

# Musical Theatre Major

The Forest Roberts Theatre is one of the finest university theatres in the nation, boasting an upgraded computerized lighting control along with an upgraded sound system. Theatre majors put what they learn in performance and technical theatre classes into practice onstage and backstage in five major productions per year.

Experimental theatre space in the Black Box Theatre located in the McClintock Building is also home to numerous student-directed productions, as well as, many performance classes.

If you're interested in pursuing a theatre-related career, and are willing to work hard to gain the necessary experience and skills, then a Theatre and Entertainment Arts degree from NMU may be for you. You will have the opportunity to become involved in all NMU theatrical productions, from acting to directing to working on production and technical crews. These are all occurrences from which you will gain critical experience and acquire marketable skills and competencies. You may even find yourself a part of award-winning productions, like the students involve in the 1994 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival award-winning production of *Haywire*.

## Skills and Competencies

Aspiring actors and directors—and anyone interested in careers within the dramatic field—should take part in high school and university theatre, or work with community and nonprofit theatres for experience. Formal theatre training or acting experience is generally necessary, 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 theatre curricula usually include courses in acting, directing, stagecraft, design, theatre history and the liberal arts. Northern Michigan University is no exception. In fact, the preparation you'll receive as a 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 field. Your ability to write and speak effectively is absolutely critical in today's workforce. Similarly, 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 Tech       |
|         | nique (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

Involvement in the NMU theatre and dance department entails direct hands-on experience in acting, costuming skills, stage management, properties design, lighting design, and even theatre marketing.

## 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](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

Communication and Performance Studies  
203 Thomas Fine Arts  
906-227-2045  
[www.nmu.edu/caps](http://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](http://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](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

Internet Resource Links:

[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:

[www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org) -Theatre Communication Group, Inc.



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2020



What to do with  
a major in...

## Musical Theatre

