THEATRE - MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

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 performance. To this end, the education of a theatre scholar should entail ongoing experiences in theatre productions.

Please note that successful completion of the MA program does not entail acceptance into the PhD program.

Program Tracks

The MA program in theatre and performance studies has two tracks. Students must declare either track by the start of their third semester.

Thesis Track

The thesis track requires students to write a substantial research document demonstrating mature critical thought based on independent study and investigation. This thesis track MA degree prepares students to pursue a PhD degree; students choose this track if they wish to apply to a doctoral program, either at CU or elsewhere. To complete the thesis track of the MA program, students must demonstrate proficiency in three areas: academic course work, the thesis and the final exam (oral).

Non-Thesis Track

Students who do not plan to pursue a PhD may wish to elect the non-thesis track, which requires written and oral exams covering graduate course work. Students in this track have the ability to undertake a project, normally in the form of an independent study.

Concurrent Degree Program

BA/MA in Theatre

The BA/MA in theatre is an accelerated program aimed primarily at high-achieving undergraduates who may be planning to pursue a PhD at another institution or who wish to challenge themselves in advanced critical thinking.

Dual Degree Program

MA/MBA in Theatre

An MBA degree in combination with an MA degree in theatre and performance studies will provide students with a set of business tools to complement their artistic talents and expand their career options. The dual MA/MBA offers students the opportunity to earn both degrees together in less time than if the degrees were earned sequentially. The MA/MBA in theatre program is a dual degree program, and its curriculum is best conceived that way.

The Leeds School of Business, in conjunction with the Department of Theatre & Dance, offers students the ability to earn an MBA and an MA in theatre through a three-year dual degree program. Students in the MA/MBA dual degree program pursue careers in a wide variety of fields and jobs in the world of the performing arts. Types of organizations include theatre companies, dance companies, opera companies, symphonies, arts councils, performing arts complexes, civic auditoriums and arts presenters.

Application Process

Students may apply either to the Department of Theatre & Dance for the MA degree program or to the Leeds School of Business for the MBA degree program. Having been accepted, they will apply to the other degree program during their first semester.

Students may apply for both programs simultaneously, in which case students must apply to each program separately and meet the admissions standards for each program separately.

NOTE: Residents of U.S. Western states, including Alaska and Hawaii, may be eligible for in-state tuition for this dual degree program, provided the student applies and is accepted to both programs in the same admissions cycle. For more information, visit the Western Regional Graduate Program (http://wiche.edu/wrgp) webpage.

Program Requirements

The MA/MBA is a dual degree program, and its curriculum is best conceived that way. A minimum of 67 approved credit hours must be completed to earn both degrees. Dual degree students will be required to complete 43 hours of MBA course work and 24 hours of theatre/dance course work. The dual degree agreement allows students to count 18 credit hours of courses towards both degrees.

Course work for the MBA portion of the Dual MA/MBA in Theatre (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/business/programs-study/business-administration/business-administration-master-business-administration-mba/#dualdegree) can be found on the Leeds School of Business catalog page. The MBA requires 55 credit hours. Twelve credit hours from the student's course work for the MA will count toward the MBA.

The MA in theatre and performance studies requires 30 credit hours, 24 of which must be at the 5000 level or above. Six credit hours from the student's work in the Leeds School of Business will count toward the MA in theatre and performance studies. Students are encouraged to explore classes outside the Department of Theatre and Dance for some of their electives.

Students in the MA/MBA in theatre spend the first year of their dual-degree program exclusively in either the Leeds School of Business or the Department of Theatre and Dance. This is the case even if the student was admitted to both programs simultaneously. In the second year, courses are taken exclusively in the other program. The third year offers students the opportunity to take both the MBA and theatre/dance elective courses.

Students in the MA/MBA will also choose between the thesis option and the non-thesis option. Those choosing the thesis option will take 4–6 master's thesis credit hours and the number of electives in THTR or DNCE will be adjusted accordingly.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THTR 5011</td>
<td>Seminar: Theory and Criticism</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or THTR 5010</td>
<td>Introduction to Performance Studies</td>
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<td>or DNCE 6047</td>
<td>Seminar: Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>THTR 6009</td>
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DNCE 5048 Performance and Community Engagement  
THTR 6011 On-Stage Studies: Global Ancient and Classical Theatre  
THTR 6021 On-Stage Studies: Shakespeare  
THTR 6031 On-Stage Studies: American Theatre  
THTR 6041 On-Stage Studies: Global Modern Theatre  
THTR 6111 On Stage Studies: Global Contemporary Theatre  
THTR 5085 Theatre Management  
   or MUSC 5968 Entrepreneurial Ventures in the Arts  
   or DNCE 6056 Professional Development  
THTR 4061 Directing (depending on experience)  
   or THTR 5071 Advanced Directing  
Electives in THTR or DNCE.  2  
Eight hours of course work taken in the Leeds School of Business.  6  
Total Credit Hours 30

1 All course work applying towards the degree must be taught by members of the graduate faculty holding current graduate faculty appointments. Theatre courses below the 5000 level cannot be counted toward the degree. Courses in which grades below B are received are not accepted for master's degree programs.

2 Students who elect the thesis plan will take 4–6 master's thesis credit hours. The number of electives will be adjusted accordingly.

Requirements

Prerequisites

The deadline for all applications is Dec. 1, for admission the following fall. The theatre program does not accept applications for spring admission.

Applicants must have bachelor’s degree and an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75. Theatre experience is highly desirable.

Program Requirements

Required Courses and Credits

After any undergraduate deficiencies have been removed, students must earn 30 credit hours, at least 16 of which must be in THTR courses at the 5000 level or above. At least 24 of the 30 hours must be at the 5000 level or above.

A student may not receive graduate credit toward a degree for more than 15 hours per semester, fall or spring. A student may not receive graduate credit toward a degree for more than 6 credit hours in one five-week summer term or more than 10 credit hours in one summer session.

Undergraduate major courses taken to make up deficiencies may not be counted in the minimum number required for the degree; however, grades for any such courses taken will be included in the GPA. Students taking graduate or undergraduate coursework not applying toward their degree may do so for a letter grade, no credit, or pass/fail. If taken for a letter grade, the course will be calculated in the student’s graduate GPA. If taken pass/fail, a failing grade will be calculated into the GPA. Note: Courses taken for no credit are not covered by tuition remission.

Students must declare either the thesis or non-thesis option by the start of their third semester, and may apply 4–6 thesis credit hours toward the 30-credit-hour requirement if taking the thesis option.

Elective Course Work

MA students are encouraged to take elective courses offered by theatre graduate faculty members in their area of research (e.g., performing voices of women, performance studies, directing, theatre for social change), as well as graduate dance courses (e.g., graduate dance technique, advanced dance composition, African dance). When approved by the student’s advisor, MA students are encouraged to take courses in other departments, especially as they relate to the anticipated thesis topic. Electives are determined by students and their advisors, consistent with Graduate School and departmental requirements.

Graduate Independent Study

This may not be used as an avenue for taking undergraduate courses in the major department or replicating existing graduate classes.

Independent study course work cannot exceed 25 percent of the course work required for the master’s degree. Independent study contract forms are available from the Graduate Program Assistant and on the department website.

Production Research and Practicum Courses

These courses in acting, directing, design and dramaturgy may be taken for 1–3 credits. A limit of 3 credits in each category may apply toward the degree. All courses are supervised by members of the graduate faculty; regular meetings with the instructor of record are required. Practicum contract forms are available from the Graduate Program Assistant and on the department website.

Guidelines for flexible credit are:

- one credit hour for successfully completing the project;
- two credit hours for completing the project and submitting a written record of it (e.g., an actor’s journal, a director’s regiebuch);
- three credits for doing all of the above and writing a pertinent 15 to 25 page research paper, with the topic to be determined in consultation with the advisor.

MA Degree Plans

Plan I: Thesis Option

This plan prepares students to pursue a PhD degree at CU or elsewhere. Students must write a thesis, a substantial research document demonstrating mature critical thought based on independent study and investigation. Students must demonstrate proficiency in three areas: academic course work, the thesis and the final exam (oral).

Students in the thesis track take two one-hour oral examinations back-to-back (i.e. on the same day) after coursework for the degree has been completed and the master’s thesis is "essentially" complete. The first oral exam covers course work. The second oral examination covers the thesis.

Required Courses and Credits for the Thesis Track

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Plan II: Non-Thesis Option

Students who do not plan to pursue a PhD can elect the non-thesis option, which requires a two-part comprehensive exam, comprised of a take home written exam and a 1.5-hour oral exam. The written and oral exams will be comprehensive, covering all course work presented for the degree. The exam will take place near the end of the last semester of course work. Students in this track have the ability to undertake a project, normally in the form of an independent study. To complete the non-thesis plan, students must demonstrate proficiency in two areas: academic course work and the final exam (written and oral).

Required Courses and Credits for Non-Thesis Option

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<td>Electives</td>
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Total Credit Hours 30

1 Students may take 4–6 thesis hours. The number of electives is adjusted accordingly.

2 All course work applying towards the degree must be taught by members of the graduate faculty holding current graduate faculty appointments. Theatre courses below the 5000 level cannot be counted toward the degree. Courses in which grades below B- are received are not accepted for master's degree programs.