

# THEATRE, BFA: PRODUCTION

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Theatre provides intensive specialized coursework for students seeking professional training in one of two separate tracks:

- Performance
  - The **Performance** BFA has two 130-credit tracks in either Acting or Musical Theatre.
- Production
  - The **Production** BFA is a singular 120-credit track embracing all the areas of production including design, costume, prop, scenery, lighting, sound, and stage management.

The BFA focuses on uncovering the potential of the individual student in the development of personal performance and/or production practices. The BFA curriculum supports student exploration of theatrical processes including new works as well as the established canon of dramatic literature. The program approaches the work in fresh and innovative ways, giving students a wide range of tools to speak to the contemporary moment both as actors on stage and as artists in production studios, rehearsal halls, and backstage.

The specialized tracks in the BFA build on the objectives of the department's core curriculum to nurture within each student a deepened, strengthened, and developing professional level of competency. Each track of specialization follows an integrated curriculum based on an intensive, specialized array of courses. These focused arcs of training endow students with a sense of their own identity as artists. Students must continue to show artistic growth and progress and meet academic grade requirements (see Requirements tab) to continue in the program. Admission to each BFA track is selective and progress reviews are conducted each semester allowing for direct feedback to the student and a chance to explore changing interests or career paths.

- **BFA Acting:** The program builds on the objectives of the department's core curriculum to develop within the student a deepened, strengthened, and professional level of competency in acting and a sense of identity as a performing artist. It prepares students for advanced graduate study in performance or entry into the profession of theatre practice. To help students develop as complete artists, our program emphasizes an understanding of essential acting theories, principles of voice production, flexible speech techniques, physical communication, physical structures of character, principles of Dramatic Action and Storytelling, and personal artistic practice. Research specific to an actor's work, objective and subjective/affective, is demonstrated as a core principle to artistic development. Students are guided through the process of self critique to gain the ability to prescribe solutions and/or new directions for artistic development, and gain an understanding of professional modes of behavior, preparation, and competency
- **BFA Musical Theatre:** Combining three major performing disciplines, Music, Dance, and Theatre, this program trains students to succeed as versatile performing artists. Our students annually perform in carefully chosen musical productions essential to pre-professional training, and hone a range of practical and creative skills consistent with their professional and personal goals. Students will be trained thoroughly in the performance skills necessary to compete in the professional world of musical theatre. Included in this track are a solid developmental and pedagogical foundation in music (voice, theory and musicianship, piano, large and small music ensembles), dance (history of the musical theatre art form, ballet, tap, jazz,

and theatre dance), and theatre (acting, play analysis, and theatre production).

- **BFA Production:** Our multi-faceted Theatre Production program trains students to be competitive in a variety of fields, including technical production, stage management and design, costume production, and more. Offering professional training experiences as early as Freshman year, our students go on to work in a variety of related industry careers. The Production BFA utilizes the foundation of theatre to explore the uniquely collaborative artistic and artisanal processes that create and support compelling storytelling in live performance. The program allows for specialization in the areas of costumes, lighting, properties, scenery, sound/video and stage management but is flexible enough for cross disciplinary studies tailored to the student's specific interests.

## Requirements

### University Core

Code	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Requirements <sup>1</sup></b>		
<i>Competencies <sup>1</sup></i>		
Oral and Written Communication – Part A and Part B <sup>2,3</sup>		
Quantitative Literacy (QL) – Part A and Part B <sup>2,3</sup>		
Foreign Language <sup>2,3</sup>		
<i>Distribution Requirements <sup>1</sup></i>		
	Humanities	6
	Natural Sciences (Must include one lab)	6
	Social Sciences	6
	Cultural Diversity <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Electives</b>		
	Additional Electives	12
	Credits in Peck School of the Arts <sup>4</sup>	12
	University Credits	3
	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>45</b>

<sup>1</sup> Learn more about the General Education Requirements (<http://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#newitemtext>).

<sup>2</sup> Credits may be utilized in required curriculum areas.

<sup>3</sup> Theatre students must complete the General Education Requirements (GER) in Oral and Written Communication competency (OWC), Quantitative Literacy competency (QL), and Foreign Language proficiency prior to enrolling in 310-level or above theatre courses.

<sup>4</sup> 9 credits are required in 3 of the 4 other departments in PSOA, outside of the student's discipline: Art and Design, Dance, Music, Theatre, or Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres.

The minimum number of credits required to complete the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Production is 120. Students who need background preparation courses in math, English, foreign language, and chemistry may need additional credits.

### Theatre Department Core

Code	Title	Credits
Select one of the following:		3
THEATRE 110	Fundamentals of the Actor's Process	
THEATRE 101	Acting for Non-majors	
THEATRE 204	Theatre and Social Change	

THEATRE 260	Storytelling:	
THEATRE 230	Acting 2: Text and Performance	3
THEATRE 213	Play Analysis	3
THEATRE 214	Stagecraft (with lab)	4
THEATRE 225	Costume Construction (with lab)	2
THEATRE 236	Theatre Production and Design	3
THEATRE 275	Performing Arts Management	3
THEATRE 305	The Theatrical Experience:	3
THEATRE 321	The Theatre: Beginnings Through Realism	3
THEATRE 322	The Theatre: Modern and Contemporary Period	3
Total Credits		30

## BFA Production Track Requirements and Electives

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Required</i>		
THEATRE 412	Career Preparation and Development	2
Select one of the following:		8
THEATRE 575	Studio (4 credit per semester, repeatable)	
THEATRE 475	Rehearsal and Performance: (variable credit by assignment)	
Select one of the following:		4
THEATRE 675	Advanced Studio (repeatable)	
THEATRE 685	Internship in Professional Theatre (variable credit)	
<i>Electives</i>		
Select 29 elective credits		29
Total Credits		43

### Electives

Select from within the Production Curriculum, outside the Production Curriculum, or any other courses in PSOA in consultation with your advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Within the Production Curriculum</b>		
THEATRE 215	Properties Production	3
THEATRE 218	Computer Modeling and Graphics for Live Performance	3
THEATRE 224	Make-Up	3
THEATRE 285	Costume Construction 2	3
THEATRE 301	Theatrical Millinery	3
THEATRE 304	Costume Design	3
THEATRE 314	Special Effects for Stage Scenery	3
THEATRE 315	Advanced Properties Production	3
THEATRE 318	Scene Design	3
THEATRE 319	Scenic Painting	3
THEATRE 325	History of Costume	3
THEATRE 327	The Digital Theatre - Pocket Tech	3
THEATRE 337	Sound Production and Digital Editing for Stage and Studio	3
THEATRE 338	Lighting Production	3
THEATRE 343	Patternmaking and Draping	3

THEATRE 380	Stage Management	3
THEATRE 418	Lighting Studio	3
THEATRE 432	Advanced Theatre Practicum	3
THEATRE 435	Production Management	3
THEATRE 437	Sound Design and Digital Editing	3
THEATRE 480	Leadership Skills for Theatre Management	3
THEATRE 675	Advanced Studio (repeat to 12 cr.)	1-6
THEATRE 689	Independent Study-Stage Management	1-4
THEATRE 692	Independent Study-Technical Theatre, Scene Design and Lighting	1-4
THEATRE 693	Independent Study-Costumes	1-4
THEATRE 698	Independent Study-Theatre Management and Public Relations	1-4
THEATRE 699	Independent Study:	1-4

### Outside the Production Curriculum

THEATRE 231	Voice and Speech for Effective Communication	3
THEATRE 407	Contemporary Theatre Performance:	1-3
THEATRE 410	Stage Directing	3
THEATRE 497	Study Abroad in Theatre	1-12

## Advance to Major/Retention

To be accepted and continue in good standing within any Theatre degree program, students must meet or exceed all general university requirements, have and maintain a 2.5 GPA overall (with the exception of Theatre Education majors). BA degree majors must also maintain a 2.75 GPA within the major. Theatre Education majors must maintain a 3.0 in the major. All BFA degree majors must maintain a 3.0 in the major. Additionally, all Theatre majors in all programs must pass all Theatre Core courses with a C grade or better. Students will be put on probation inside the major, and may be denied continuation in their program, if they receive a D grade or lower in any Theatre Core courses, which are:

Code	Title	Credits
THEATRE 110	Fundamentals of the Actor's Process	3
THEATRE 204	Theatre and Social Change	3
THEATRE 213	Play Analysis	3
THEATRE 214	Stagecraft	4
THEATRE 225	Costume Construction	2
THEATRE 230	Acting 2: Text and Performance	3
THEATRE 236	Theatre Production and Design	3
THEATRE 260	Storytelling:	3
THEATRE 275	Performing Arts Management	3
THEATRE 305	The Theatrical Experience:	3
THEATRE 321	The Theatre: Beginnings Through Realism	3
THEATRE 322	The Theatre: Modern and Contemporary Period	3

As per Wisconsin State statutes, all Theatre Education students must also pass the Praxis II Theatre Content test, or a portfolio equivalent as determined by the program, before being allowed to engage in their student teaching fieldwork.

## Continuation

Students who are in danger of being dropped from the program, or put on probation, will receive a written warning. Any Theatre student who is dropped or suspended from his/her program (due to failing/low grades and/or academic misconduct) has the right to an appeal. Any student wishing to appeal must inform the Chair and his/her Area Head of their interest and in writing. Students must then meet with the Chair and the Area Head to discuss their appeal. The appeal may then be forwarded to the Theatre Department Appeals Committee and the Theatre Department Chair. Appeals committee findings will be given to the student in writing and in a timely manner.

## Application Process

The Theatre BFA is in compliance with all general requirements for undergraduate degrees including the general education, continuation, and laptop program requirements. Admission to each BFA track is based on an audition (Acting, Musical Theatre) or interview (Production). Prospective students are encouraged to pre-audition or pre-apply to the Theatre BFA programs during their senior year of high school. Accepted students will gain full admission to their BFA Program on successful completion of their GER core competency requirements. For more information on the application process and to apply online go to: [uwm.edu/arts/theatre/](http://uwm.edu/arts/theatre/) (<http://uwm.edu/arts/theatre/>)

Application to the BFA is encouraged following successful completion of the first-year (Freshman) Theatre Core sequence (see suggested schedule on Plan of Study tab).

BFA program applicants must submit the following:

1. A separate application form; New (<http://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>)
2. A statement of purpose;
3. A current resume;
4. Copies of high school or appropriate college transcripts (for transfer students). [Unofficial copies are acceptable for departmental purposes.];
5. Two confidential letters of recommendation, preferably from instructors familiar with the student's artistic and/or academic abilities. Letters should be submitted in signed and sealed envelopes or sent electronically directly from the recommender and will remain confidential and the property of UWM; and
6. Acting and Musical Theatre candidates should submit a headshot or other suitable photo.

Freshman and transfer applicants must additionally complete the UWM admission process, be accepted into the university, and send separate copies of transcripts and letters of recommendations directly to the department.

All materials may be submitted to the department electronically.

Following review of applications, all candidates will be contacted for interviews or, for Acting and Musical Theatre candidates, participate in an entrance audition. In the Production interview, candidates will have an opportunity to present representative samples of their work/experience in theatre or related skill areas and to chat with the faculty about their goals. The interview allows time to talk about the Production curriculum and to explore the specific interests of the candidate. Based on this interview, faculty can craft and advise an individualized and challenging arc of training from the many production classes in scenery, lights, sound, props, costumes, and stage management, as well as opening the entire

PSOA class offerings to explore the connections between theatre and all the arts.

## End-of-Semester Review Process

BFA Theatre faculty will assess students' academic and artistic growth through individual conferences at the end of each semester.

## Student Evaluation

All BFA Theatre majors who do not demonstrate a consistent level of artistic and academic improvement, have and maintain a 2.5 GPA overall, and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in their program may not advance, may be placed on probation, and/or dropped from the program.

## Appeal Process

Any BFA Theatre major who is dropped from the program has the right to appeal. The appeals committee will consist of two full-time, tenured or tenure track faculty, or teaching academic staff, from the Peck School of the Arts, a faculty member of the student's own choosing, and the faculty member who oversees the specific degree track. In addition, a Peck School of the Arts Student Services advisor will be present as a non-voting member. Outcome(s) of the appeal will be given to the student in writing and in a timely manner.

## Advising

**Location:** Theatre 120

**Reception Hours:** 9AM-4PM Monday through Friday  
(closed on university holidays)

**Contact:** (414) 229-4763

Academic advising is an important aspect of long-term academic success. At the Peck School of the Arts, we offer professional academic advising in the following undergraduate disciplines: art, dance, film, music, and theatre.

Advisors provide students with individualized advising to assist them in areas such as: degree requirements, major options, course selection, campus resources, college success strategies, graduation assessment, academic policies and procedures, etc.

For more information on Peck School of the Arts advising, please visit <http://uwm.edu/arts/advising/>. (<http://uwm.edu/arts/advising/>)

## Honors in the Major

Honors in the Major is granted to students who have earned a GPA of 3.500 or greater in the major and the academic department's recommendation.

High Honors in the Major is granted to students who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or greater and the academic department's recommendation.

Departmental Honors are granted to students recommended by their academic department for Honors excellence in performance not reflected in the GPA.

Dean's Honors are granted to students with major achievements in one or more of the arts.

## **Honors in the Peck School of the Arts**

### **Dean's Honor List**

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

### **Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction**

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<http://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/honors-college/>) section of this site.

### **Commencement Honors**

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

### **Final Honors**

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.