

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

Mandatory courseworkⁱ

The minimum 40 CHrs required for the PhD are generally taken in the first two years at a rate of 10 CHrs per semester (three 3-CHr courses and one 1-CHr course). 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.

The required minimum of 40 CHrs must include the credits and courses listed below. (THET is the catalog designation for classes in Theatre and Performance Studies.)

12 CHrs from the following seminars:

- THET700: Introduction to Doctoral Studies in Theatre (3 CHrs)
- THET711: Critical Theory (3 CHrs)
 or ENGL602: Critical Theory and Literary Criticism (3 CHrs) with approval of advisor or Director of the PhD Program
- THET712: Historical Research Methods and Historiography in Theatre (3 CHrs)
- THET713: Performance Studies (3 CHrs)

12 CHrs of 600-level THET seminars

- Students should try to take at least one class from each of the core faculty members in the program.
- Only one of these classes may be an independent study (and then only if no independent study course is used to fulfill the external course requirement below).

6 CHrs of 600-level seminars from outside of TDPS

- Courses cross-listed with THET and taught by TDPS faculty count as internal, rather than external courses. DANC courses are not considered external courses.
- Only one of these classes may be an independent study (and then only if no independent study course is used for the internal course requirement above).

1 CHr of THET606: Teaching Theatre

- 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.

1 CHr of THET669: Bibliography and Lit Review Preparation

- Students will take this class with their Primary Research Advisor in fourth semester of their course work.

Two additional 1-CHr classes, which may include but are not limited to:

- THET669: Independent Study, a repeatable class generally used to prepare for the Comps
- THET889: Doctoral Tutorial in Theatre, a repeatable class generally used for special research, participation in colloquia, or filling gaps in knowledge
- External, 1-CHr colloquia courses. Recent examples include:
 - Theory Colloquium
 - Graduate Colloquium on Cinema and Theory
 - Medieval & Early Modern Colloquium
 - Digital Studies in the Arts and Humanities Colloquium
 - University Teaching and Learning Program

An additional 6 CHrs (two 3-CHr classes)

- Any appropriate 400- to 800-level courses from inside or outside of TDPS

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Additional coursework

Each student in the PhD program will necessarily take additional CHrs beyond the 40-CHr minimum, as described below. Each student with a TDPS assistantship is strongly encouraged to take at least one seminar offered by a core faculty member during each semester, regardless of their candidacy status.

In the fifth and sixth semesters:

- 3 CHrs of THET898: Pre-Candidacy Research each semester
- For assistants: 3 CHrs of a 600-level THET seminar each semester (THET898 is not considered a seminar)
- 1-3 CHrs of THET888: Doctoral Practicum in Theatre (registered under the primary research advisor's number)
- Various other courses taken for personal or scholarly development

THET899: Doctoral Dissertation Research

Once a student is advanced to candidacy—ideally at the end of the sixth semester—they are automatically registered for 6 CHrs of THET899: Doctoral Dissertation Research each fall and spring semester until the dissertation is successfully defended. Students are also billed for student fees during this time unless they qualify for a [waiver](#).

- There is a fixed fee for this registration, which is at a lower rate than the regular course rate.
- THET899 registration is not required in the summer, except when students are graduating at the end of a summer term.
- The Graduate School requires each student to have 12 CHrs of THET899 completed before being awarded the PhD. Most students have considerably more than this.
- Because this registration is automatic, it is important that the student confirms that they have been registered in the section assigned to the chair of their dissertation committee. It is especially important to confirm this when the student changes their committee chair after advancing to candidacy.
- Any candidate can take up to 4 additional CHrs each semester (beyond the mandatory 6 CHrs of THET899).

ⁱ From *Handbook: PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies*, 8-10.