

Musical Theatre Major

The BFA in Musical Theatre at NMU is a conservatory-style, immersive training program in performance for aspiring musical theatre professionals. As a student in the program, you will become a “triple threat” as you perfect your singing voice for the stage through rigorous private and group lessons, hone your acting skills, both emotional and technical, through extensive in-class training of different acting pedagogies, and refine your dance skills by learning a variety of different styles, from ballet to contemporary.

Musical theatre students are given numerous performance opportunities throughout their time at Northern, including 6+ mainstage productions each year in two different theaters, the Forest Roberts Theatre and the James A. Panowski Black Box Theatre. Additionally, Marquette, MI boasts a thriving arts community that provides students even more opportunities to do what they love.

If you want to learn from faculty who have worked professionally in the industry both nationally and internationally, have the opportunity to study abroad and experience musical theatre in other cities and even countries, and meet some incredible people along the way, a musical theatre degree from NMU may be for you!

Skills and Competencies

Aspiring musical theatre performers – and anyone interested in careers within the theatre industry – should take part in high school and university theatre and work with community and nonprofit theatre companies for experience. Formal theatre training or acting experience is generally necessary for employment, although some people enter the field without it. Most training takes place at colleges and universities throughout the country offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theatre. College musical theatre curriculum usually includes courses in acting, singing, music, dance, directing, theatre history, and liberal arts. Northern Michigan University is no exception. In fact, the preparation you’ll receive as a musical theatre major at NMU will provide you with a solid academic background that will help you whether or not you decide to enter the theatre industry upon graduation. Your ability to write and speak effectively is absolutely critical in today’s workforce, and your ability to analyze and solve problems is also important. Much of your academic course work – be it in theatre, literature, or philosophy – will help you fine-tune these skills.

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.

Musical Theatre Core(27 cr.)

MU102	Aural Skills 1 (2 cr.)
TH131	Entertainment Technology I (4 cr.)
TH134	Acting for BFA (2 cr.)
TH141	Fundamentals of Entertainment Art and Design (4 cr.)
TH360	History of Theatre (4 cr.)
TH361	Theatre History 2 or
TH260	Dramatic Lit (4 cr.)
TH432	Theatre and Entertainment Careers (1 cr.)
TH456	Entertainment Arts Management (4 cr.)
TH480	Capstone (1 cr.)
TH491	Practicum in Theatre & Entertainment
*Repeat 4x	
TH493	Field Studies (1 cr.) or
	TH 492 Internship (1-8 cr.)

Musical Theatre Foundation (26 cr.)

Mu103	Class Piano 1 (2 cr.)
TH245	Voice & Movement (4 cr.)
TH300	Vocal Performance lessons (1 cr.)
*Repeat 8x	
TH262	Musical Theatre Studio I (2 cr.)
TH263	Musical Theatre Studio II (2 cr.)
TH364	Musical Theatre Studio III (2 cr.)
TH365	Musical Theatre Studio IV (2 cr.)
TH404	American Musical Theatre (4 cr.)

Dance Foundation (19 cr.)

DAN201	Beginning Ballet Technique or DAN301 Intermediate Ballet Technique or DAN401 Advanced Ballet Technique
DAN202	Beginning Contemporary Technique or DAN302 Intermediate Contemporary Technique or DAN402 Advanced Contemporary Technique (2 cr.)
DAN 203	Beginning Jazz Technique or DAN303 Intermediate Jazz Technique or DAN403 Advanced Jazz Technique (2 cr.)
DAN 204	Beginning Tap Dance or DAN304 Dance Improvisation or DAN404 Dance Management (2 cr.)
DAN205	Hip-Hop (1 cr.)
DAN208	Conditioning for Performers (1 cr.)
DAN305	History & Theory of Dance (4 cr.)
DAN310	Choreography Audition Prep (1 cr.)
	Dance Electives (5 cr.)

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

While performers work all around the globe, many musical theatre jobs are found in bigger cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. Performers can also find professional work at summer stock theatres and by attending the Unified Professional Theatre Auditions (UPTAs). Musical theatre majors should also take into consideration that their musical theatre education is ongoing, and that even after graduation, their vocal, acting, and dance skills will need to be maintained, potentially by continuing to take vocal/acting/dance lessons, classes, and workshops. Those interested in non-performance musical theatre careers, such as teaching or therapy positions, may require additional education/certification before entering those career fields. Practical experience is a must for jobs in the musical theatre field.

Job Outlook

Careers in theatre and dance are expected to grow as fast as average. Due to the very diverse collection of professions, salary can range from very low to as much as top earning Hollywood stars.

Potential Careers

NMU's Musical Theatre Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Actor	Scenic Designer
Advertising Manager	Screenwriter
Booking Agent	Sound Designer
Box Office Manager	Special Effects
Box Office Treasurer	Speech Writer
Campaign Manager	Stage Carpenter
Casting Director	Stage Electrician
Choreographer	Stage Manager
Company Manager	Technical Direction
Costumer	Theatre Management
Critic	Tour Coordinator
Development Specialist	Playwright
Director	Press Agent
Director of Audience Development	
Dolly Grip	Producer
Dramaturge	Properties Designer
Fund Raising	Radio/TV Announcer
Gaffer	
Librettist	
Lighting Designer	
Makeup Technician/Designer	
Personal Director	

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
2021



What to do with
a major in...

Musical Theatre

