Department Mission

The Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas State University offers two degrees and five specializations in graduate studies. The master of fine arts (M.F.A.) is specifically designed to prepare students to direct, design or write professionally, as well as teach in a university setting. The master of arts (M.A.) offers preparation for students who wish to continue education in a Ph.D. program or plan to teach at the community college level.

Degrees and Specializations Offered

» M.F.A in Theatre
  - Design (scenic, costume and lighting)
  - Directing
  - Dramatic Writing

» M.A. in Theatre
  - Dramaturgy
  - History and Criticism

The environment was amazing. The faculty provided great one-on-one attention to my work and my progress.

– Sara Christian, M.A. 2016, Texas State University

I have emerged with the knowledge, confidence and connections to be successful in the professional world.

– J. Robert Moore, M.F.A. 2016, Texas State University

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Texas State University, to the extent not in conflict with federal or state law, prohibits discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, veterans' status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Students regularly earn honors at the regional and national levels of the American College Theatre Festival, publish in national academic journals and present papers at national and international conferences.

Why choose Texas State?
Texas State was recently ranked among the top ten performing arts schools in the United States, garnering local, regional and national awards. The M.F.A. degree options expand the skills of students, preparing them to work in regional and national theatres and to teach at the university level.

Course Work
The department offers two full-time degrees: the 30- to 39-credit-hour master of arts (M.A.) degree and the 60-credit-hour master of fine arts (M.F.A.) degree. The hours vary based on the area of specialization. The culmination of the M.F.A. degree is a creative project; for the M.A. degree, it is a research thesis or project.

Students take active roles in the field with directing, writing and design projects, conference presentations and publications. Summer opportunities include professional internships, course work taken as part of the department’s Oregon Shakespeare Intensive and a Shakespeare in England study abroad program. Graduate courses are offered during the day because of graduate student involvement in theatre productions.

Faculty
The programs' faculty display work at the Prague Quadrennial, and work on Broadway and at numerous Shakespeare Festivals, as well as at regional theatres coast to coast. They also choreograph or perform nationally and internationally. In addition, the faculty have won numerous awards. They regularly publish articles and books and present papers, designs and workshops at numerous regional and national conferences.

Career Options
There are a variety of career options for students completing the M.F.A. or M.A. in theatre including:
- playwright
- screenwriter
- web series creator
- television writer
- artistic director
- freelance director
- education director
- producing director
- dramaturg
- university instructor
- industrial/architectural lighting designer
- theatre designer
- themed entertainment designer
- live event designer

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Fall: March 15
Spring: No admission
Summer: No admission

Applications will continue to be considered on a space-available basis after the deadline.

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
The deadlines to apply for scholarship, fellowship and assistantship consideration may be earlier. Visit our web page for more details: gradcollege.txstate.edu/funding

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at: gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/theatre