

THEATRE, B.F.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: University Park

End Campus: University Park

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre, both Design and Technology and Stage Management options require a minimum of 120 credits:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	0-6
Requirements for the Major	70-78

0-6 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: Sound Design emphasis--3 credits of GN courses and 3 credits of GA courses. Scene Design emphasis--3 credits of GA courses.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
THEA 1S	First-Year Seminar: Theatre Production Practices	1
THEA 100	The Art of the Theatre	3
THEA 120	Acting I	3
THEA 130	Introduction to Theatre Scenic and Costume Technology	3
THEA 131	Introduction to Theatre Sound and Lighting Technology	3
THEA 150	Fundamentals of Design for the Theatre	3
THEA 200		2
THEA 250	Introduction to Scene Design	3
THEA 251	Theatre Drafting Techniques	2
THEA 260	Introduction to Costume Design	3
THEA 270	Introduction to Lighting Design	3
THEA 280	Introduction to Technical Direction for the Theatre	3
THEA 285	Introduction to Sound Design	3
THEA 289	Theatre Production Practicum	1
THEA 401	Theatre History I: Ancient to 1700	3
THEA 481	Stage Management	3

Requirements for the Option

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better

Select an option 28-36

Requirements for the Option Design and Technology Option (33-36 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
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Prescribed Courses

Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

THEA 252	Design Presentation Techniques	1
THEA 434	Introduction to Directing	3
THEA 454	Period Research for the Theatre	3
THEA 459	Theatre Portfolio & Business Practices II	2

Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

THEA 464	History of Fashion	3
or THEA 465	History of Fashion II	
Select 6 credits of the following:		6

THEA 456

THEA 457

THEA 466

THEA 467

THEA 477 Lighting Design for Production

THEA 487

THEA 489 Theatre Production Practicum

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 15-18 credits from one of the following emphases a, b, c, d, or 15-18 e:

a. Costume Design/Technology

THEA 146	Basic Theatrical Makeup
THEA 253	Scene Painting
THEA 261	Introduction to Costume Construction Techniques
THEA 460	Advanced Topics in Costume Design
THEA 461	Advanced Topics in Costume Construction and Technology
THEA 464	History of Fashion
or THEA 465	History of Fashion II

b. Scene Design

THEA 253	Scene Painting
THEA 450	Advanced Topics in Scene Design
THEA 453	Advanced Scene Painting

Select 3 credits of the following:

THEA 460	Advanced Topics in Costume Design
THEA 470	Advanced Topics in Lighting Design
THEA 480	Advanced Topics in Technical Direction for the Theatre

Select 3 credits of the following:

ARTH 111	Ancient to Medieval Art
ARTH 112	Renaissance to Modern Art
THEA 451	Drafting, Drawing, and Painting for the Theatre
THEA 458	
THEA 460	Advanced Topics in Costume Design
THEA 470	Advanced Topics in Lighting Design

THEA 480	Advanced Topics in Technical Direction for the Theatre
THEA 485	Sound for Theatre Production

c. Lighting Design

THEA 253	Scene Painting
THEA 470	Advanced Topics in Lighting Design
THEA 482	Technical Production - Rigging
THEA 485	Sound for Theatre Production
THEA 472	Lighting Technology

d. Sound Design

INART 50	The Science of Music
INART 258A	Fundamentals of Digital Audio
THEA 482	Technical Production - Rigging
THEA 484	Sound Recording Techniques
THEA 485	Sound for Theatre Production

e. Scenic Technology

THEA 253	Scene Painting
THEA 482	Technical Production - Rigging
THEA 470	Advanced Topics in Lighting Design
THEA 480	Advanced Topics in Technical Direction for the Theatre
THEA 485	Sound for Theatre Production

Stage Management Option (28 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
THEA 146	Basic Theatrical Makeup	2
THEA 220	Acting II	3
THEA 289	Theatre Production Practicum	1
THEA 322	Voice and Speech I	2
THEA 324	Movement for Actors I	2
THEA 486	Advanced Topics in Stage Management	9
THEA 496	Independent Studies	6

Additional Courses*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 3 credits of the following:	3
THEA 405Y	
THEA 407W	Women and Theatre
THEA 408W	History of American Musical Theatre
THEA 412	African American Theatre
THEA 464	History of Fashion
THEA 465	History of Fashion II

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements ([https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-](https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/)

[education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/](https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/)) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements**First Year Engagement**

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- **United States Cultures:** 3 credits
- **International Cultures:** 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.