

Theatre Technology & Design

In the Department of Theatre and Dance, theatre technology and design is one of the fastest growing areas and is in high demand. During your time of study, you will learn both in the classroom and in a practical setting, working both backstage as well as on stage. At NMU, we pride ourselves on developing students into designers and technologists, where they are the frontrunners of making our departmental productions come to life. During your time at NMU, you will have the opportunity to work in our state of the art, 500 seat proscenium theatre, the Forest Roberts, as well as our Panowski Black Box that reflects many professional theatres across the country. We at the Department of Theatre and Dance believe that as a pre-professional training program, it is our responsibility to ensure that students' opportunities reflect what they will be getting once they enter the professional world. If you are interested in exploring technology and design for theatre and discovering all of the avenues that it can open for you in the world of theatre, television, and film, then the Theatre Technology and Design degree within NMU's Department of Theatre and Dance is the perfect program for you!

Skills and Competencies

NMU's Department of Theatre and Dance strives to create a learning environment where students excel both academically and professionally. In classes, we develop your skills of designing, writing, communicating and increase your knowledge of theatre education. In the shops and on or behind the stage, we work diligently to provide you with the education that you need to develop into young professionals or move to the next level of your technology and design theatre studies. Our goal as a faculty at NMU is to be able to have our students accomplish design or technical theatre work that will appear on stage before they graduate, be it in the area of scenery, costumes, lighting, sound, media, stage management, or technical direction and engineering. Additionally, through our faculty's industry affiliations, students have the opportunity to work alongside faculty in the professional sector as interns, assistants, and/or in many of our study abroad programs.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

BFA Core (27 cr.)

TH120	Music Theory for Theatre & Dance Students (2 cr.)
TH131	Stagecraft (2 cr.)
TH132	Acting 1 or TH134 Acting for BFA (2 cr.)
TH141	Fundamental of Design (2 cr.)
TH360	Theatre History 1 (4 cr.)
TH361	Theatre History 2 or TH260 Dramatic Lit. (4 cr.)
TH432	Theatre & Entertainment Careers (1 cr.)
TH456	Entertainment Arts Management (4 cr.)
TH480	Theatre & Entertainment Arts Capstone (1 cr.)
TH491	Practicum in Theatre & Entertainments Arts (1 cr.) Repeat 4 times
TH493	Field Studies or TH492 Internship (1-8cr.)

Technology & Design Foundation (24 cr.)

TH140	Stage Electronics (2 cr.)
TH142	Sound & Media Engineering (2 cr.)
TH143	Costume Construction (2 cr.)
TH233	Digital drafting & Rendering (2 cr.)
TH234	Makeup Studio (2 cr.)
TH240	Intro to Lighting Design (2 cr.)
TH241	Intro to Scenic Design (2 cr.)
TH242	Intro Sound & Media Design (2 cr.)
TH243	Intro to Costume Design (2 cr.)
TH253	Intro to Stage Management (2 cr.)
TH352	Directing Theory (2 cr.)

Intermediate Course (8 cr.)

Advanced Courses (12 cr.)

General Electives (9-19 cr.)

** Must take at least twice with different content
Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship and the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society, the more ways you have to develop your professional skills and gain experience. In addition to participating in the various productions and activities offered by the Forest Roberts Theatre, NMU, and beyond, members have the opportunity to be part of a family unlike any other. Of course, your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

The BFA in Theatre Technology and Design is a highly specialized and sought after program of study. This degree offers 6 different areas of study - Scenery, Costumes, Lighting, Sound and Media, Stage Management, and Technical Direction. In most cases, students will be admitted into the program in their freshman year, but students may also audition for the BFA program in any year of study if they choose to do so. Admittance into the BFA program requires an interview and portfolio submission.

Job Outlook

As we continue to see within our program, the job market for Theatre Technologists and Designers is vast and exciting. Furthermore, the training that the Department of Theatre and Dance offers its students prepares them for an abundant of careers.

Potential Careers

NMU's Theatre Technology and Design Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Design for Plays
- Design for Film
- Design for Amusement Parks
- Comic Book Art
- Night Club Design
- Concert Design
- Design for Musicals
- Design for TV
- Video Game Design
- Digital Renderer
- Draftsperson
- Museum Curation/Design
- Industry
- Product designer
- Corporate Events Design
- Interior Design
- Stage Manager
- Wedding Planner
- Event Planner
- Puppet Creation
- Theatre Properties
- Technical Director
- Character Creation
- Cutter/Draper First Hand
- Display Design/Coordinator

- Murals
- Restaurant Design
- Exhibit Design
- Architecture
- Stage Manager
- Party Planner
- Art Director
- Cruise Ship & Resort
- Fashion
- Attraction Design

Additional Resources and Information

- For Career Planning and Opportunities:
 - Academic & Career Advisement Center
 - 3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
 - 906-227-2971
 - www.nmu.edu/acac
 - Communication and Performance Studies
 - 203 Thomas Fine Arts
 - 906-227-2045
 - www.nmu.edu/caps
- For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
- Career Services
 - 3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
 - 906-227-2800
 - www.nmu.edu/careers
- For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
- Center for Student Enrichment
 - 1206 University Center
 - 906-227-2439
 - www.nmu.edu/cse
- Internet Resource Links:
- www.careers.org
 - www.bls.gov
- For Career Information with National Organizations:
- www.tcg.org -Theatre Communication Group, Inc.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2022



What to do with a major in...

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