website. (Acting, Design)	Campus

B. RESEARCH:

Creativity is at the core of arts research. Inspiration, imagination and innovation guide the arts researcher, and provide a stimulus to see beyond the obvious to connect meaningfully to research with and across disciplines. In the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Theatre, we believe that research – the pursuit, creation, and dissemination of new knowledge – takes on many forms.

For MFA in acting and directing candidates, research is conducted primarily through the creative process of character and play script development through the Department of Theatre sponsored productions as

well as independently produced works. MFA candidates in the acting program participate in approximately six productions over their course of study, whereas directing candidates participate in three to six productions. By executing detailed script analyses, historical, contextual and cultural research relative to the productions, and research related to the appropriate performance style, theory, and techniques applied in production, MFA acting students create original character interpretations for live performance. This is one of many ways that actors disseminate new knowledge to an audience, and through which they illustrate their knowledge and skill sets to build gainful careers in theater and or related fields. Directors develop and implement new and innovative ways to collaborate with actors, designers, and technicians to deliver productions in a cohesive and innovative way.

For MFA design technology candidates, research is conducted primarily through the design and technical process, which include script analysis, schematic planning, design development and implementation. The development is executed by producing detailed artistic renderings, technical drawings, organizational paperwork, and finally, physical execution. Each student produces between three and six fully realize productions for a variety of live performance styles, techniques and methodologies. Realized productions illustrate the student's mastery of design and technical knowledge necessary for a professional career.

For MFA in playwriting candidates, research is conducted primarily through the creative process of writing new play scripts and musicals, adapting existing works from novels, television and film, and by participating in devised theatre experiences. MFA playwrights will have at least three of their original scripts performed publically in the form of script-in-hand readings, staged readings, and/or fully supported productions.

C. TIMELINES FOR DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:

At the completion of each semester, the department of theatre faculty evaluates all MFA candidates. The evaluations are compiled and an exit interview is conducted between the appropriate area head and the candidate. A formal interview is held at the end of each academic year where candidates are informed of their official status in the program.

D. USE OF RESULTS:

Candidates are assessed to either be making "satisfactory progress" or "unsatisfactory progress." If a candidate is making satisfactory progress, they will be allowed to continue in the program. If a candidate is making "unsatisfactory progress," they will either be put on departmental warning with an opportunity to be removed from departmental warning at the end of the subsequent semester.

Upon completion of the MFA, each candidate participates in a series of exit interviews where information is collected by area heads and the chair. The data is then disseminated and is shared with the theatre faculty at the first faculty meeting each fall semester. Curricular decisions and program structure is guided by these discussions.