

THEATRE MAJOR (B.A.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/theatre-dance/program/ba/theatre-major>

Description

The Theatre Major at UNH offers a comprehensive education in performance, theatre history, elements of design, and theatre technology. With a flexible credit load, students can pair theatre studies with another major. The program features award-winning faculty and various performance opportunities, including student productions. Enrichment opportunities involve pursuing independent study to deepen learning regarding areas of interest; applying for R.E.A.C.H. financial assistance to help subsidize practical internships; experiencing a 10-day January Term study-abroad program in London.

There is no area of human endeavor that the theatre does not touch; to teach and learn about theatre is to teach and learn about human life. Whether you live for the stage, have a love of costumes, or see yourself running things behind the scenes, a theatre degree will allow you to engage with your passion for the performing arts and for the life that the performing arts imitate. You'll study performance, theatre history, and the elements of design and theatre technology. The program was designed with a relatively light credit load, allowing you to combine your theatre studies with another major.

The UNH Department of Theatre and Dance offers a variety of performance opportunities every year in musicals, plays and dance concerts, including student productions. The curriculum allows for flexibility to independently study a broad range of interests. Financial assistance provides access to internship opportunities with professional theatre or dance organizations, and our January Term study abroad program immerses students in London theatre as well as gaining insights into politics and societal issues.

Contact [Szu-Feng Chen \(szu-feng.chen@unh.edu\)](mailto:szu-feng.chen@unh.edu), Paul Creative Arts Center, (603) 862-4445.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: Yes

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

Major Requirements

In the freshman and sophomore years, students should enroll for at least two major and two Discovery courses per semester.

The minimum grade requirement for major courses is C- per course. Any grade lower than C- will not count toward the major.

The required minimum overall GPA in major coursework is 2.0.

Under department policy, students who complete both COMM 401 American Sign Language I and COMM 502 American Sign Language II satisfy the bachelor of arts language proficiency requirement.

All majors must take courses in the following areas: performance, design/theatre technology and theory/history as well as fulfill between four and eight practicums and complete a capstone course. Although timing will vary with each option, it is strongly suggested that all introductory courses be taken prior to the end of the student's sophomore year. Students must also complete a digital portfolio that demonstrates fulfillment of student learning outcomes related to their area of study.

Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of each individual major program. Bachelor of arts candidates must also satisfy the foreign language proficiency requirement.

Theatre department majors may use one major-required course to satisfy one Discovery Program category requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
THDA 436	History of Theatre I	4
or THDA 438	History of Theatre II	
THDA 459	Stagecraft	4
THDA 460	Elements of Design	4
THDA 462	Ballet I	4
or THDA 463	Theatre Dance I	
THDA 551	Acting I	4
THDA 589	Practicum (A - C) ¹	3-8
THDA 798	Senior Thesis	2
or THDA 799	Capstone Project	
Theory/History		
Select from the following courses:		4
THDA 436	History of Theatre I	
or THDA 438	History of Theatre II	
THDA 444B	Famous Dancers of the 20th Century	
THDA 450	History of Musical Theatre in America	
THDA 541	Arts Administration and Entrepreneurship	
THDA 640W	Playwriting	
THDA 721	Arts Integration	
THDA 727	Methods of Teaching Theatre	
Design/Theatre Technology		
Select from the following courses:		4
THDA 458	Costume Construction	
THDA 475	Stage Makeup	
THDA 546	Costume Design for the Theatre	
THDA 548	Stage Lighting Design and Execution	
THDA 583	Introduction to Puppetry	
THDA 641	Stage Management	
THDA 652	Scene Design	
THDA 683	Advanced Puppetry	
Performance		
Select from the following courses:		4
THDA 462	Ballet I	
THDA 463	Theatre Dance I	
THDA 522	Storytelling, Story Theatre, and Involvement Dramatics	
THDA 532	The London Experience	
THDA 552	Acting II	
THDA 555	Acting The Song	
THDA 624	Theatre for Young Audiences	
THDA 655	Musical Theatre Scene Study	
THDA 741	Directing	
THDA 755	Musical Theatre Repertoire	
THDA 758	Acting III	

Electives ²	
Select 600-700 level courses	8
Total Credits	45-50

¹ The practicum ensures a breadth of experience in the major, including sets, costumes, lighting, props, box office, marketing, and performing. Students must register for practicum every semester. They are notified of their practicum assignment at the beginning of each semester.

² Includes those in Sections II, III, and IV

Degree Plan

Sample Degree Plan

This sample degree plan serves as a general guide; students collaborate with their academic advisor to develop a personalized degree plan to meet their academic goals and program requirements.

First Year

Fall		Credits
THDA Course		4
THDA Course		4
THDA 401	New Student Seminar	1
THDA 589	Practicum	1
Discovery Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Credits		18

Spring

THDA Course		4
THDA Course		4
THDA Course		4
THDA 589	Practicum	1
Discovery Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Credits		21

Second Year

Fall		
THDA Course		4
THDA 589	Practicum	1
Language Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		0-4
Credits		17-21

Spring

THDA Course		4
THDA 589	Practicum	1
Language Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		0-4
Credits		17-21

Third Year

Fall

THDA Course		4
THDA 589	Practicum	1
Discovery Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		0-4
Credits		17-21

Spring

THDA Course		4
THDA 589	Practicum	1
Discovery Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		0-4
Credits		17-21

Fourth Year

Fall

THDA Course		4
THDA 589	Practicum	1
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		4
Credits		17

Spring

THDA Course		4
THDA 799	Capstone Project	2
THDA 589	Practicum	1
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		4
Major Elective/Minor Requirement		4
Credits		15
Total Credits		139-155

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

On completion of the B.A. in Theatre, students will:

- Recognize and distinguish between various styles and forms of theatre or dance that have shaped the evolution of these disciplines.
- Effectively communicate artistic ideas and/or critical analysis of theatre or dance works through appropriate oral, written or practical means.
- Demonstrate knowledge and fundamental skill level of the basic areas of theatre or dance production in areas related to performance, design, technology or management.
- Create and demonstrate informed and personal artistic choices in coursework and productions (i.e., design, dance, directing, acting).