

THEATRE, MASTER OF FINE ARTS (M.F.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN COSTUME DESIGN

Program accreditation

National Association of Schools of Theatre

Program goal

The M.F.A. in Theatre offers concentrations in stage design/technical theatre and costume design, which comprise the professional option, and in literature and performance, which make up the pedagogy option. Focus areas in pedagogy include movement, performance, and voice and speech.

Student learning outcomes

The M.F.A. degree prepares students to either enter the professional field of design or to teach at the college or university level. Students will demonstrate theoretical and practical knowledge in their areas of focus, as well as in the core courses in history, literature and theory; and in teaching performance or production. They will be evaluated on their ability to teach undergraduates, a final thesis project and approval of a professional-quality design, presentation or publishable article.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the **Graduate School website** and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the [academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students](#).

Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student's graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student's faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the [academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements](#).

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the [academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements](#).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (<http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu>).

Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
M.F.A.	Fall	Feb 15 (suggested)	None

Special requirements

- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (<http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/>) for details on the application process.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/>), applicants must possess a bachelor's degree (theatre preferred). Students must present a portfolio of design work (both project and realized designs) as part of their application to the program. Professional experience will be considered. The program provides preparation for early to midcareer professionals to enter the field of either professional design or teaching theatre at the college/university level.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>), students are required to take 60 credit hours of graduate-level course work distributed among core courses, area of concentration and electives, including special topics courses. The program is usually completed within two to three years.

Costume design concentration

The costume design concentration's degree requirements include 12 credit hours in core courses, 12 to 18 credit hours in (level-appropriate) design studio and three to six credit hours of thesis/thesis project. The balance of credit hours will be in approved electives, which may include additional practica, research and production, or professional internships. Students will take practical courses and assist faculty in teaching and design projects. They may be advised to take additional history or drawing courses to ensure that they possess the background required for advanced design projects. Their design skills and professional preparation will be evaluated by the faculty through portfolio presentations and participation at professional conferences.

Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
Core curriculum		
THEA 509	Theatre History and Historiography	3
THEA 510	Theatre Historiography	3
THEA 603	Dramatic Literature and Theory	3
THEA 604	Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice	3
Concentration requirements		
Select 12-18 credits from the following:		12-18
THEA 508	Scene Painting	
THEA 593	Professional Internship	
THEA 621	Problems in Costume Design	
THEA 622	Problems in Costume Design	
THEA 630	Production	
THEA 640	Advanced Theatre Projects	
THEA 641	Advanced Theatre Projects	
Electives		
Select 24-30 credits from the following recommended electives: ¹		24-30
THEA 605 & THEA 606	Advanced Studies in Stage Design and Advanced Studies in Stage Design	
THEA 651	Individual Study in Graduate Design	
THEA 791	Seminar in Special Issues in Theatre	
Thesis or thesis project		
THEA 699 or THEA 799	Creative Project Evaluation Thesis	3-6
Total Hours		51-66

1

Some courses may be repeated with permission of the graduate program director.

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 60.

Sample plan of study

Semester	Hours
Semester 1	
THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604	3
THEA 621	3
THEA 630	3
Elective	3
Term Hours:	
	12
Semester 2	

THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604	Theatre History and Historiography (core course - general) or Theatre Historiography or Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice	3
THEA 622	Problems in Costume Design	3
THEA 641	Advanced Theatre Projects	3
Elective		3
Term Hours:		12

Semester 3

THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604	Theatre History and Historiography (core course - general) or Theatre Historiography or Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice	3
THEA 508	Scene Painting	3
THEA 621	Problems in Costume Design	3
THEA 651	Individual Study in Graduate Design	3
Term Hours:		12

Semester 4

THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604	Theatre History and Historiography (core course - general) or Theatre Historiography or Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice	3
THEA 508	Scene Painting	3
THEA 622	Problems in Costume Design	3
THEA 630	Production	3
Term Hours:		12

Semester 5

THEA 640	Advanced Theatre Projects	3
THEA 698	Creative Project	3
Elective (special topics or art history)		3
Term Hours:		9

Semester 6

THEA 593	Professional Internship	3
THEA 641	Advanced Theatre Projects	3
THEA 699	Creative Project Evaluation	3
Term Hours:		9
Total Hours:		66

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 60.

Graduate program director

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Additional contacts

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Program website: arts.vcu.edu/theatre (<http://arts.vcu.edu/theatre/>)