

**Academic Assessment Plan  
Department of Theatre****Department of Theatre Mission**

The Department of Theatre strives to create an environment  
in a diverse and international university community  
where students discover, experience and celebrate what theatre does best:

*Inspire the imagination, illuminate the spirit and awaken the intellect*

**OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS:****DEGREE PROGRAM: BA & MFA IN THEATRE**

- A. To offer a challenging undergraduate theatre education within a liberal arts setting.**
- I. Provide diverse and integrated coursework servicing theatre majors and minors as well as non-majors.
  - II. Foster an environment in which classroom study and practical experience in production are of equal and complementary value
  - III. Prepare students for a career in theatrical expression and commercial application in the performing arts through the study of design, acting, playwriting, directing, technical theatre, and dramatic literature.
  - IV. Prepare students within each focused area to apply and succeed at the graduate level, and/or entry into the professional field.
- B. To create and present a diverse season of significant live theatre in order to train students and engage audiences with high quality productions.**
- I. Select plays that will challenge all students within the productions.
  - II. Produce plays and projects that encompass a wide range of theatrical material and production styles, and will enhance the cultural life of the community.
  - III. Create and produce new works for the theatre.
- C. To foster a creative atmosphere which will encourage faculty and students to take intellectual and artistic risks.**
- I. Create and maintain a secure and safe environment.
  - II. Develop and maintain open communication.
  - III. Enhance self-confidence.
  - IV. Foster collaborative opportunities across disciplines.
- D. To develop cultural diversity in the Department of Theatre by:**
- I. Course work.

- II. Production Selection.
- III. Recruitment of students and faculty.

## 1. BA IN THEATRE

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Develop a general knowledge of the creation and implementation of live theatrical presentations in both performance as well as technical skills.
- Develop a distinct skill set within their chosen area of concentration.
- Understand the history and criticism of world theatre.
- Develop an appreciation for contemporary theatre practices, styles, and literature.

### **DIRECT ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

- All theatre majors must take an upper level theatre history course containing a writing-intensive component that also serves the “Senior Writing Requirement.”
- All theatre majors participate in a capstone event, Senior Progress Review, where they must complete a series of assignments in order to demonstrate their academic skills. Students are asked to complete the following:
  - A portfolio of work in a focused area of study of their choosing.
  - A professional resume and headshot.
  - An essay outlining their participation in departmental activities, courses, and productions.
  - Participation in a follow-up interview with a faculty mentor. The faculty members within the student’s focused area of study evaluate each student’s presentation.

### **INDIRECT ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

- Course grades and average GPA of theatre majors.
- Honors, awards, and scholarships earned by students and alumni.
- Student acceptance into MFA programs in design, acting, directing, and playwriting.
- Student participation in regional and national auditions and portfolio presentations.
- Student’s hired at summer stocks, regional theatres, professional theatres, and other allied performance and/or design and technology companies.

### **TIMELINES FOR DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS:**

- Upon completion of the Senior Progress Review, all participating senior theatre majors will submit their completed portfolio of documents to the Faculty Curriculum Committee.
- The SPR is administered during the final week of the fall semester.
- The Faculty Curriculum Committee (FCC) will collect and analyze the data and document key findings and trends.

### **USE OF RESULTS:**

- The FCC will write a report of the findings and share them with the chair and vice chair.
- Results will be communicated to the rest of the faculty at the first faculty meeting of the spring semester.
- The chair and the FCC will recommend any curricular adjustments if the responses show that students are not prepared adequately to matriculate to the next level of theatre production.