

Liberty University Department of Theatre
Arts
Academic Handbook

**Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts:
Performance/Production/Arts Administration/
Teacher Licensure/Dramaturgy
Theatre Arts Minor**

Interdisciplinary Studies in Fine Arts - Theatre Cognate

2017-2018 DCP or Earlier



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ACADEMIC

The information laid out in the following sections are focused on the academic aspects of the Department of Theatre Arts Bachelor of Fine Arts programs. Please refer to the Theatre Arts Production Handbook for policies and guidelines pertaining to the production and performance aspects of the department.

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Additional Contact Information

Black Box Theater & Tower Theater Box Office

(434) 582-2085

University Ticket Office

(434) 582-7328 (SEAT)

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The student will be able to:

- *Articulate a personal aesthetic as a creative artist, grounded in the history and current practices of theatre.
- *Evaluate multiple worldviews from a Biblical perspective.
- *Create original and re-interpretive theatrical work, evidenced by a consistent work ethic and respect for professional ethics.
- *Integrate research and critical thinking skills to deepend and refine the quality of artistic work.
- *Communicate effectively in written, oral, visual and technological formats.

MISSION

The Department of Theatre Arts provides instruction in the theory and practice of theatre performance and production in order to prepare students for success in their personal and professional lives. Central to the departmental mission is the development of observant, sensitive theatrical artists, who with skills, training, knowledge, and professional attitudes may glorify Christ in the world through the practice of their craft and the testimony of their lives.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY'S WORLDVIEW STATEMENT

Liberty University embraces a worldview that is both historically Christian and biblical, and that underlies the very concept and origins of the University. We hold that God exists and is the source of all things, all truth, all knowledge, all value, and all wisdom. We hold that God has created an orderly universe according to His design and purpose and for His glory, and that He has created human beings in His image. God is actively at work in the world and history, governing them according to His ultimate prupose. From these foundational principles, it follows that truth exists and that there is a standard of right and wrong. We hold that all of creation is fallen as a result of human sin. Finally, we hold that God has revealed Himself and His ways in the natural created order, in history, in the Bible, and supremely in Jesus Christ. God in love and through the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ is redeeming humans and the entire created order.

At Liberty University, students will receive an education that integrates this Christian and biblical worldview. Students trained with this worldview perspective will be equipped with a rational framework for understanding and interpreting reality, for comprhending the meaning of life and the value of humans and things, for making decisions and engaging in meaningful action, for studying the various academic disciplines, and for understanding the interconnectedness of all knowledge.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEATRE ARTS COURSES

All courses are 3 credit hours unless otherwise noted.

Core Courses: (19 hours)

THEA 200	Play Production I (1 hr)
THEA 200	Play Production I (1 hr)
THEA 211	Foundations of Theatre History I
THEA 212	Foundations of Theatre History II
THEA 220	Acting 1
THEA 300	Play Production II (1 hr)
THEA 300	Play Production II (1 hr)
THEA 312	Script Analysis
THEA 400	Play Production III (1 hr)
THEA 400	Play Production III (1 hr)
THEA 400	Play Production III (1 hr)
THEA 490	Senior Project

Successful completion of the Sophomore Hearing (Must receive an 80 or higher)

In addition to the core courses listed above, students must also complete courses from one of the following concentrations:

Concentration: Performance (30 hours)

MUSC 121	Voice (1 hr)
MUSC 122	Voice (1 hr)
MUSC 221	Voice (1 hr)
THEA 212	Foundations of Theatre History II
THEA 250	Voice for the Stage
THEA 310	Acting 2
THEA 390	Stage Accents
THEA 420	Acting 3
THEA 422	Classical Acting
	or THEA 460 Advanced Musical Theatre Performance
THEA 440	Stage Movement
THEA 450	Musical Theatre Performance
THEA 497	Special Topics in Theatre Arts

Concentration: Production (30 hours)

THEA 212	Foundations of Theatre History II
THEA 260	Introduction to Theatrical Design
THEA 320	Directing
THEA 340	Makeup Design
THEA 350	Writing for the Stage
or THEA 352	Writing for Church Drama
THEA 360	Costume Design
THEA 370	Scenic Design
THEA 380	Lighting Design
THEA 410	Drama in the Church: History and Practice
THEA 411	Stage and Theater Management

Concentration: Arts Administration (30 hours)

THEA 212	Foundations of Theatre History II
THEA 260	Introduction to Theatrical Design
THEA 411	Stage and Theater Management
THEA 499	Theatre Internship
SCOM 360	Leadership Through Communication
ACCT 211	Principles of Accounting I
BUSI 301	Business Law
BUSI 310	Principles of Management
BUSI 409	Non-Profit Management
BUSI 472	Organizational Ethics

Concentration: Dramaturgy (30 hours)

THEA 212	Foundations of Theatre History II
THEA 260	Introduction to Theatrical Design
THEA 310	Acting 2
THEA 350	Writing for the Stage
THEA 410	Drama in the Church: History and Practice
THEA 499	Theatre Internship
ENGL 305	Genre
ENGL 307	Expository Writing
ENGL 322	Shakespeare
ENGL 442	The Literature of Musical Theatre

Concentration: Teacher Licensure

Theatre Arts Education Courses (27 hours)

THEA 250	Voice for the Stage
THEA 260	Introduction to Theatrical Design
THEA 310	Acting 2
THEA 320	Directing
THEA 360	Costume Design
	or THEA 380 Lighting Design
THEA 411	Stage and Theater Management
THEA 420	Acting 3
THEA 440	Stage Movement

Education Courses

EDUC 125	Introduction to Education (1 hr)
EDUC 221	Content Area Reading/Differentiated Teaching/Learning (Secondary) (2 hr)
EDUC 235/236	Instructional Design: Secondary/Practicum (1/2 hr)
EDUC 240	Technology Practicum (2 hr)
EDUC 360	Foundations of Education (2 hr)
EDUC 419/420	Secondary Teaching Methods/Practicum (2/1 hr)
EDUC 425	Secondary Measurement and Evaluation
EDUC 435/436	Secondary Curriculum Fundamentals/Practicum (2/1 hr)
EDUC 475	Seminar in Classroom Management (2 hr)
EDUC 476/477	Student Teaching I/II (5/5 hr)

THEATRE ARTS MINOR

(17 Hours)

All courses are 3 credit hours unless otherwise noted.

THEA 200	Play Production I (1hr)
THEA 200	Play Production I (1hr)
THEA 211	Theatre History I
or	THEA 212 Theatre History II
THEA 220	Acting I
THEA 250	Voice for the Stage
THEA 310	Acting II
THEA 312	Script Analysis

See the [Residential minor course requirements](#) list for official requirements.

-FINE ARTS-

General Areas of Study

Select a General Area of Study below by choosing any courses with the associated prefix (course abbreviation) to fill your degree completion plan.

-Theatre (THEA) - on campus delivery

Specialized Areas of Study

Choose a specialized Area of Study, and fill in your degree completion plan with the specific courses listed.

Theatre Arts - on campus delivery - 17 credit hours

THEA: 200 (any 2), 211 or 212, 220, 250, 310, 312

See the official [Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies \(INDS\)](#) page for more details.

VTA

The Virginia Theatre Association (VTA) is the largest state theatre association in the country. VTA is the central resource for connecting, creating, cultivating and advocating for practitioners of theatre in the Commonwealth. Each year theatre practitioners from across the Commonwealth come together to perform, compete, learn, audition and grow.

For more information about VTA, please visit their [website](#).

SETC

The Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) is the strongest and broadest network of theatre practitioners in the United States. SETC provides extensive resources and year-round opportunities for many of their constituents. Their services, publications, and products contribute significantly to the careers of emerging artists, seasoned professionals and academicians. SETC energizes the practical, intellectual and creative profile of theatre in America.

For more information about SETC, please visit their [website](#).

USITT

The United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) was founded in 1960 as an organization to promote dialogue, research, and learning among the theatre design and technology community. Today, the USITT family includes members at all levels the the profession, and embraces new technologies being used in entertainment and the arts.

For more information about USITT, please visit their [website](#).

UPTA

The Unified Professional Theatre Auditions (UPTA) is the largest combined audition conference in the United States bringing together year-round professional actors, producers, directors, and technicians.

For more information about UPTA, please visit their [website](#).

The KCACTF is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education; Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Kennedy Center Corporate Fund; and the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

Started in 1969 by Roger L. Stevens, the Kennedy Center’s founding chairman, the Kennedy Center American College Theater (KCACTF) is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide which has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States. The KCACTF has grown into a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country, where theater departments and student artists showcase their work and receive outside assessment by KCACTF respondents.

All Liberty University academic productions are entered in the KCACTF as an associate entry. The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater productions. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturges, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

For more information, please visit [KCACTF](#) online.

The Mission

Alluvion Stage Company is a not-for-profit professional theater company whose purpose is to enrich, educate and entertain our community by providing a superior theatre experience in a wholesome family environment.

Objectives

- To sponsor large family-oriented productions which will be musicals predominantly.
- To be recognized as a significant cultural asset by the local community.
- To develop and draw from local talent (including current students, alumni, and guest artists) to the maximum extent possible.
- To launch and expediate the professional careers of Liberty University’s talented performance and production students.
- To enhance development of youth in the theatre arts through cooperative ventures with local schools via workshops.
- To sustain and increase recognition nationally and to recruit talented high school students into the academic program.
- To uphold and execute the mission of Liberty University through theatrical arts.

Established in 2011, the Alluvion Stage Company serves as the professional performing arm of the Department of Theatre Arts and allows students to audition/interview for intern positions (both performance and production) within the Company. These students will intern alongside working professionals, and will be held to professional industry standards.

For more information, please visit www.AlluvionStage.com.

SOPHOMORE HEARING

Prerequisites

You must complete 1 production/performance credits (THEA 200) prior to attempting the Sophomore Hearing.

Suggested Courses (prior to Sophomore Hearing)

Performance - *THEA 220 (Acting I), THEA 250 (Voice for the Stage)*

Production/Arts Administration/Teacher Licensure/Dramaturgy - *THEA 260 (Intro to Theatrical Design)*

General Guidelines

*A 500-750 word personal philosophy statement is due at the Sophomore Hearing

*You may attempt the hearing three times. If not passed after the third attempt, you must choose a different major.

*The Sophomore Hearing sign-up sheet will be posted at the beginning of each semester, and be taken down one month prior to the Sophomore Hearing.

*You will be graded on a 100 point scale. 80 or above is passing. If you receive a grade of 79 or below, you must meet with the department chair to discuss areas of improvement and will perform the hearing again the following semester.

*The date set for the fall hearing is the Thursday before Thanksgiving break. Spring semester Sophomore Hearing will be held on the University Assessment Day. You must perform on the scheduled hearing date.

*There will be no make-up dates.

*The following classes may not be taken until successful completion of the Sophomore Hearing:
THEA 320, 360, 380, 390, 411, 420, 422, 440, 450, 460, 490, 495

*Listed below are specific guidelines for each track. If you are studying two tracks, you must pass the Sophomore Hearing requirements for both tracks being studied.

Requirements

Concentration: Performance

You must present two 1-minute, contrasting monologues. The monologues must be chosen from the provided list of [accepted literary resources](#).

You are highly encouraged to have taken (or currently be enrolled in) THEA 250: Voice For The Stage prior to attempting the Sophomore Hearing.

At the faculty's discretion, you may be asked questions about the history of the play/writer, past design concepts, themes, etc. You will be graded on the following areas

- Emotional Commitment
- Natural Delivery
- Obvious Objective
- Engagement of Imagination
- Understanding of Role
- Physical Technique
- Vocal Technique
- Understanding of Play
- Obvious Research
- Obvious Preparation

[Performance Concentration Grading Rubric](#)

Concentration: Production

You must create a detailed production book filled with images for a chosen play. The play must be chosen from the provided list of [accepted literary resources](#). This book will need to be filled with images of all areas of production: set, scenic, props, lights, costume, casting, makeup, sound. You must choose one area of production and produce a quality visual that demonstrates your concept for the play (such as a lighting design, costume plot, set design, makeup design).

You will be graded in the following areas:

- Original Concept
- Visual Presentation of Concept
- Oral Communication of Concept
- Engagement of Imagination
- Quality of Design
- Artistic Unity with Images
- Practicality of Design
- Understanding of Play
- Obvious Research
- Obvious Preparation

[Production Concentration Grading Rubric](#)

Concentration: Arts Administration

You will be assigned a theater by the faculty--you must contact the Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts for your assignment. You will prepare a 7-8 minute PowerPoint presentation to discuss the following research ideas:

The name and location of your selected theatre company.

A link to the company's webpage.

Is this a Commercial, Non-profit, or Not-for-Profit theatre?

Is this a Presenting or Producing theatre, or a mixture?

What is the company's Mission Statement?

What is the company's Vision Statement?

Who is their target audience? How do you know this? Give specific examples.

Who is on the company's Board? Why were these people selected for the Board?

Who are the company's primary financial donors? Why were these companies good choices for funding this particular theatre? What do they gain from funding this theatre?

What is the company's operating budget?

What community outreach and/or education does the company provide? Provide specific evidence.

How many people does the company have on full-time staff?

Does the theatre company offer internships? If so, in what positions?

How what percentage of the company's labor force comes from volunteers?

Are there any unions in operation at this theatre company? If so, which and for what positions?

Based upon your understanding of the theatre's mission and vision statements, previous seasons, and their audience, provide the name of one play or musical that you believe this company would produce that they have not previously produced. Defend your choice.

[Arts Administration Grading Rubric](#)

Concentration: Dramaturgy

You will be assigned a play by the faculty--you must contact the Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts for your assignment. You will prepare a 7-8 minute PowerPoint presentation to discuss the following research ideas:

The elements of the playwright's life that have influenced/colored the play

The historical background of the play

The social background of the play

The political background of the play

The religious background of the play

The time and setting of the play

The themes of the play

The strengths of the play

The weaknesses of the play

The significance of the title

The commercial success of the play

The appropriate audience/theater for the play

A program note for the play

[Dramaturgy Grading Rubric](#)

Concentration: Teacher Licensure

You must present a one-minute monologue. The monologue must be chosen from the provided list of [approved literary resources](#) found on the Theatre Arts website at www.liberty.edu/theatre.

You must present a small production book with images for a chosen play. The book will need to contain images from one area of production only: set, scenic, props, lights, costume, casting, make-up, sound.

You must present a 5-day lesson plan on the teaching of your chosen play.

You will be graded in the following areas:

- Obvious Objective in Performance
- Vocal & Physical Control
- Understanding of Role in Performance
- Engagement of Imagination
- Original Concept of Production
- 5-Day Lesson Plan on Teaching of Play
- Oral Communication of Concept and Lesson Plan
- Understanding of Play
- Obvious Research
- Obvious Preparation

[Education Concentration Grading Rubric](#)

HONOR SOCIETY - ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Kappa Theta Alpha is Liberty's proud chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theater Honor Society. An undergraduate student must have completed at least 15 semester hours in theatre arts (excluding performance/production credits) with a grade in all theatre courses averaging at least a 3.5 and must have a general average of at least a 3.2 in all classes. Candidates must have participated in at least six main stage productions and be in good ethical standing with the University.

All inductees must be voted into the society by a majority of the Liberty University Department of Theatre Arts faculty and staff.



DEPARTMENT GRADING & ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Theatre majors must receive a C or higher in all Theatre classes.

All assignments within each class will be accompanied by independent grading rubrics.

Liberty University Academic Policies

[Grading Policy](#)

[Attendance Policy](#)

[Academic Policies](#) (including Grade Appeal, Course Repeat, and Independent Study)

[Course Substitution Policies](#)

ADA REQUIREMENTS

Complying with Section 504, the Theatre Arts Department allows reasonable accommodations to provide equal program access to all students with handicaps. Academic requirements, such as classroom location, will be modified on a case by case basis, to afford qualified handicapped students and applicants an equal educational opportunity. In the event that a second floor classroom prevents students with disabilities from participating in academic study, then an alternative facility will be designated for that particular class. However, the Department is not required to provide accommodations if the accommodations would fundamentally alter the nature of the program or the academic requirements that are essential to a program of study or to meet licensing prerequisites. It is the student's responsibility to disclose disabilities. If a student fails to do so, the Department is not obligated to accommodate disabilities. Documentation and disclosure are handled through the [Office of Disability Accommodation Support](#).

OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION

All THEA majors who wish to pursue performance and/or production opportunities outside of the Liberty University Department of Theatre Arts during the academic school year (including Fall/Spring/Winter breaks) must obtain written approval from the Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts. Please complete the form online and return to the Department of Theatre Arts main office.

[Outside Department/Off-Campus Performance Request Form](#) - required for all students wishing to participate in any production not approved by the Department of Theatre Arts.

ACADEMIC AUDITION & INTERVIEW INFORMATION

*Declared Concentrated BA students who have **not** passed Sophomore Hearing are required to complete a Production Interview with the option for an Audition.

*Declared Concentrated BA students who **have** passed Sophomore Hearing are required to complete an Audition **or** Production Interview based on their accepted track.

All Theatre Majors will be required to provide the following for Academic Auditions:

**16 bars of music*

- Sheet music must be properly marked with start and stop points and in the correct key
- Sheet music must be presented in a 3-ring binder
- More detailed guidelines for each audition will be announced separately and are subject to change

**30-second monologue*

More detailed guidelines for each audition will be announced separately and are subject to change.

General Audition Information

- Students cast in a performance role must enroll in THEA 300.
- Fall auditions are always held on the two nights before classes start in August.
- All fall academic shows are auditioned at the same time.
- Spring auditions are usually held in January.
- All spring academic shows are auditioned at the same time.
- Monologues/Songs may not contain profane language or any type of sexual innuendo.
- An accompanist is provided for musical auditions.
- Callbacks, if necessary, are usually posted the night of auditions.
- Cast lists are usually posted by the end of the audition week.
- If cast, you must initial beside your name on the cast sheet to indicate an acceptance of a role.

General Interview Information

- Students who are selected must enroll in THEA 300.
- Fall interviews are always held on the two nights before classes start in August.
- All fall production jobs are interviewed at the same time.
- Spring interviews are usually held in January.
- All spring production jobs are interviewed at the same time.
- Crew jobs are usually posted by the end of the audition week.

VIEWING ACADEMIC PRODUCTIONS

All THEA Majors are expected to attend all Theatre Arts Department Academic Productions—this will be stated in all THEA course syllabi. Exceptions are made only for those in the cast/crew of a show, which renders them unable to view the production. Students in the cast/crew of a show are still subject to any and all academic assignments attached to the viewing of a production.



VIOLATION PENALTIES

Possible penalties for breaking the previously mentioned policies are as such:

All THEA Majors:

*Probation from the following semester productions

THEATER SPACE RENTAL AGREEMENT

Theater spaces are only to be used for Theatre Arts Academic-related instances, and must be signed out through the Administrative Assistant in the Theatre Arts Academic Office or by email.

In the event that a reserved space has a piano in the room, the piano may not be moved **for any reason.**

In order to reserve the Tower Theater or Black Box Theater, a rental agreement must be submitted along with the appropriate fees.

[RENTAL AGREEMENT](#) - Complete and submit to the Theatre Arts Assistant Production Manager.