

Technical Direction

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN TECHNICAL DIRECTION

The M.F.A. program is an intense three-year course of study for students seeking professional preparation in Technical Direction.

- Three years of graduate courses and production work totaling a minimum of sixty-one designated credit hours
- A production or research thesis
- Oral defense of the thesis project
- A successful evaluation at the end of each semester of study
- An overall grade point average of 3.0

Degree Requirements

Minimum GPA of 3.0 required.

Theatre Studies		
THET 610	Research Methods	3
THET 627	Graduate Costume and Decoration 1	3
THET 628	Graduate Costume and Decoration 2	3
THET 697	Research	6
THET 698	Thesis or Dissertation	3
Theatre Design and Technology		
THET 520	Principles of Stage Lighting	2
THET 524	Production Planning	3
THET 535	Grad Theatre Health and Safety	3
THET 622	Graduate Scene Design	3
THET 631	Graduate Drafting for the Stage	3
THET 635	Graduate Scene Painting	3
THET 629	Graduate Computer Assisted Design Seminar	3
THET 636	Advanced Stagecraft	3
THET 712	Entertainment Rigging	3
THET 725	Portfolio Development	1
THET 726	Graduate Automation	3
Practicum		
Graduate Production Practicum (Repeated)		4
THET 600	Graduate Production Practicum	
Electives		
Total Hours		61

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
THET 631	3 THET 524	3
THET 600	1 THET 600	1
THET 610	3 THET 629	3
THET 520	2 Elective	3
		9
		10

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
THET 627	3 THET 628	3
THET 712	3 THET 636	3
THET 600	1 THET 535	3

THET 622	3 THET 600	1
	10	10
Third Year		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
THET 726	3 THET 697	3
THET 697	3 THET 635	3
THET 698	3 Elective	3
THET 725	1 Elective	3
	10	12

Total credit hours: 61

Major Learning Outcomes

TECHNICAL DIRECTION

This degree program may be especially appropriate for students interested in pursuing opportunities as technical directors or theatrical project managers.

- The graduate must demonstrate advanced professional competence in technical direction including, but not limited to:
 1. The ability to supervise the safe construction of scenery and properties within the scope of allocated/budgeted materials, labor/time, and space.
 2. The ability to understand various elements related to (a) theatrical design; (b) the set up and operation of lighting components and systems; (c) the use of sound reinforcement and playback systems; (d) methods of scenic art and construction; (e) rigging and motor systems; (f) fluid power systems (pneumatics and hydraulics) and motion control; and (g) mechanical, structural, and electrical engineering. The ability to work with these elements as appropriate to specific productions is essential.
 3. The ability to read and direct personnel based on computer-aided technical drawings.
 4. Personnel management, including the ability to safely supervise and, when appropriate, schedule the work of personnel within and across various theatrical shops.
 5. The ability to work with theatre professionals in their processes of production.
 6. The ability to articulate and apply federal, state, and local health and safety practices and regulations associated with production and performance including, but not limited to, appropriate Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code.
 7. Facilities management, including a) the ability to oversee the daily operations and maintenance of various theatrical shops; and b) the ability to maintain a working schedule of work done in, and outside requests to use, various shops and theatrical facilities.
- The graduate must demonstrate basic competence in the following areas of design and technology including, but not limited to:
 1. Computer-aided technical drawing
 2. Sewing
 3. Technical research
 4. Welding
- The student must successfully serve as the technical director for at least two fully realized productions during the period of study, at least one of which must be fully mounted for the public.