

ACTING

Degree: B.F.A., Performing Arts

Department of Theatre and Dance (<https://cas.umw.edu/theatre/>)

The B.F.A. in Performing Arts with majors in acting, musical theatre, stage management and theatre design/technology, offers focused pre-professional training coupled with a strong foundation in the liberal arts. Academic, classroom, and studio work are coupled with production experiences to build technical skills in the area of specialty, as well as in collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, organization, and management.

Students will work in a facility with a proscenium theatre and a studio theatre supported by cutting edge audio, lighting, communications, and rigging systems. Production spaces include a scene shop, costume shop, rehearsal studios, dance studios, wig room, dressing rooms, wardrobe, CAD studio, vocal studios, reading room, faculty, staff, production, arts administration, and stage management offices, along with ample public gathering spaces.

UMW Theatre has an impressive record of producing plays and musicals with impressive production values. Recent productions have included *Roald Dahl's Matilda*, *Men on Boats*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Fun Home*, and *Julius Caesar*.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop a broad-based knowledge of theatre history, theory, and literature.
- Students will acquire a facility with the tools and techniques of creating scenery, lighting, and props in the process of creating a theatre production.
- Students will understand the unique challenges and opportunities of working in the professional theatre as they connect classroom and practical experiences to build a portfolio of proficiencies that transition to life after Mary Washington.
- Students will engage the art and craft of creating theatre to share with an audience.
- Students will prove the capacity to work independently on a culminating project in theatre and the ability to frame an informed and articulate opinion of the process and result.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to physicalize and perform text, including understanding the role of action, listening, focus, vulnerability, and truth in the world of the play.
- Students will analyze characters from a wide variety of periods, styles, and genres with a deep understanding of how political, social, and cultural contexts affect their choices and actions.
- Students will build a flexible, strong voice and the ability to use that voice healthfully, expressively, and effectively as vital tool of a character's life.
- Students will prove the ability to learn and perform dialects.
- Students will build a strong, flexible, body that is capable of expressing effectively and healthfully the physical life of a character.
- Students will understand and perform in a wide variety of period styles.
- Students will operate with a deep understanding of professionalism, including, attitude, discipline, a strong work ethic, time management skills, preparation, focus, and a commitment to courtesy, respect, and the collaborative nature of theatre.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
THEA 131	Technical Production	4
THEA 240	Stage Makeup	3
THEA 318	Stage Dialects	3
THEA 411	Acting Styles	4
THEA 362	Theatre History and Literature	3
THEA 400	Professional Identity and Practice	1
THEA 482	Senior Project	3
THEA 390	Theatre Practicum ¹	6
Additional two credits from:		2
MUPR 201	Class Voice I	
MUPR 202	Class Voice II	
MUPR 301	Private Voice	
MUPR 401	Advanced Private Voice	
Additional four credits from:		4
DANC 121A	Beginning Ballet	
DANC 122A	Beginning Ballet	
DANC 123A	Beginning Modern Dance	
DANC 124A	Beginning Modern Dance	
DANC 141	Beginning Jazz	
DANC 142	Beginning Jazz	
DANC 301	Intermediate Ballet	
DANC 302	Intermediate Ballet	
DANC 303	Intermediate Modern Dance	
DANC 304	Intermediate Modern Dance	
DANC 305	Intermediate Jazz	
DANC 306	Intermediate Jazz	
DANC 300	Broadway Jazz	
Additional three credits from:		3
THEA 371	Stage Combat	
THEA 372	Rapier and Dagger	
Additional six credits from:		6
THEA 211A	Dramatic Literature	
THEA 212A	Dramatic Literature	
THEA 270	Special Studies in Theatre	
THEA 271	Special Studies in Theatre	
THEA 280	Stage Management	
THEA 281	Principles of Arts Administration	
THEA 431	Directing I	
THEA 433	Lighting Design	
THEA 434	Scene Design	
THEA 435	Ideas in Performance	

THEA 436	Costume Design
THEA 451	Special Studies in Theatre
THEA 452	Special Studies in Theatre
THEA 491	Individual Study
THEA 492	Individual Study
THEA 499	Internship

Total Credits **42**

¹ All majors are required to enroll in Theatre Practicum each semester except during the semester of the Senior Project; students may count eight practicum credits toward graduation. Six of those credits count toward the major.

General Education Requirements

The general education requirements for Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Fine Arts/Bachelor of Science degrees (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/requirements-bachelor-arts-bachelor-science-degrees/>) apply to all students who are seeking to earn an undergraduate B.A., B.F.A., B.S. or B.S.Ed. degree.

Students seeking a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree have a separate set of B.L.S general education requirements (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/requirements-bachelor-liberal-studies-degrees/>).

Electives

Elective courses are those that are not needed to fulfill a general education requirement or major program requirement but are chosen by the student to complete the 120 credits required for graduation with a B.A./B.F.A./B.S./B.S.Ed. degree or the B.L.S. degree. These courses may be taken graded or pass/fail (or S/U in the case of physical education and 100-level dance). No student in a regular B.A./B.F.A./B.S./B.S.Ed. program may count more than 60 credits in a single discipline toward the 120 credits required for graduation.

Total Credits Required for the Degree: 120 credits

Plan of Study

This suggested plan of study should serve as a guide to assist students when planning their course selections. It is not a substitute for a student's Degree Evaluation or the Program Requirements listed for this major in the catalog. Academic planning is the student's responsibility, and course selections should be finalized only after speaking with an advisor. Students should familiarize themselves with the catalog in effect at the time they matriculated at the University of Mary Washington. Students should also familiarize themselves with general education requirements (<https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/>) which can be fulfilled through general electives as well as major/minor course requirements. Course requirements and sequencing may vary with AP, IB, CLEP, Cambridge or previous coursework, transfer courses, or other conditions. To be considered full-time, an undergraduate student must be enrolled in 12 or more credits for the semester.

Course	Title	Credits
Freshman		
Fall		
FSEM 100	First-Year Seminar	3
THEA 321	Acting I	4
THEA 390	Theatre Practicum	1

General Education Courses	7
Credits	15

Spring		
THEA 240	Stage Makeup ¹	3
THEA 322	Acting II	4
THEA 390	Theatre Practicum	1
General Education Courses	7	
Credits	15	

Sophomore		
Fall		
THEA 218	Voice and Body Movement	4
THEA 390	Theatre Practicum	1
Program Electives	3	
General Education Courses	7	
Credits	15	

Spring		
THEA 318	Stage Dialects ²	3
THEA 390	Theatre Practicum	1
Program Electives	3	
General Education Courses or Electives	8	
Credits	15	

Junior		
Fall		
THEA 361	Theatre History and Literature	3
THEA 390	Theatre Practicum	1
THEA 411	Acting Styles ²	4
General Electives	6	
Credits	14	

Spring		
THEA 362	Theatre History and Literature	3
THEA 390	Theatre Practicum	1
Program Electives	3	
General Electives	9	
Credits	16	

Senior		
Fall		
THEA 131	Technical Production ³	4
THEA 400	Professional Identity and Practice	1
Program Electives	3	
General Electives	7	
Credits	15	

Spring		
THEA 482	Senior Project ⁴	3
Program Electives	3	
General Electives	9	
Credits	15	
Total Credits	120	

¹ Offered in alternating years. Students should take this course in the first two years of the program.

² Offered in a rotating sequence. May be taken in any semester in which it is offered.

³ May be taken in any semester.

⁴ May be taken in fall or spring of senior year.

Theatre and Dance Faculty

Marc A. Williams, Chair and Career Advisor

Professor

Gregg Stull

Associate Professors

Michael G. Benson
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Assistant Professors

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