The Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas State University offers five exciting specializations in its graduate studies program: directing, design (scenic, lighting and costumes), dramatic writing, dramaturgy, and history and criticism.

The master of fine arts (M.F.A.) is specifically designed to prepare students to direct, design or write for professional theatre or teach in a university setting. The master of arts (M.A.) offers strong preparation for students who wish to continue their education in a Ph.D. program or who plan to teach at the community college level. Classes take place in the university’s distinctive Theatre Center and the new Performing Arts Center. Together, these buildings include three theatres and an alternative space that provide students the opportunity to experience a variety of production styles.

**Faculty**

Our faculty members have displayed work at the Prague Quadrennial, the most prestigious competition for university designers; worked at numerous Shakespeare festivals and the Zach Theatre, Asolo Theatre, Berkeley Rep and the Colony Theatre in Los Angeles; choreographed or performed nationally and internationally and edited numerous theatre anthologies. In addition, faculty have had cover articles in *American Theatre* and books nominated for awards, as well as presented at numerous regional and national conferences, including the honor of serving as featured speakers.

A few highlights from our program:

- Our professors are nationally and internationally recognized with experience in commercial and regional theatre, yet are present for classes and production mentorship, a combination that is difficult to find.
- We produce a wide variety of productions each season from new works, to musicals, to classics.
- Our program offers the vital networking and educational experience of internships assisting professional designers and directors in regional theatres and other live entertainment venues.
- We offer master classes with professional designers and directors.
- We strongly emphasize collaboration in our program, and you will be working closely with other M.F.A. areas.
Course Work
Students must complete 30 to 39 semester hours for the M.A. degree and 60 semester hours for the M.F.A. degree. The hours vary based on whether they are in the directing, design, playwriting, history and criticism, or dramaturgy area of specialization. The degree requirements include a minimum of six hours in a minor or cognate area. Graduate courses are offered during the day because of graduate student involvement in productions in the evening.

M.F.A. in Theatre (Emphasis in Directing)
This is a three-year course of study requiring 60 hours. There will be multiple play production opportunities. The culmination of the degree is a creative project in directing. Students are active in directing plays and projects every semester. This work can include stage readings and new plays, as well as assistant directing in the professional theatre community. Send portfolio directly to Chuck Ney at cn12@txstate.edu.

M.F.A. in Theatre (Emphasis in Dramatic Writing)
This is a three-year, 60-credit-hour course of study. Students will study television writing, screenwriting, adaptation for the stage and web series creation, with a core emphasis on playwriting. There will be multiple play production opportunities. The culmination of the degree is a production of the student’s final creative project, usually a full length play, either as part of the Theatre and Dance season or at a professional theatre in Austin or the surrounding area. Inquiries and sample work should be sent to Jim Price at jp72@txstate.edu.

M.F.A. in Theatre (Emphasis in Design)
This is a three-year course of study requiring 60 hours. The culmination of the degree is a creative project in design. Students will participate in a production assignment each semester. Opportunities include assistant designer for a faculty or guest designer as well as designing department productions. Internship opportunities are available. Send portfolio directly to Sarah Maines at sm74@txstate.edu.

M.A. in Theatre History Criticism or Dramaturgy
The history and criticism program is a two-year course of study requiring 30 hours. The culminating project for the degree is a research thesis. This area of focus is appropriate for those who plan to enter a doctoral program. Students are encouraged to present at professional conferences and submit work for publication. Students who choose the 36-hour, non-thesis dramaturgy specialization complete assignments as dramaturgs on mainstage productions and assemble a dramaturgical production book and production archive as part of their written thesis.

Admission Policy
All applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university. A minimum GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 undergraduate semester hours of letter-grade work earned before receipt of a bachelor’s (plus any previously completed graduate or professional work) is required. Applicants are expected to have a minimum of 24 undergraduate hours in theatre. These should include hours in acting, stagecraft, theatre history and literature.

Submit the following to The Graduate College:
• online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
• application fee
• one official transcript for each four-year college or university attended

Additional Application Requirements
• two letters of recommendation
• a statement of purpose that details the area of specialty, related background information and what the goals are for pursuing a degree in theatre
• current theatre vita/résumé
• All M.F.A. applicants only: An interview (personal or phone) may be scheduled with program faculty to complete the application process. It is preferred that interviews for the M.F.A. take place on campus and the applicant attends a M.F.A. class session.
• Directing M.F.A. applicants only: Submit portfolio to head of directing (hard copy or electronic). It may include rehearsal prompt books of past directing projects, design sketches and renderings, production photos, DVDs, reviews and/or items showing process and aesthetic.
• Design M.F.A. applicants only: Submit portfolio to head of design (hard copy or electronic). It may include drawings, designs, production photos and drafting from previous productions as well as examples of drawing, painting and drafting (drafting only for scenic and lighting applicants).
• Dramatic writing M.F.A. applicants only: Submit creative writing sample (hard copy or electronic) to head of dramatic writing.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to submit application documents and additional details. Applications are due March 15 for the fall semester.

Financial Assistance
Partial scholarships are available for tuition and fees through the Department of Theatre and Dance. A single application, due in early March, covers all departmental scholarships.

Assistantships
Most graduate students will receive assistantships for assignments including teaching (after first year) or assisting with undergraduate classes, working with tech assignments (scenery, costumes, lights, props) and house managers.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
Dr. Sandra Mayo
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Theatre and Dance
Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666-4684
Phone: 512.245.2147
E-mail: sm37@txstate.edu

www.theatreanddance.txstate.edu