

PHD IN THEATRE



Why the PhD in Theatre?

The doctoral program in Theatre at BGSU emphasizes the connection of theatre and performance studies scholarship to artistry, and their application in pedagogical and other professional contexts. Students are advised to develop programs that are grounded in a thorough understanding of Theatre and Performance History, Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Theories, and Research Methods.

Why the PhD in Theatre at BGSU?

Graduates from our PhD program find careers in education, community and professional theatres, as well as other fields related to or drawing on theatre-making and theatre studies skills. Our nationally and internationally recognized faculty members represent numerous specialties in research and production. The Department of Theatre and Film at Bowling Green State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared:

- To analyze diverse performance texts from various historical periods and cultural backgrounds.
- To demonstrate fluency in the theories, criticisms, and research methodologies in the interdisciplinary fields of theatre and performance.
- To use performance as the site and process for critical, cultural, and historical understandings.
- To develop the ability to collaborate in theatre production as a dramaturg, actor, director, designer and/or technician.
- To communicate and present knowledge as a scholar-artist-citizen in professional formats.
- To develop teaching skills suitable for university-level or equivalent contexts.
- To develop and carry out a publishable research project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Jonathan Chambers, Professor and Graduate Studies Coordinator, Department of Theatre and Film, College of Arts & Sciences, at jonathnc@bgsu.edu or 419-372-9618.

Program strengths and uniqueness

- The course of study prepares graduates to conduct original research that will contribute to scholarship in the student's area of specialization, to teach, to consider the application of skills acquired in careers beyond the academy, and to participate in theatre production in a range of capacities.
- The graduate faculty in the Department of Theatre and Film at BGSU are accomplished researchers and artists, many of whom have achieved national and international recognition for their scholarly and creative work.
- Faculty seek to create an environment that encourages rigorous and civil intellectual interaction among students.
- While the primary emphasis of any doctoral program in the arts focuses on historical, theoretical, and pedagogical approaches to the subject matter, doctoral students in Theatre at BGSU are nonetheless encouraged to participate in theatre productions and seek ways of bringing those artistic experiences to bear upon their research endeavors.
- The graduate faculty in theatre engage in an ongoing review of the doctoral curriculum, to ensure that it corresponds with ever-evolving disciplinary norms.

Professional opportunities

Graduates of the PhD program have found employment within the academy in institutions that approach theatre studies in the liberal arts tradition. Outside of the academy, students have found employment in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. The graduate faculty is committed to enhancing placement assistance for doctoral program graduates, through contacts with potential employers and continued development of the program of study in light of advances in the discipline and demands of the market.



"The BGSU Department of Theatre & Film's emphasis on both practical and inquiry-based learning supported my growth as an artist and scholar. The research, teaching, and performance skills I developed as a doctoral student are invaluable to my professional and creative life. Moreover, the faculty provided effective mentorship both during and after my time in the program."

— Timothy Schaffer, Ph.D. '10
Educational Technology Specialist, New York University

Admission requirements

Admission to the PhD in Theatre program requires completion of a bachelor's degree with a minimum undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale (or its equivalent), and completion of a master's degree with a minimum graduate GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent). Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted.

Applicants are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), a CV/resume, a sample of critical writing, a personal statement of purpose for attending graduate school, and three letters of reference.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTEA), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement.

Cost of tuition

Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/bursar for current information on tuition and fees.

Financial assistance

A limited number of scholarships and graduate assistantships are available on a competitive basis for full-time students who qualify. For more information, please contact the program.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.

Fall Application Deadline: Applications and supporting materials should be received by January 15th to receive fullest consideration for admission and funding. Applications received after that will be reviewed for admission, but consideration for financial assistance may be limited based on available funds.

Spring/Summer Application Deadlines: Applications and supporting materials should be received at least four weeks prior to the start of the term. Graduate assistantships are generally not available for students starting in the spring or summer.

Curriculum

1. A minimum of 90 semester hours including master's degree and dissertation hours.
2. No less than 18 or more than 30 credit hours of THFM 7990: Dissertation Research. Students may count 18 credit hours toward the degree.
3. Foreign language preparation courses may not be included in the minimum of 90 credit hours even though they may be expected or required by the department.
4. Undergraduate and M.A. repair courses, and courses that are audited, may not be included in the minimum of 90 credit hours even though they may be expected or required.
5. Thirty hours of credit from a student's master's program may be counted toward the minimum 90 credit hours required. Up to 9 additional hours of post master's work from another school may be accepted (provided these credit hours were earned as doctoral work elsewhere). Students may petition for transfer credit once they have completed eight hours of graduate work at BGSU.
6. All students must complete the following Research Tool Sequence (12 credit hours):
 - THFM 6590: Research Methods in Theatre and Performance Studies
 - THFM 6630: Introduction to Performance Studies
 - THFM 7680: Interdisciplinary Performance Theory
 - THFM 7810: Research and Publication in Theatre and Performance Studies
7. All students must complete 15 credit hours offered from the History & Literature/Theory/Criticism (HLTC) sequence, and 15 credit hours offered from the Performance Studies/Practice (PSP) sequence. A representative sample of regularly offered courses includes:
 - THFM 6600: Theatre/Performance in Cultural Context I
 - THFM 6610: Theatre/Performance in Cultural Context 2
 - THFM 6640: Directing Practice
 - THFM 6670: Staging Image and Text
 - THFM 6700: Performance and Theatre in the Americas
 - THFM 7600: Theatre/Performance Pedagogy and Professional Development
 - THFM 7620: Directing and Staging Theory
 - THFM 7740: Contemporary Theatre and Performance
8. No more than 6 credit hours of THFM 6880, 7960, or 7970 (Internship in Repertory Theatre or Supervised Practicum in Theatre/Theatre Performance) may be included in the minimum program.
9. Independent Studies (THFM 7840 or 7850: Directed Readings in Theatre/Performance and THFM 7860: Research Problems in Theatre/Performance) may potentially be taken to fulfill any of the three categories (Research Tool, HLTC, and PSP).
10. Courses in other departments may on occasion be taken as a substitute for a required course, upon approval of the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate Studies Committee.

A fuller description of the PhD program of study may be found on the Department of Theatre and Film's website, and in the PhD Program Handbook, available upon request.