How Tracks Work in the Theatre Concentration
School of Theatre and Dance, James Madison University

TO TRACK?
Tracks allow students to pursue concentrated and advanced study in particular areas while gaining specific, track-related advising and preferential admission to select courses. For three of the four tracks offered, the track consists of nine credit hours, typically three courses. The nine credit hours are part of the 45 credit hours required to complete the concentration and major. Your track will be designated on your transcript after graduation.

... OR NOT TO TRACK?
Students are not required to do a track or audition/portfolio review for one. If they choose, they can continue in their junior and senior years untracked, taking nine credits as they choose. Being untracked does not make students ineligible for any School of Theatre and Dance course, provided prerequisites are met; however, since tracked students are admitted to select courses first, it is possible for some courses to be full before they become available to untracked majors.

ADMISSION TO TRACKS
It is possible to pursue more than one track. They are not mutually exclusive.

Admission to tracks is by audition or portfolio review in the spring of the sophomore year. Notices of the date, time, and requirements for auditions/reviews are posted late in the fall semester.

Prospective freshman audition or portfolio review for admission to the Theatre Concentration and School of Theatre and Dance with one or more tracks in mind, but their audition/review done at that time qualifies them for admission to the concentration rather than a track. That experience, however, serves to inform the faculty of the track(s) in which each student is interested and those for which they seem, at that point in time, most capable and prepared. Student interests and plans, however, sometimes shift by the spring of the sophomore year. The initial audition/review also assists faculty in assigning appropriate academic advisors.

WHAT IS REQUIRED AT THE AUDITION/PORTFOLIO REVIEW FOR TRACKS?
Specifics are posted with the audition/review notice. However, the general requirements include:

- Transcript; Resume; Interview; Statement of Interest for the appropriate track; portfolio of work or audition.

WHAT ARE THE TRACKS?
The four tracks include

- Performance (acting – 9 credits)
- Design and Technology (all design and tech areas, stage management* – 9 credits)
- Theatre Studies (theatre history, dramaturgy, theatre criticism, playwriting, directing, arts management, stage management* – 9 credits)
- Theatre Education (12 Theatre credits; 20 College of Education credits)

This track culminates in the exam to gain Virginia Pre-K-12 Teacher Licensure, which is transferrable to other states with minor adjustments, such as a state exam or extra course. (admission to this track requires completion of requirements for the Professional Education program through the Education Support Center, part of the College of Education. Because this track requires significantly more hours than the others, current
Sophomores can take this track only if they realize that in most cases it would mean studying for an additional academic semester or year and that they would not know if they are accepted into the track until they fulfill the Professional Education program admission requirements.

Students interviewing for the **Theatre Education Track** should prepare the following:

1. Resume focused on teaching, directing, and technical theatre experience (acting experience can be a component, but should not the be the primary focus). This could include coursework, workshops, shows, jobs, etc.

2. Statement about reasons for interest in theatre education in general and our program, specifically.

3. Recommendations from employers, instructors, or parents. Thank you letters from families/children.

4. Sample lesson plans or instructional units.

5. Video footage or photographs of the candidate teaching.

6. Samples of student work resulting from instruction.

*The first three items listed are required. The student applicant's ability to supply the last three will depend upon their experience thus far, and should be included if they are available.*

*Stage management may be pursued through either the Design/Technology or Theatre Studies track.

**WHAT ARE THE TRACK REQUIREMENTS?**

**Theatre Studies Track**  Choose any nine THEA credits not already applied to the major OR six THEA credits and one of the following courses:

- THEA 449. London Theatre
- THEA/ENG 485. American Theatre
- ENG 317. Shakespeare's Tragedies and Romances
- ENG 318. Shakespeare's Comedies and Histories
- ENG 320L. Shakespeare on the Page and Stage in London
- ENG 333. Modern Drama
- ENG 334. Contemporary Drama

**Performance Track**

- THEA 452. Acting III: Contemporary Scene Study
- THEA 453. Acting IV: Approaches to Heightened Language
- THEA 460. Auditioning and Professional Issues

**Design/Technology Track**  Choose two courses not already applied to the major:

- THEA 333. Costume Design
- THEA 374. Stage Lighting
- THEA 376. Scene Design

*Choose one course not already applied to the major:*

- THEA 271. Technical Theatre
- THEA 331. Technical Costuming
- THEA 332. Survey of Costume
THEA 336. Stage Makeup
THEA 371. Advanced Technical Theatre
THEA 471. Stage Management
THEA 473. Advanced Design and Rendering
THEA 390/490. Special Topics (with permission)

Theatre Education Track (complete all listed courses) (this track requires 23 credit hours beyond the others)

THEA 310. Theatre for Young Audiences
THEA 303. Topics in Theatre (Methods - Primary)
THEA 303 Topics in Theatre (Methods – Secondary)
THEA 490. Special Studies in Theatre (Practicum)

Required Education & Psychology Courses
GPSYC 160. Life Span Human Development*
EDUC 300. Foundations of American Education
EDUC 480. Student Teaching (12 credits)
READ 420. Content Area Literary, K-12 (2 credits)

* GPSYC 160 may double count as fulfilling a General Education requirement and COE requirement.