



# Guide to Majors and programs

## Theatre

As a theatre major, students gain the broad education necessary to succeed, with the opportunity for specialization in specific areas. The 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 you to develop skills in theatre that will prepare you for numerous production, performance and scholarship opportunities. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of internships and productions while at K-State.

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

### Achievements

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—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 Acting Scholarship Auditions. 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.

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

Former students are actively engaged in numerous areas of professional work for the stage, television and film. See the alumni news brochure at [www.k-state.edu/theatre](http://www.k-state.edu/theatre) to see many of their accomplishments. Graduates also teach at high schools and colleges throughout the country. Many students have gained entrance to the top M.F.A. programs in the nation.

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

### Performance opportunities

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.

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 department's dance program.

Other production opportunities include several student-produced plays in the program's 100-seat thrust theatre, as well as participation in Lunchbag Theatre, an acting-directing workshop for advanced students. Additional performance opportunities are developed by the department'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. The student-run and developed Theatre Showcase is scheduled monthly, and students can sign up to perform in this fun, late-evening 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 Nathan Louis Jackson at the Kennedy Center. Nathan's most recent play opened in 2011 at Lincoln Center.

The drama therapy program offers hands-on experience through in-class practice and community internships, providing students with an excellent pre-professional base of theoretical and practical knowledge. Drama therapy is a graduate degree program, but undergraduates may take two courses in the area.

### 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 Purple Masque, a 100-seat thrust theatre, is used for student productions and classroom projects. A new Purple Masque is being planned. Nichols Hall houses most of the department's productions. It contains classrooms, four studio spaces and an arena-thrust theatre seating 237 and 281 patrons, respectively.

### 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: undergraduates may take two courses.)

Dance is also an integral part of the department. Students wishing to concentrate in dance should contact the dance program at 785-532-6875 or visit [www.k-state.edu/dance](http://www.k-state.edu/dance).

## Curriculum

The theatre major consists of 41 hours in theatre. Four semesters of Theatre Forum (0) are also required. The hours must be distributed as follows:

### Theatre core (25 hours)

Hrs.	Courses	
0	THTRE 080	Theatre Forum
1	THTRE 162	Theatre Production
3	THTRE 261	Fundamentals of Acting
3	THTRE 267	Fundamentals of Stage Costuming and Makeup
3	THTRE 368	Fundamentals of Technical Productions
3	THTRE 369	Introduction to Technical Design
3	THTRE 370	Dramatic Structure
3	THTRE 565	Principles of Directing
3	THTRE 572	History of Theatre I
3	THTRE 573	History of Theatre II

### Twelve additional hours in theatre courses numbered 500 or above

Students may use these hours to specialize in a specific area of theatre or may use them for broader study.

### Four hours of production work

These hours may be divided between crew work and performance participation.

Fifty-seven courses cover nearly all areas of theatrical study. Many courses may be repeated for credit. Some are taught with different topics; i.e., advanced acting may be a scene study class, Meisner technique, acting for the camera, a Shakespeare class or a special technique class.

Students are encouraged to engage in production work beyond the four hours required. Credit is often available for such work.

### Minor in theatre

Students who wish to minor in theatre must take the following courses:

Hrs.	Courses	
1	THTRE 162	Theatre Production
3	THTRE 261	Fundamentals of Acting
3	THTRE 369	Introduction to Theatrical Design
3	THTRE 370	Dramatic Structure
3	THTRE 572	Theatre History
	or	
	THTRE 573	
6	Theatre electives	

Graduate study in theatre leading to the Master of Arts degree is also available. For more information write or call the director of graduate studies in the theatre program, Sally Bailey, at 785-532-6780.

## Faculty

The theatre teaching staff is made up of 11 highly trained and professionally recognized faculty members. All are dedicated, enthusiastic and highly motivated to give students the best training possible. The student/teacher ratio is low, allowing students to receive careful and often individualized instruction.

## Financial aid

Scholarships are available to incoming freshmen and transfer students who intend to major in theatre. In most cases, students must interview in person for these awards. Those interested in acting are asked to audition on campus. Videotaped auditions are accepted in some instances. Applications, which are due in early January, can be acquired by contacting the department of communication studies, theatre and dance.

The theatre program also awards several scholarships to outstanding students as they progress in their studies.

Students seeking financial assistance other than theatre scholarships should contact the student financial assistance office at 104 Fairchild Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-1104, or call 785-532-6420.

### For more information about theatre, contact:

Department of Communication Studies,  
Theatre and Dance  
John Uthoff, Director of Theatre  
Kansas State University  
129 Nichols Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506-2303  
785-532-6864  
Fax: 785-532-3714  
Email: jsutd@k-state.edu  
www.k-state.edu/theatre

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

Office of Admissions  
Kansas State University  
119 Anderson Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506-0102  
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or  
785-532-6250  
Email: k-state@k-state.edu  
www.k-state.edu/admissions

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