

Master of Arts in Theatre

The Master of Arts in Theatre Studies helps students to begin developing a broad, comparative grasp of the major methods, approaches and protocols currently used in both the study and practice of theatre and performance. Special emphasis is placed on (1) an analytic understanding of theatre history and similar genres of performance, (2) the ability to critically engage the practical protocols, past and present, that have been influential in the creation and study of theatrical art and performance, and (3) the capacity to understand socio-cultural contexts that influence theatre scholarship and practice.

The M.A. helps to prepare students for leadership roles in a wide array of community, regional, and national arts organizations. The M.A. degree also provides students with a strong foundation to transition to a doctoral program.

Please visit the Department of Theatre and Dance's [Graduate Resource page](#) for more information.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (<https://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/>) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/>) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Graduate Admissions

Our holistic application evaluations are based on several criteria: grades, the strength of recommendation letters, written or portfolio samples, previous experience and the fit of your interests with our program. A full list of application materials and deadlines is available on The Department of Theatre and Dance's admission pages (<https://theatredance.ku.edu/ma-phd-admissions/>). The Department of Theatre and Dance does not admit new students for the Spring or Summer terms.

The completed application should be submitted **online**.

Contact Information

Graduate Program Coordinator
University of Kansas
Department of Theatre & Dance
356 Murphy Hall
1530 Naismith Drive
Lawrence, KS 66045
Email: cassandrajim@ku.edu

M.A. Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in theatre is an academic degree, but students are expected to complete 6 hours in theatrical production. All M.A. students must write a thesis as the culmination of the degree. At least 50% of the

coursework required for the MA degree must be taken at the 700 level or above.

To complete the M.A., the student must sustain a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher through 33 graduate credit hours. Up to 6 hours of additional courses in a foreign language or research skills may be required by your advisor.

Requirements for the M.A. in Theatre

A total of 33 hours is required. All courses should be selected in consultation with the graduate advisor.

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirement		
THR 800	Introduction to Graduate Study in Theatre	3
	In consultation with an advisor, students choose from among departmental courses in theatre history, dramatic literature, theory, and criticism	6
	Production - Select two courses in either directing, scenography, dance, or dramaturgy:	6
A. Directing		
THR 710	The Art of Directing	
THR 715	Problems and Techniques of Direction	
THR 815	Advanced Play Production	
B. Scenography		
THR 516	Scenic Painting Techniques	
THR 517	Computer-Aided Design	
THR 720	Scenography and the Classic Script	
THR 721	Scenography and the Modern Script	
THR 820	Scenography and the Musical Theatre	
THR 821	Scenography and the Contemporary Script	
THR 822	Scenography and the Experimental Production	
C. Dramaturgy or Dance		
THR 702	Graduate Seminar in: _____	

General Theatre Studies

Select 15 hours of courses from graduate offerings in theatre history, dramatic literature, history and criticism: Of these 15 hours, up to 6 may be graduate courses from other areas such as film and media studies; child psychology; American studies; African and African-American studies; women, gender, and sexuality studies; developmental psychology; English; and pertinent offerings from language and culture programs.

Completion of the Degree

An oral examination structured around a thesis based on scholarly and/or creative research:

THR 899	Master's Thesis	3
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The final examination consists of an oral examination upon completion of a thesis that is accepted by the candidate's committee. The M.A. thesis is a work of original research and writing that explores in depth a carefully delimited subject related to the student's area of emphasis. The master's candidate satisfies the final examination requirement with a majority vote of "Satisfactory" by the candidate's committee. The committee may also recommend the student for Honors, which is a designation conferred by the Department at graduation.

Throughout the course of graduate study, the student must fulfill all relevant College and University policies (<http://coga.ku.edu/graduate-policies/>).

Further details about meeting the degree requirements can be found in the Department's Graduate Handbook.