

## College of Arts and Sciences

School of Music, Theatre, and Dance  
Theatre program**Overview**

As a theatre major, students gain the broad education necessary to succeed, with the opportunity for specialization in specific areas. Kansas State University's program provides a comprehensive liberal arts education, presented in an atmosphere in which students feel stimulated and nurtured.

Academics and an exciting and vital production program, led by dedicated faculty and professionals, allow students to develop skills in theatre that will prepare them for numerous production, performance and scholarship opportunities. Students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of internships and productions while they are at K-State. Local, regional and national auditions and internships in acting, management and technical areas are announced on our internal virtual callboard, found at [kstatemt.com](http://kstatemt.com).

Upon graduation, students are prepared to take part in professional internships, seek graduate degrees or pursue other related career options. Some students choose to immediately enter the professional arena, and many have been successful on their chosen path.

The K-State theatre program has been recognized as outstanding on a regional and national level. Students and faculty have received numerous awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, or KCACTF, Region V competitions. In recent years, K-State acting students have been selected over hundreds of competitors as finalists in KCACTF's prestigious Irene Ryan Competition. K-State Theatre students have received KCACTF regional and national awards for their outstanding work in playwriting, acting, set design, critical writing, stage management and directing.

**Points of pride**

Kansas State University's theatre program is the only program in Kansas accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre. Beginning in 2015, third- and fourth-year theatre majors may apply annually for professional development funds to travel with faculty to theatrical centers like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

**Professional options****Alumni**

Graduates are currently working in all the major theatre venues and with The Blue Man Group, Jazz at Lincoln Center, "Modern Family," "Jersey Boys" in Las Vegas, The Julliard School, Kansas City Repertory Theatre and many others.

Graduates also teach at high schools and colleges throughout the country. Many students have gained entrance to the top Master of Fine Arts programs in the nation.

Former students are actively engaged in numerous areas of professional work for the stage, television and film. Visit our website at [k-state.edu/theatre](http://k-state.edu/theatre) to view alumni accomplishments.

**Academics****Degree options**

K-State's program offers Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. Our areas of specialization:

- Acting
- Directing
- Design: costumes, scenery, lights and sound
- Playwriting
- Stage management and theatre management
- Technical production
- Theatre history and/or theatre literature
- Drama therapy (graduate degree only, but undergraduates may take two courses)

Dance is also an integral part of the theatre program. Students wishing to minor in dance should contact the dance program at 785-532-5740 or check the program's website at [k-state.edu/dance](http://k-state.edu/dance).

Graduate study in theatre leading to a Master of Arts in theatre with a concentration in drama therapy also is available. For more information, contact Sally Bailey, director of graduate studies in the theatre program, at 785-532-6780 or [sdbailey@k-state.edu](mailto:sdbailey@k-state.edu).

**Accreditation**

K-State's theatre program is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre, and it is the only accredited program in Kansas.

**Faculty**

The theatre faculty is made up of 12 highly trained and professionally recognized faculty members. All are dedicated, enthusiastic and highly motivated to give students the best education and training possible. The student-teacher ratio is low, allowing students to receive careful and often individualized instruction. The program offers specialists in all of the listed areas.

Faculty members continue to gain regional, national and international recognition for their work as scholars, directors, playwrights, designers, managers and work with professional organizations.

**Facilities**

Three theatres are available for use by the production program. McCain Auditorium has a large stage, orchestra pit and seating for 1,800 patrons. The new 130-seat Purple Masque Theatre is a thrust theatre that opened in spring 2015. Nichols Hall houses most of the school's productions. It has classrooms, four studio spaces and the Mark A. Chapman Theatre, a thrust theatre seating 237 patrons.

**Activities**

Students are encouraged to take an active role in productions beginning their freshman year. They may assume major responsibilities in acting, directing, design, playwriting, management and technical theatre as they develop their skills.

A typical main stage theatre season includes a major musical production, a classical play, two modern plays, an opera and two dance concerts presented by the school's dance program. Other production opportunities include several student-produced plays in the Purple Masque Theatre, as well as participation in Lunchbag Theatre, an acting and directing workshop for advanced students. Additional performance opportunities are developed by the school's drama therapy program.

Staged readings of students' one-act and full-length plays-in-progress are presented, and selected plays are given full productions in the Purple Masque Theatre. Theatre Showcase,

sponsored by our student organization, Kansas State Theatre Organization, is scheduled monthly, and students may sign up to perform in this fun, late-night event.

Students and faculty also participate in productions by the Ebony Theatre Company, a highly respected and award-winning multicultural theatre production organization. In 2006, Ebony Theatre was invited to perform its original production of "The Last Black Play" by alumnus Nathan Louis Jackson at the Kennedy Center. Jackson's play, "When I Come to Die," opened in 2011 at the Lincoln Center, and his previous play, "Broke-ology," was performed by the Lincoln Center and the Kansas City Repertory Theatre. His most recent play, "Sticky Traps," had its world premiere at the Kansas City Repertory Theatre in 2015.

The drama therapy program offers hands-on experience through in-class practice and community internships, providing students with an excellent preprofessional base of theoretical and practical knowledge. This is a graduate-degree program, but undergraduates may take two courses in the area. K-State is home to the only drama therapy alternate training program housed in a university.

## Financial assistance

Scholarships are available to incoming freshmen and transfer students who intend to major in theatre. Students must interview in person for these awards. Application forms are available on the theatre website at [k-state.edu/theatre](http://k-state.edu/theatre) in August. Theatre scholarship applications are due at the end of January. Auditions and interviews are conducted in mid-February. All incoming awards are made by April 1.

Incoming scholarships are not currently renewable. Continuing students may apply each year for scholarships that are awarded at the annual awards banquet in May. To help supplement the various theatre labs in creating productions, the program offers jobs in the scene shop, costume shop and marketing office.

## Suggested coursework

The theatre major consists of 48 hours in theatre. Two semesters of Theatre Forum (no credit hours) also are required. The hours must be distributed as follows:

### Theatre core (34 hours)

Hrs.	Courses	
0	THTRE 080	Theatre Forum (2 semesters)
1	THTRE 162	Concepts of Theatre Production
1	THTRE 211	Run Crew (taken with THTRE 369)
1	THTRE 212	Wardrobe Crew (taken with THTRE 368)
3	THTRE 261	Fundamentals of Acting
1	THTRE 268	Techniques of Makeup
3	THTRE 280	Script Analysis
3	THTRE 366	Fundamentals of Theatre Management
3	THTRE 368	Fundamentals of Technical Production
3	THTRE 369	Fundamentals of Theatrical Design
3	THTRE 565	Principles of Directing
3	Choose from:	
	THTRE 567	Costume Design
	or	
	THTRE 568	Scene Design
	or	
	THTRE 579	Lighting Design
3	THTRE 572	History of Theatre I
3	THTRE 573	History of Theatre II
3	THTRE 599	Senior Seminar

### Additional requirements (14 hours)

Hrs.	Courses	
12	THTRE 500 or above (not from theatre core courses)	
2	THTRE 710	Practicum in Theatre
	or	
	THTRE 566	Rehearsal Techniques (taken twice for one credit each)

### Minor in theatre

The minor consists of 20 hours in theatre coursework. The hours must be distributed as follows:

Hrs.	Courses	
1	THTRE 162	Concepts of Theatre Production
1	THTRE 211	Run Crew (taken with THTRE 369)
3	THTRE 261	Fundamentals of Acting
3	THTRE 280	Script Analysis
3	THTRE 369	Fundamentals of Theatrical Design
3	THTRE 572	History of Theatre I
	or	
	THTRE 573	History of Theatre II
6	Theatre electives	

### For more information about theatre, contact:

Jennifer Vellenga  
Associate Director for Theatre  
School of Music, Theatre, and Dance  
Kansas State University  
109 McCain Auditorium  
1501 Goldstein Circle  
Manhattan, KS 665064702  
785-532-6871  
[vellenga@k-state.edu](mailto:vellenga@k-state.edu)  
[k-state.edu/theatre](http://k-state.edu/theatre)

### For more information about Kansas State University, contact:

Office of Admissions  
Kansas State University  
119 Anderson Hall  
919 Mid-Campus Drive North  
Manhattan, KS 66506-0102  
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or  
785-532-6250  
[k-state@k-state.edu](mailto:k-state@k-state.edu)  
[k-state.edu/admissions](http://k-state.edu/admissions)

## KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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Post-Graduation Statistics  
[k-state.edu/postgrad-stats](http://k-state.edu/postgrad-stats)  
[ksdegrestats.org](http://ksdegrestats.org)