THEATRE ARTS (MFA)

The Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts is a three-year program offering mentor guided training in the Designing and Technical Production for Live Performance.

Description

The graduate program in the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film combine academic depth with professional training to prepare students for professional and academic success. We screen applicants for admission to our programs at nationwide University/Resident Theatre Association (URTA) interviews; we also conduct on-campus conferences with applicants, where we likewise organize portfolio presentations. Individuals at any stage of their current careers or career planning who are interested in design and/or technical production emphases should prepare and provide evidence of current experience, ability and/or technical skills.

The Carson School offers graduate courses in advanced scene design, lighting design, costume design, computer-aided design, drafting, pattern-making rendering, stage rigging, digital motion graphics, and stage technology. Our curriculum also includes courses on dramatic theory, play analysis, and theatre history. We hold classes in the historic Temple Building (funded by John D. Rockefeller, Jr.), and productions take place in the School's numerous venues, which include the Howell Theatre (Proscenium), the Studio Theatre (Flexible Black Box), and Lab Theatre (Small Black Box). Teaching assistantships and graduate fellowships are available to all students enrolled in graduate study.

Program Website

https://arts.unl.edu/theatre-and-film

Applying for Admission

Standard requirements for all graduate programs

- Application for Admission with $50 non-refundable application fee (https://graduate.unl.edu/admissions/requirements#appfee).
- Transcripts (https://graduate.unl.edu/admissions/requirements#transcripts) (unofficial): Uploaded as part of application form.

  If International: Uploads must include all college- or university-level transcripts or mark sheets (records of courses and marks earned), with certificates, diplomas, and degrees plus certified English translations.

  After admission: Official documents are required from all students who are admitted and enroll. Photocopies of certified records are not acceptable. International students enrolled in other U.S. institutions may have certified copies of all foreign records sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies by their current school's registrar office.
- If applicant's native language is not English, verification of English proficiency (https://graduate.unl.edu/admissions/english-proficiency) is required.

  When sending TOEFL scores, our institution code is 6877 and a department code is not needed.
- If applicant is not a US citizen and expects an F or J visa: financial information (https://graduate.unl.edu/prospective/international/financial).
- Applicants must also fulfill any additional requirements the department specifies at the time of application.

Additional requirements specific to this program

- Resume/CV
- Personal Statement: Discuss and explain your interest in theatre design and/or technology (350 words).
- Portfolio: Link to online or digital portfolio is preferred.
- Writing Sample: Provide up to 2 samples of your writing which demonstrate your capacity in communication. Feel free to use an undergraduate paper you may have written, a memo (or memos) you may have written for an employer, or even a diary account that you believe best expresses your ideas.
- Research Interest: Indicate your area of interest: Scene Design, Lighting Design, Costume Design, or Theatre Technology.
- Faculty: Review current faculty and their areas of research. Identify a faculty member with whom you would like to work.
- Three letters of recommendation: We accept letters of recommendation from individuals who know your work best, such as former teachers, professors, employers, or supervisors.

In addition to the requirements in the application form, all Theatre Arts MFA candidates who make it through the screening process must complete an interview and visit the campus.

Admission Application Deadlines

For financial consideration: March 10 for Fall.

Requirements

Required hours: 60

THEA 803	Advanced Voice Techniques	3
THEA 806	Costume Crafts	3
THEA 807	Auditioning	1
THEA 809	Advanced Projects in Technical Theatre	1-3
THEA 810	Stage Lighting I	3
THEA 811	Stage Lighting II	3
THEA 812	Scene Design I	3
THEA 812A	Masters Scenic Design Studio	3
THEA 813	Scene Design II	3
THEA 814	Stage Lighting III	3
THEA 815	Production Design for Film and Television	3
THEA 816	Computer Aided Design (CAD) for the Theatre	3
THEA 818	Costume Design I	3
THEA 819	Costume Design II	3
THEA 820	Problems in Technical Production	3
THEA 821	Drafting for the Theatre	3
THEA 823	Rendering for the Theatre	3
THEA 829	Advanced Stage Lighting Technology	3
THEA 830	Master Electrician	3
THEA 831	Advanced Playwriting	3
THEA 832	Scene Painting	3
THEA 833	Advanced Costume Construction	3
THEA 834	Business of Design	3
THEA 835	Period Patterning	3-6
THEA 836	Costume Rendering	3
THEA 837	Master's Costume Design Studio	3
THEA 841	Period Styles for Entertainment Designers	3

THEA 842	Evolution of Theatre Design and Technology	3
THEA 843	Master Scenic Design Studio	3
THEA 844	Scale Model Making	3
THEA 845	Dramatic Theory and Practice	3
THEA 846	Digital Studio for Designers	3
THEA 847	Sandbox Mode: Concept Art for Media Genres	3
THEA 850	Sound Design I	3
THEA 851	Sound Design II	3
THEA 855	Musical Theatre Techniques	3
THEA 857	Stage Rigging I	3
THEA 860	Script Analysis	3
THEA 863	Director/Designer Communication	3
THEA 870	Introduction to Pedagogy	1
THEA 891	Advanced Projects in Directing and/or Theatre Management and/or Stage Management	1-3
THEA 894	Internship in Theatre or Film	1-3
THEA 898	Special Topics in Theatre Arts	1-24
THEA 899	Masters Thesis	1-10