

Annual Academic Assessment Report

Department of Theatre

2025

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 skill set for the theatre, and concentrations in Performance, Design Technology and Theatre Studies within the context of a liberal arts education.

The theatre faculty is proud of the liberal arts education at the University of Arkansas and continues to promote the life skills our students attain by completing the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. 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 2025, enrollment in the Theatre Major is as follows:

- Performance Concentration – 39 majors
- Design and Technology Concentration – 25 majors
- Theatre Studies / Drama Education – 12 majors

As of Spring 2025, enrollment stands at 76 total Majors and 50 minors.

While enrollment in our three concentrations tends to fluctuate, we have seen a steady increase in the number of students declaring a Theatre Studies concentration with the intention of pursuing a dual degree in Drama Education. The recruitment committee is meeting to explore new ways to bring students into the program both as freshman and as transfer students from local community colleges.

Through the work of the alumni office, we have discovered exciting evidence of our graduates not only continuing to work in the theatre industry but also finding success in other fields such as medicine, law and a surprising number finding their way into middle and upper management career paths. We believe this is reflective of the collaborative and program management skills that are the natural outcomes of our course work and productions in which all Theatre students participate.

Senior Capstone

All senior level theatre majors are required to enroll in a one-hour Theatre Capstone course during the fall of their senior year. The class culminates in a portfolio presentation and interview with members of the Department of Theatre faculty. This process is a requirement for graduation; additionally, it allows each student the ability to share their immediate and long-term goals with the faculty to support each student secure internships, auditions, job interviews, and other career building opportunities.

Freshman Jury

All incoming Freshmen and transfer students enrolled in THTR 12203 and participated in the Freshman Jury Interview process, which takes place during the first week of December 2024. This casual interview process is a way for the faculty to put a name to each theatre major/minor's face in to better serve them as they matriculate through the degree.

Sophomore and Junior Jury

All declared theatre majors received an appointment to participate in the Sophomore/Junior Jury Interview Process during the second week in April 2025. The Sophomore/Junior Jury Interview is a tool used to make sure all Theatre Majors are matriculating through the Theatre Major successfully and efficiently. It is also a way for the faculty to track student interests within the field to better identify internship, summer work, and class opportunities. This past April, five current Sophomore/Junior status students were unable to participate in the Jury process. They were contacted, and a make-up interview will be scheduled during the Fall 2025 semester.

Addition of Theatre Studies Concentration

In response to the dissolution of the MAT degree for Drama Education, over the course of the past three years, the Theatre Department Curriculum Committee developed a new Concentration in the BA in Theatre. Theatre Studies contains advanced courses from each of the other two concentrations. The goal is to provide focused, Theatre, courses in an effort to better prepare students who wish to teach at the secondary education level. This focused education, along with the Bachelor of Arts in Teaching, (recently instituted in cooperation with the College of Education and Health Professions) uniquely prepares University of Arkansas graduates to be better equipped once they enter the classroom as a certified teacher of Drama.

Currently, there are 12 Theatre majors enrolled in the Theatre Studies concentration, with the first graduate obtaining the dual major graduating in the spring of 2025. The number of students declaring this concentration has increased steadily over the past 3 years that it has been offered. The trend is encouraging as we see many new students inquiring about Theatre Studies during their campus and departmental visits.

No changes are anticipated to the assessment plan.