

THEATRE, MASTER OF FINE ARTS (M.F.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN PEDAGOGY/LITERATURE

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://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu>).

Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
M.F.A.	Fall	Feb 15 (suggested)	

Special requirements

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

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 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. Students will also be evaluated on performance projects, production work and teaching. The program is usually completed within two to three years.

Pedagogy/literature concentration

Requirements of the pedagogy/literature concentration include 18 credit hours in core courses (including theatre pedagogy and production), 12 credit hours in the focus area and 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 teaching internships. Students take four to six courses in their areas of concentration and additional related courses in performance (or in MATX/English courses). Students will take practical courses and assist faculty in teaching. Their teaching effectiveness will be evaluated by area

faculty. Students will also have assignments as dramaturges for both departmental and outside productions.

Curriculum requirements

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
THEA 619	Theatre Pedagogy	3
THEA 640	Advanced Theatre Projects	3

Concentration requirements

Select 12-15 credits from the following:	12-15
THEA 640	Advanced Theatre Projects
THEA 641	Advanced Theatre Projects
THEA 696	Dramaturgy
THEA 697	Research and Special Problems in Theatre

Electives

Select 24-30 credits from the following recommended electives:¹ 24-30

MATX 601	Texts and Textuality
THEA 593	Professional Internship
THEA 623	Advanced Studies in Modern Drama
THEA 624	Advanced Studies in Modern Drama
THEA 630	Production
THEA 641	Advanced Theatre Projects
THEA 791	Seminar in Special Issues in Theatre

Thesis or thesis project

Select one of the following:	6
THEA 699	Creative Project Evaluation
THEA 799	Thesis

Total Hours 60-69

¹ Students are encouraged to take electives in all areas of pedagogy, in addition to their focus area. Some courses may be repeated with permission of the graduate program director.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Sample plan of study

Semester 1

	Hours	
THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604	Theatre History and Historiography or Theatre Historiography or Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice	3
THEA 640	Advanced Theatre Projects	3
THEA 693	Colloquium and Practical Training ¹	3
THEA 697	Research and Special Problems in Theatre	3
Elective		3
Term Hours:		15

Semester 2

THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604	Theatre History and Historiography or Theatre Historiography or Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice	3
THEA 593	Professional Internship	3
THEA 641	Advanced Theatre Projects	3
THEA 696	Dramaturgy	3
Elective		3

Term Hours: 15

Summer

THEA 619	Theatre Pedagogy (Optional)	3-6
Term Hours:		3-6

Semester 3

THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604	Theatre History and Historiography or Theatre Historiography or Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice	3
THEA 619	Theatre Pedagogy	3
THEA 693	Colloquium and Practical Training	6
Elective		3

Term Hours: 15

Semester 4

THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604	Theatre History and Historiography or Theatre Historiography or Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice	3
THEA 698 or THEA 699 or THEA 799	Creative Project or Creative Project Evaluation or Thesis	3

Electives 6

Term Hours: 12

Total Hours: 60-63

¹ Observation/assisting in undergraduate theatre history/dramatic literature course.

Graduate program director

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