

# Annual Academic Assessment Report

## Department of Theatre

2024

The Department of Theatre is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). To maintain our accreditation status with this organization, the Department of Theatre aligns our program goals and outcomes according to NAST standards.

### Degree Programs

**Bachelor of Arts in Theatre – Performance Concentration**

**Bachelor of Arts in Theatre – Design and Technology Concentration**

**Bachelor of Arts in Theatre – Theatre Studies Concentration**

The purpose of the University of Arkansas Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre is a broad-spectrum program of 120 hours that seeks to provide a foundational knowledge of drama, a comprehensive practical skills in theatre, and concentrations in Performance, Design Technology and Theatre Studies within the context of a liberal arts education.

The theatre faculty realizes and is proud of the liberal arts education at the University of Arkansas. Understanding the competitive nature of a career in the entertainment industry, we believe in the importance of well-rounded students who have a knowledge of human cultures, the physical and natural world, and who have intellectual and practical skills that will allow them to be life-long learners and active and responsible citizens. Furthermore, we value and teach the many “intersections” provided by the theatre with art, science, history, literature and civic and social engagement.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

As of Spring 2024, enrollment in the Theatre Major is as follows:

- Performance Concentration – 39 majors
- Design and Technology Concentration – 36 majors
- Theatre Studies – 8 majors
- Theatre Minors - 45

As of Spring 2024, enrollment stands at 83 total Majors and 45 minors.

We see a new trend in 2024 where enrollment and retention in the Performance Concentration is significantly down. Performance and Design and Technology have roughly the same enrollments. The Design Technology concentration has increased enrollment significantly. This is not our norm, nor consistent with national averages. The Recruitment Committee is increasing our outreach and recruiting efforts at events in Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas and venues such as SETC, Arkansas Thespian Festival and USITT Conference.

Students in the BA in Theatre are being hired at theatres across the country, completing internships and working in summer stock companies. A recent graduate has opened a new theatre company in NWA with the specific mission of inclusion.

### **Senior Capstone**

All Graduating Seniors but one participated in the Senior Capstone in December 2022, where they presented a Portfolio of work and conducted an interview with a faculty team. The one student who missed the Capstone, presented their work to the a full faculty meeting in Spring 2023.

### **Undergraduate Jury**

All new Freshmen and transfer students enrolled in THTR 1223 participated in the Freshman Jury interview in December 2023. Sophomores and Juniors participated in a Spring 2024 jury with the entire faculty divided into 3 rooms. Students presented work from the past year including portfolios, monologues and songs. In addition, students participated in a question and answer session with the faculty about semester performance, advising issues and summer plans.

### **Addition of Theatre Studies Concentration**

In response to the dissolution of the MAT degree for Theatre, the Curriculum Committee developed over the course of 3 years, a new Concentration in the BA in Theatre Degree. Theatre Studies contains advanced courses pulled from each of the other concentrations. The goal is to prepare students with focused courses who wish to teach that will allow them to complete the BAT (new instituted with cooperation from the School of Education) as well as the BA in Theatre and be prepared to enter the classroom with their certification.

The Theatre Studies Concentration is too new to have collected much data. There are currently 8 majors in the concentration. The trend is encouraging as we see many new students asking about Theatre Studies in campus visits.

No changes are anticipated to the assessment plan.