Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Design-Scenography Concentration

The M.F.A. in Scenography is a three-year integrated program of study leading to a Master of Fine Arts degree, the terminal degree for professionals working in design for theatre, film, and television. Scenography classes take an engaged practice based approach to theatre design to prepare students in areas of technical production such as costume, lighting, and set design. Our core curriculum provides students with the tools that they need to develop a portfolio in a wide variety of theatrical and performance genres. Students will execute realized designs in both the large Crafton-Preyer proscenium stage, the William Inge Memorial theatre (black box) as well as studio and site specific spaces. Students learn new technologies in theatre, lighting and costume design, including new innovations in Virtual Realities.

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 (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog. Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://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 Admission

To be admitted, a prospective M.F.A. candidate must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and submit a design portfolio, resume, undergraduate transcripts, a letter of intent and three letters of recommendation.

Visit the Department of Theatre (http://theatre.ku.edu) and Dance (http://www.theatre.ku.edu) for more information about application materials required.

M.F.A. in Theatre Design with a Concentration in Scenography Degree Requirements

Scenography classes are at the core of the curriculum. While in the program, students will design at least 4 realized productions in the University Theatre program. They will do at least 1 lighting, 1 costume and 1 scenic design, and preferably a combination of 2 or all design areas for 1 production. Design assignments, made by the scenography faculty, will be based on the students’ experience and interests (i.e., a student with little experience in lighting design will be given a less challenging project in the smaller theatre).

Students work with the KU Theatre's professional staff in the realization of their designs. Successful scenography students at the University of Kansas have come from a variety of backgrounds, including theatre, art and design, illustration and architecture. Students with deficiencies in theatre production, theatre and/or art history, and painting and drawing may be required to take undergraduate courses in these areas, which could result in a longer program.

To complete the M.F.A., the student must sustain a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher through 60 graduate credit hours. The following guidelines govern the distribution of hours:

Core Requirement (3)
THR 703 Directed Readings in Theatre 3

Concentration Requirements (57)
THR 518 Scenography and the Classic Script 3
THR 519 Scenography and the Modern Script 3
THR 618 Scenography and the Musical Theatre 3
THR 619 Scenography and the Contemporary Script 3
THR 620 Scenography and the Experimental Production 3
THR 719 M.F.A. Production Seminar 6
THR 801 Professional Development Seminar 1
THR 802 Master's Projects 6
THR 819 Advanced M.F.A. Production Seminar (3-credit course taken twice.) 6
THR 898 Investigation and Conference (for Master's Students) 6
THR 899 Master's Thesis 2

Electives: no limit, but a minimum of 15 hours for a total of 60 hours 15