

University of Maryland, School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies

Master of Fine Arts - Theatre (MFAT)

Description, Course & Credit Requirements

Description

MFAT Program offers a terminal M.F.A. degree that gives students superior training and opportunities in costume, lighting, projection, and scene design for live performance. Maryland offers students not only coursework and studio time, but opportunities to realize their designs in the School's six assorted spaces. MFAT students work with an award-winning faculty of professional designers and have opportunities to intern and assist at the more than 75 professional theatres in the Washington/Baltimore corridor.

Mandatory coursework

The required minimum of 60 credit hours (CHrs) must include the credits and courses listed below. (THET is the catalog designation for classes in Theatre and Performance Studies.) Each student is required to take 10 CHrs per semester (Fall and Spring) based on the expectation of having their study completed within 3 academic years. Each student may also take up to 4 CHrs of coursework during the short winter term, thereby reducing the load in later semesters or allowing a broadening of their education. Graduate-level courses in TDPS are not available in the summer. Each course is 3 CHrs unless indicated otherwise. (in parentheses)

THET606: Teaching Theatre (1 CHr)

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Students who are not TAs or who have significant college-level teaching experience can be exempt from this class but must take another 1-CHr class to replace it.

Design Studio; (9 to 18 CHrs) Design Studio course numbers are repeatable.

THET 639 Design Studio in Scenery

THET 649 Design Studio in Costume

THET 659 Design Studio in Lighting

THET 679 Design Studio in Multimedia and Projection Design

These classes serve as main design studios in each of the four design areas represented in the MFAD Program. Individual 6[X]9s have the following letter designations reflecting the narrower focus of a course:

6[X]9A: *1st year design studio in area of specialization.*

6[X]9B: *Design studio in a specific area of specialization for MFAD students outside that area.*

Example: THET 639B Design Studio in Scenery, a.k.a. 'Scenery for Non-Majors'. (Conway)

6[X]9C: *A studio aimed at addressing a specific area of design craft.*

Example: THET 639C Design Studio in Scenery: Rendering for Scenic Design.

6[X]9D: *Advanced (2nd and 3rd year) design studio in area of specialization.*

6[X]9E: *Advanced studio that centers around designing for a specific area/genre of performance.*

Example: THET 659E Advanced Design Studio in Lighting: Designing for Opera.

Capstone Design Studios: Scenography and Design Masterclass (6 CHrs)

THET 672 Scenography

The class is an advanced 2nd year design studio which takes a comprehensive approach to design spanning across lines between specific disciplines and explores Scenography as an art form. Students are expected to concentrate in their primary design area while simultaneously conceiving, coordinating and developing other scenographic elements.

THET 678 Design Masterclass

A 3rd year capstone course co-taught by design faculty and specially invited professional directors. 2nd year students can take the class by special permission.

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Seminar Courses (9 CHrs)

THET 669A History of Fashion for Theatre
THET 670 History of Architecture and Décor
XXXX 6XX Elective Seminar (can be taken outside of TDPS)

Elective Courses (6-15 CHrs)

These courses can be Design Studio classes that exceed the maximum 18 CHrs required under Design Studio, other THET or TDPS courses, or courses offered outside TDPS, per primary graduate mentor's permission.

Portfolio Review (5 CHrs)

THET 788 Portfolio Review (1 CHr)
Students are credited for their preparation and participation in the bi-annual Portfolio Review (Fall and Spring), which is the main assessment and evaluation event in the MFAD Program.

Design Practicum (6-12 CHrs)

THET 789 Design Advising and Mentorship
The class encompasses various areas of pedagogical interactions between MFAD students and their mentors which include, but are not limited to: design advising and supervision for mainstage design assignments and professional projects outside the School, production process supervision (shop walkthroughs, fittings, technical rehearsals, note sessions), mandatory design critiques, assisting faculty members on outside professional projects etc.

Thesis Research (6 CHrs)

THET 799 Pre-Thesis Project Research
THET 799 Thesis Research
Credit is awarded for completing Pre-Thesis and Thesis projects in the student's primary area of design specialization. Projects are assigned and approved as Pre-Thesis or Thesis respectively by student's primary faculty mentor. Projects fall into three categories: 1) realized mainstage designs at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center; 2) realized designs at professional venues outside the University; 3) theoretical designs.