Program Overview

The theatre program within the department of fine and performing arts at Saint Louis University creates an education experience based on the combination of theoretical classroom explorations and the practical production of plays. Our program specializes in all aspects of production, from set design and lighting to costume design and acting. The theatre program produces plays that challenge students to consider diverse values, viewpoints and expressions of the creative imagination. The collaborative atmosphere among students and faculty members on the theoretical challenges of classroom projects and the practical realization of our public performances prepare students to present their imaginative ideas to others.

Through mentoring and advising from faculty, students work together, pushing each other to new levels of learning. They learn to clearly and appropriately present their imaginative ideas to others and explore their creativity. Most importantly, students develop a collective responsibility and commitment to their work.

Our collaborative efforts don’t end in the classroom. Through faculty connections, many students find auditions among the 30 professional theatres around St. Louis, including the Fabulous Fox Theatre, located in the Grand Arts Center one block from SLU’s campus; the newly renovated Peabody Opera House; and the Muny, America’s oldest and largest outdoor musical theater. By branching into these communities, students enhance their education by encountering new perspectives and new roles.

About the Faculty

Seven full-time faculty, assisted by adjunct instructors and two full-time staff, guide the educational experiences of students. Full-time faculty hold terminal degrees in their field of specialization and work in the region and across the country. Adjunct faculty are drawn from the talented pool of theatre professionals who live and work in St. Louis.

Curriculum

Our program and core curriculum provide students with the educational foundation for success in careers inside and outside of theatre.

The University Theatre stages four full-length plays on the 400-seat proscenium main stage and a variety of plays in the 70-seat studio theatre. Every theatre major is involved in some way with each production. Theatre majors and minors form a company of actors, designers and technicians that is responsible, with the mentorship and participation of faculty and staff, for all aspects of each work.

In keeping with the liberal arts focus of Saint Louis University and a long tradition of undergraduate theatre education, company members are expected to develop a basic level of proficiency and practical knowledge in all aspects of theatre while also completing the required core curriculum within the College of Arts and Sciences. The formation of a company highlights the collaborative nature of theatre and the importance of shared commitment and responsibility in pursuit of a goal.

The Bachelor of Arts in theatre requires 36 credit hours, and the minor requires 21 credit hours.
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

Students pursuing all disciplines of theatre (acting, costume design and set design) may apply for the Theatre Talent Scholarship. In addition to completing an application, interested students must audition, present a portfolio and/or interview for the award.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

Internships and Careers

Students participate in the Midwest Theatre Auditions and other local auditions for summer theatre jobs and internships with organizations across the country. Students pursue local employment and internship opportunities with the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the St. Louis Black Repertory Company, Opera Theatre St. Louis, the Muny Theatre and other professional organizations.

Graduates enter M.F.A. programs in theatre or the theatre job market. Alumni work in professional theatre, feature films, television productions, commercials and other venues where actors, playwrights, directors, designers and theatrical craftspeople are needed. Graduates also market their skills in non-theatrical venues such as law, training, sales, marketing and other presentational activities.

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Graduate Programs
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x14265.xml.

Revised April 2015