



# Theatre and Drama

The LSA student concentrating in Theatre and Drama should emerge from the experience more knowledgeable, confident, sensitive, and aware of the benefits of cooperating and sharing with others. While many Theatre and Drama majors proceed to careers in the theatre and associated fields, their study may also lead them to success in such fields as teaching, arts management, public relations, and drama therapy.

Theatre is a collective endeavor requiring individual achievement. A single production may, for example, bring together the skills of playwright, performer, designer, and experts in scene construction and lighting. Theatre may claim to be the most comprehensive of all the arts, and also among the most challenging and exciting.

Listed below are some characteristic skills developed by Theatre and Drama concentrators as well as representative occupations of graduates with a Theatre and Drama degree.

## SKILLS & ABILITIES

The study of Theatre and Drama equips students with a broad range of communication and organizational skills applicable to many careers, including those in the performing arts.\* The theatre major's presentation skills, ability to face a public, and control of the voice and body provide a solid basis for working effectively with others. Students develop and hone organizational abili-

ties, analytical techniques, and critical thinking. Indeed, theatre courses are elected by students in disciplines from biology to law who wish to develop their skills and confidence in public communication. Some of the general technical skills acquired through the study of Theatre and Drama are listed below.

### Analysis

- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Analyzing
- Understanding ideas within historical/social context
- Comparing/contrasting ideas/information
- Interpreting

### Technical Skills

- Orthographic projection
- Carpentry
- Sound techniques
- Lighting techniques
- Design
- Theatrical makeup
- Playwriting

### Organization

- Collaboratively developing a project
- Working within timelines
- Organizing
- Interacting with colleagues in a team setting

### Communication

- Public speaking
- Voice control/modulation
- Awareness of listeners
- Observation
- Movement
- Speech writing

\*Students interested in Actor, Director or Designer training may audition for the Theatre BFA degrees, through the School of Music.

## OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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The degree in Theatre and Drama provides students with skills and abilities that may serve as building blocks to-ward any number of occupations and career paths. The selected list that follows is based on the experiences of graduates of the University of Michigan and other

colleges. It offers a glimpse of the wide-ranging career paths for which a theatre major provided preparation. For some occupations listed below, such as recreation specialist, specific expertise or skills may be required. Additional graduate study is generally expected for those occupations marked with a • on the list.

<b>Theatre</b>	<b>Arts Management &amp; Related Professions</b>	<b>Human Services</b>	<b>Private Enterprise</b>
Theatrical technician	•Business manager of theatre	Teacher (K-12)	Acquisitions editor, book publishing
•Designer (lighting/costume/scene)	•Literary manager, theatre company	•Drama therapist	Bank manager
Playwright	Public relations director, performing arts center	Drama specialist, recreation department	Public relations officer
Stage manager	•Audience development, theatre company	Legislative aide	Reviewer/critic (newspaper/TV/magazine)
•University/College professor	Theatrical agent	Fundraiser	•Librarian/information specialist
			Research interviewer
			Retail manager
			•Lawyer

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

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The Bachelor's degree curriculum of the Theatre and Drama Department combines the study of three areas: performance, history and dramatic literature, and design and technical production.

The department also offers numerous co-curricular production activities in addition to classroom experience. The concentration requires a minimum of 40 credits.

In addition, the Theatre and Drama Department offers professional training BFAs in Performance and Design. Both degrees require a minimum of 45 hours outside the core curriculum, and may include a variety humanities and sciences

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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For information about choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources.

The Career Center  
3200 Student Activities Building  
(734) 764-7460  
[www.careercenter.umich.edu](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu)

For information about choosing a major and about concentration and degree requirements.

Department of Theatre and Drama  
2230 Walgreen Drama Center  
1226 Murfin Avenue  
(734) 764-5350  
[www.music.umich.edu/departments/theatre](http://www.music.umich.edu/departments/theatre)

LS&A Academic Advising Center  
1255 Angell Hall  
(734) 764-0332