

THPF MA program in Theatre and Performance Studies: Course & Credit Requirements

Mandatory courseworkⁱ

The MA in Theatre and Performance Studies requires a minimum of 34 credit hours (CHrs) of course work at the 400, 600 or 700 level. Out of those 34 CHrs:

- 19 CHrs must be from courses at the 600 level as follows:
 - THET 600 (3 CHrs) Introduction to Graduate Research Methods
 - THET 606 (1 CHr) Teaching Theatre
 - Students may seek an exemption for THET 606 Teaching Theatre if they are not a Graduate Assistant, have a significant amount of prior teaching experience, or do not intend to seek employment in academia upon graduation. If the exemption is granted, the student must take another 1-CHr course to replace THET 606.
 - 15 CHrs of additional 600 level seminars (five 3 CHr courses).
 - 9 CHrs of these 15 must be THET courses taught by faculty in the History-Theory area. (THET is the designation for courses in Theatre and Performance Studies.) None of these 9 CHrs can be for independent study classes.
 - 6 CHrs of these 15 can be for courses not taught by members of the History-Theory Area, courses in other programs at the University of Maryland, or courses taught at other institutions in the D.C. Consortium of Institutions of Higher Learning. (See D.C. Consortium on the website for the Office of the Registrar for a list of qualifying institutions.)
- 9 CHrs must be at the 400, 600 or 700 level (three 3 CHr courses).
 - 400 level courses are taken when necessary to fill in important gaps in a student's knowledge
 - No more than 6 CHrs of course work in this category can be for independent study.
 - 700 level courses are not generally open to M.A. students, except for THET 799, but students may be permitted to take them with the approval of the student's advisor and the instructor of the course.
- Students have two options to complete the remaining 6 CHrs for the degree:
 - Thesis Option:
 - For the thesis option, 6 CHrs must be in THET 799, Master's Thesis Research. The thesis should be completed during the fourth semester of the student's coursework. The thesis must be approved by the Thesis Examining Committee, which consists of three members of the Graduate Faculty. The chair of the committee should be the student's thesis advisor.
 - Non-Thesis Option:
 - For the non-thesis option, a minimum of 6 CHrs must be from courses numbered 600 and above. Instead of a thesis, students should submit one article-length essay

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to the Non-Thesis Review Committee, which consists of three members of the Graduate Faculty. The chair of the committee should be the student's advisor.

For both options, students should carefully review **the Master's Degree Policies** section of the **Graduate Catalog** located under the Policies tab on the left hand side of the front page menu. (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/policies/masters-degrees-policies/#text>).

Students should also familiarize themselves with the **Academic Deadlines** page on the web site for the Graduate School (www.ter.ps/deadlines).

ⁱ From *Handbook: MA in Theatre and Performance Studies*, 5-6.