

GOALS FOR THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE

The James Madison University School of Theatre and Dance seeks to provide the following benefits for its students and/or the general University community:

- An ability to understand and express conceptual knowledge
- An appreciation of the great works of theater and dance by viewing productions
- An appreciation of theatre and dance as it exists on television, in films, on the stage and in other daily activities
- Training to work within a group toward a defined goal with a deadline
- Training for a professional career in theatre and/or dance
- Training for graduate level studies in theatre and/or dance
- To provide interdisciplinary support and enrichment to academic programs at James Madison University
- To provide artistic stimulation and cultural enrichment to the extended community of James Madison University and the Shenandoah Valley.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR THE THEATRE CONCENTRATION

1. The student shall become proficient in the collaborative process of theatre production, and develop the skills necessary to work within a group toward a defined goal under a deadline. This shall include the ability to collaborate with other arts disciplines, including dance and music.
2. The student shall learn and be able to use correct theatre terminology in all areas of theatrical production.
3. The student shall have a thorough knowledge of various theatrical genre and staging formats, with strong proficiencies in one or more area.
4. The student shall have a thorough knowledge of a variety of different styles of theatrical production, including non-traditional and non-western approaches.
5. The student shall have a thorough knowledge of important works of dramatic literature from the past and present including works of criticism and theory as well as the reading list of plays.

6. The student shall have a thorough knowledge of important periods and movements in world theatre history, including the works of leading playwrights, actors, directors and designers.
7. The student shall have a thorough knowledge of the interrelationship between the live theatre and the allied arts and entertainment fields of motions pictures and television.
8. The student shall become capable of making and communicating in writing informed critical assessments of theatrical performances, including all aspects of artistic and technical production.
9. The student shall have a thorough knowledge of basic production processes to include acting, directing, design, technical production and management.
10. The student shall participate regularly in public performances of various scales and styles. The student should experience a variety of different theatrical roles among the disciplines of acting, directing, design and theatrical production.
11. The student shall have a thorough knowledge of the basic working practices of the professional theatre, including unions, professional expectations and employment opportunities.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR THE MUSICAL THEATRE CONCENTRATION

In addition to the objectives of the theatre concentration, the musical theatre concentration has these program objectives.

1. The student shall develop a thorough understanding of the unique and complex requirements of integrating music and theatre into a unified production.
2. The student shall develop expertise in specific performance techniques that are unique to musical theatre production to include: vocal skills, dance and choreographic skills, other specific skills appropriate to individual needs and abilities.
3. The student shall have a thorough knowledge of the allied music genre of opera, light opera, orchestra and choral performance, jazz and contemporary musical productions.
4. The student shall have a thorough knowledge of the history and literature of musical theatre, opera and other appropriate music areas.
5. The student shall participate regularly in musical theatre performances of various scales and styles.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR THE DANCE CONCENTRATION

1. The student shall recognize the historical, philosophical and cultural dimensions of dance past and present, including: the people, places and events that have influenced the development of dance as an art form, the different functions of dance in society and world culture, the ability to understand and evaluate contemporary thinking about dance and related arts.
2. The student shall learn and be able to utilize correct dance terminology.
3. The student shall gain an understanding of how to analyze and document movement using a variety of techniques including: video, written descriptive, oral, and computer generated examples.
4. When viewing dance, the student shall be capable of identifying appropriate styles and cultural genre to include:
 - A. American Vernacular Dance; jazz, musical theatre, tap
 - B. Ballet; baroque dance, romantic, classical, neoclassic and modern ballet
 - C. Folk; Asian, African, European, North American, South American
 - D. Modern; forerunners, pioneers and 2nd generation, avant garde and experimental, post modern.
5. The student shall have an understanding of and the ability to demonstrate/instruct the fundamentals of movement including:
 - A. Correct body alignment and centering for non-moving and moving bodies
 - B. Dance exercises for strength, flexibility, endurance, balance, agility and coordination.
 - C. Duplication of movement patterns bilaterally in detail with consideration to time, space, weight and flow.
6. The student shall develop competence in at least two, in addition to professional level proficiency in at least one of the following dance forms: ballet, folk, jazz, modern.
7. The student shall be capable of understanding and demonstrating the elements of performance to include: communication, concentration and focus, interpretation, motivation, musicality (phrasing and rhythm), projection, technical competence.
8. The student shall demonstrate the capacity to perform in both solo and group choreographic works.
9. The student will have performed in a variety of public situations as a dancer. These situations will include at least two of the following: formal showings (showcases), studio concerts, mainstage, off campus tours.

10. The student shall be capable of original choreography in both solo and group works. These capabilities shall include:
 - A. Create dance movements and be able to sequence these movements forming complete compositions.
 - B. Manipulate time, space, weight and flow in dance movements to communicate meaning through movement.
 - C. Utilize various approaches to sound, lighting, costume and other mediums.
11. The student shall be capable of movement improvisation including the use of improvisation as a tool in the development of choreography.
12. The student shall possess an appreciation of music to include:
 - A. A basic knowledge of music fundamentals (timing, phrasing, dynamics, style)
 - B. An ability to select appropriate sound accompaniment
 - C. An ability to create their own sound accompaniment
 - D. An increased awareness of the range of music available.
13. The student shall be capable of collaboration with other art practitioners including; music, theatre, visual arts, language arts, telecommunications.
14. The student shall be familiar with technical dance production areas to include; sound production, lighting design and technology, costume design and construction, make-up design and implementation, set design and construction, production management and business management.
15. The student shall be capable of making critical assessments of dance in written and oral form.
16. The student shall be capable of planning and implementing a series of dance lesson plans for students with no or limited dance experience.
17. The student shall have an understanding of ways they can maintain a continuing involvement with dance.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR THE THEATRE AND DANCE MINOR

1. The student shall develop a general understanding of the history of theatre and/or dance as an art form.
2. The student shall complete courses which shall provide a general understanding of the typical techniques, practices and approaches to theatre and/or dance.
3. The student shall complete courses which emphasize a particular aspect of theatre and/or dance studies. This might include performance techniques, design and technology, history and criticism, or a plan designed to meet the unique needs of an individual student.
4. The student shall develop an appreciation for theatre and/or dance as a significant element of enrichment in the quality of life in the community. Graduates who do not become participants in the arts should develop an understanding of means to become supporters of all art forms in society.