The PhD program in Theatre and Performance Studies is primarily designed for those who intend to be scholars working in an academic environment.

At CU Boulder, we believe that scholarship in the field of theatre should be premised on the fact that theatre is a performing art. This does not mean that the standards for theatre scholarship are any less rigorous than those in other disciplines, but it does mean that the theatre scholar must be prepared to use research methodologies and perspectives capable of illuminating drama in performance. To this end, the education of a theatre scholar should entail ongoing experiences in theatre productions.

The program is designed to be completed in four years for students entering with a master's degree. Conventionally, the first through fourth semesters focus on course work, the fifth semester is spent preparing for and taking the comprehensive examination, and the sixth through eighth semesters are spent writing and defending the dissertation. While it is possible for a student entering the PhD program with a master’s degree to finish in three years, it is not uncommon for students to take five years to finish.

**Requirements**

**Program Overview**

To complete the program, students must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in academic course work.
2. Demonstrate reading competency in at least one foreign language equivalent to the completion of a second-semester college-level course.
3. Pass a comprehensive exam.
4. Prepare and successfully defend a dissertation.

Doctoral students in Theatre and Performance Studies complete 30 credit hours of course work beyond the master's degree at the 5000 level or above. When approved by the student's advisor, credit hours from other departments on campus may count, provided the course is taught by a member of the graduate faculty in that department. In addition to the 30 credit hours of course work, 30 dissertation credit hours (THTR 8999) are required.

**Required Courses**

The PhD program is based upon a core of required courses which emphasize the interrelatedness of theory, history and practice.

The “on-stage studies” courses place dramatic texts and performance traditions in the context of contemporary performance. They are designed to pose questions like, “How might this play work on the stage today? What problems does it present the contemporary director/dramaturg? In what ways is it socially relevant? How have directors like Jonathan Miller, Ariane Mnouchkine, Peter Stein, Ivo van Hove, etc., staged them?” In a nutshell, the aim of the on-stage studies curriculum is to teach students to think as dramaturgs and directors, as well as scholars.
the limits of English-speaking theatre, thereby significantly broadening his or her research and publishing possibilities. Doctoral students are required to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to the completion of a second-semester college-level course before taking the comprehensive exam. This requirement may be fulfilled by course work taken within five years previous to the exam or by testing.

**Dissertation**

The PhD program culminates in the dissertation, a research document that makes a significant and original contribution to the field of theatre studies.