

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.

Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's Degree Program

Students may earn this degree as part of the Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's (BAM) degree program, which allows currently enrolled CU Boulder undergraduate students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in a shorter period of time.

For more information, see the Accelerated Master's tab for the associated bachelor's degree(s): Theatre - Bachelor of Arts (BA) (catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/theatre-dance/theatre-bachelor-arts-ba/#acceleratedmasterstext)

Requirements

Prerequisites

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

Students must earn 30 credit hours, at least 24 of which must be at the 5000 level or above. The degree is normally completed in four semesters (excluding summers).

Students must declare either the thesis or non-thesis option by the start of their third semester. Those choosing the thesis option will apply 4–6 thesis credit hours toward the 30-credit-hour requirement.

Elective Coursework

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, performance and community engagement), 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

Independent study is used for projects, research and educational opportunities both in and outside of the department. It may not be used as an avenue for taking undergraduate courses in the major department or replicating existing graduate classes. Independent study coursework

cannot exceed 25 percent of the coursework required for the master's degree.

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.

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 hours 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

The MA program in theatre and performance studies has two plans: a thesis option and non-thesis option. Students must declare either plan by the start of their third semester.

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 coursework, 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 coursework. The second oral examination covers the thesis.

Required Courses and Credits for the Thesis Track

| Code | Title | Credit Hours |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Required Courses | | |
| THTR 5010 | Introduction to Performance Studies | 3 |
| THTR 5011 | Seminar: Theory and Criticism | 3 |
| THDN 6009 | Research and Teaching in Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies | 2 |
| Select two of the following: | | 6 |
| 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 | |
| Thesis Work | | |
| THTR 6849 | Independent Study (prepare thesis prospectus) | 3 |
| THTR 6959 | Master's Thesis (take in fourth semester for thesis completion) ² | 4 |
| Electives ¹ | | 9 |
| Total Credit Hours | | 30 |

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

² All coursework 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.

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 take home written exam and a 1.5-hour oral exam. The written and oral exams will be comprehensive, covering all coursework presented for the degree. The exam will take place near the end of the last semester of coursework. 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 coursework and the final exam (written and oral).

Required Courses and Credits for Non-Thesis Option

| Code | Title | Credit Hours |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Required Courses | | |
| THTR 5010 | Introduction to Performance Studies | 3 |
| THTR 5011 | Seminar: Theory and Criticism | 3 |
| THDN 6009 | Research and Teaching in Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies | 2 |
| Select two of the following: | | 6 |
| 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 | |
| Electives ¹ | | 16 |
| Total Credit Hours | | 30 |

¹ All coursework 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.

Plan(s) of Study

Theatre MA - Thesis Track

| Course | Title | Credit Hours |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Year One | | |
| Fall Semester | | |
| THDN 6009 | Research and Teaching in Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies | 2 |
| THTR 5010 or THTR 5011 | Introduction to Performance Studies (5010 & 5011 are available alternating semesters) or Seminar: Theory and Criticism | 3 |
| On-Stage-Studies Seminar or Electives | | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 8 |

Spring Semester

| | |
|---|----------|
| On-Stage-Studies Seminar and/or Electives | 9 |
| Credit Hours | 9 |

Year Two

Fall Semester

| | | |
|------------------------|--|----------|
| THTR 5011 or THTR 5010 | Seminar: Theory and Criticism (5010 & 5011 are available alternating semesters) or Introduction to Performance Studies | 3 |
| THTR 6849 | Independent Study (prepare thesis prospectus) | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 6 |

Spring Semester

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| On-Stage-Studies Seminar or Electives | 3 | |
| THTR 6959 | Master's Thesis | 4 |
| Credit Hours | | 7 |
| Total Credit Hours | | 30 |

Theatre MA - Non-Thesis Track

| Course | Title | Credit Hours |
|---|--|--------------|
| Year One | | |
| Fall Semester | | |
| THTR 5010 or THTR 5011 | Introduction to Performance Studies (5010 & 5011 are available alternating semesters) or Seminar: Theory and Criticism | 3 |
| THDN 6009 | Research and Teaching in Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies | 2 |
| On-Stage-Studies Seminar or Electives | | 3 |
| Credit Hours | | 8 |
| Spring Semester | | |
| On-Stage-Studies Seminar and/or Electives | | 8 |
| Credit Hours | | 8 |
| Year Two | | |
| Fall Semester | | |
| THTR 5011 or THTR 5010 | Seminar: Theory and Criticism (5010 & 5011 are available alternating semesters) or Introduction to Performance Studies | 3 |
| On-Stage-Studies Seminar and/or Electives | | 4 |
| Credit Hours | | 7 |
| Spring Semester | | |
| On-Stage-Studies Seminar and/or Electives | | 7 |
| Credit Hours | | 7 |
| Total Credit Hours | | 30 |

Dual Degree Program MA/MBA in Theatre

The Department of Theatre & Dance, in conjunction with the Leeds School of Business, offers students the ability to earn an MBA and an MA in theatre through a three-year dual degree program. The dual MA/MBA offers students the opportunity to earn both degrees together in less time than if the degrees were earned sequentially. 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.

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 subsequently apply to the other degree program.

Alternately, 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.

Because of the two-year cohort model at Leeds School of Business, students are advised to start their coursework in the Department of Theatre & Dance. This is the case even if the student was admitted to both programs simultaneously.

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 coursework and 24 hours of theatre/dance coursework. The dual degree agreement allows students to count 18 credit hours of courses towards both degrees.

First-year students in the MA/MBA in theatre take courses exclusively in either the Leeds School of Business or the Department of Theatre & Dance. In the second year, courses are taken exclusively in the other program. The third year offers students the opportunity to take both MBA and theatre/dance elective courses.

Coursework 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/#dualdegreestext) can be found on the Leeds School of Business catalog page. The MBA requires 55 credit hours. MA/MBA students will complete 43 credit hours of business courses. Twelve credit hours from the student's coursework 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 & Dance for some of their electives.

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.

MA Coursework Requirements for the MA/MBA in Theatre

| Code | Title | Credit Hours |
|--|--|--------------|
| Required Courses | | |
| THDN 6009 | Research and Teaching in Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies | 2 |
| THTR 5011 | Seminar: Theory and Criticism | 3 |
| or THTR 5010 | Introduction to Performance Studies | |
| or DNCE 6047 | Dance Studies | |
| Select two of the following: | | 6 |
| 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 | |
| DNCE 4037 | Contemporary Concert Dance: Shifting Perspectives in Performance | |
| DNCE 5017 | Dancing Histories: Sex, Gender and Race in U.S. Concert Dance | |
| DNCE 5048 | Performance and Community Engagement | |
| THTR 5085 | Theatre Management | 3 |
| or DNCE 6056 | Professional Development | |
| THTR 4061 | Directing (depending on experience) | 3 |
| or THTR 5071 | Advanced Directing | |
| Electives in THTR or DNCE ² | | 7 |
| Six hours of coursework taken in the Leeds School of Business. | | 6 |
| Total Credit Hours | | 30 |

¹ All coursework 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.