

Theater and Performance Studies, AM

Master's Candidacy

To earn a master's degree at Washington University, a student must complete all courses required by their department; maintain satisfactory academic progress; fulfill all academic and residence requirements; and file an Intent to Graduate. For a general layout of master's degree general requirements in Arts & Sciences, including an explanation of Satisfactory Academic Progress, students should review the Master's Degree Academic Information page of the Arts & Sciences *Bulletin*.

Program Requirements

- **Total Units Required:** 36 units
- **Degree Length:** 2 years
 - **Note:** Students must be enrolled in 9 graduate credits each semester to retain full-time status. As students complete their course work, if enrolled in fewer than 9 graduate credits, they must enroll in a specific Arts & Sciences graduate course that will show 0 units but does count as full-time status. Students should connect with their department to ensure proper enrollment prior to Add/Drop.
- Students must earn a final grade of B or higher in all courses.

I. Required courses: 18 units (6 courses)

1. **Drama 5101 Intro to Graduate Study in Drama.** As a general introduction to advanced scholarship in theater and performance studies, this course is designed to familiarize first-year graduate students with expectations for advanced research and professional writing. It is also intended to provide an overview of theater and performance studies, focusing on the relationship between these two scholarly domains, major works of scholarship that have defined the field, and current debates redrawing its contours.
2. **Drama 5303 Performance Theory.** This course introduces students to contemporary theories of performance, with "performance" understood as both metaphor and event. From a multidisciplinary perspective, students will consider how cultures produce meanings — and, indeed, perform those meanings — to create and/or disrupt their own social coherence. Theorists studied include J.L. Austin, Victor Turner, Erving Goffman, and Judith Butler.
3. **Drama 5305 Seminar in Dramatic Theory.** An in-depth exploration of core works of dramatic theory from the ancient world to the present, this course focuses on texts that enunciate what theater is, has been, and should be. Readings

address theater's role in society, the anti-theatrical prejudice, the aesthetic pleasures of drama and theater, theater as a means of educating the citizen, and the relationship between dramatic form and social and political revolution.

4. **Theater/Performance History.** One 500-level historically-based seminar from a list of approved courses taught *within* the Performing Arts Department. Topics vary by semester.
5. **Theater Practice.** At least one (but no more than three) 500-level course(s) in theater practice: dramaturgy, directing, playwriting, or design.
6. Master of Arts students in Theater and Performance Studies should develop knowledge of and appreciation for aesthetic forms, intellectual paradigms, and cultural conditions beyond the largely white, Eurocentric approaches that have prevailed in the modern university curriculum. To that end, students will complete at least **one graduate-level course examining drama, theater, and/or performance that emerges from racial and/or ethnic communities whose contributions have been historically underrepresented in our field.** Eligible courses include those home-based in the Performing Arts Department as well as approved courses offered through other Arts & Sciences departments.

II. Electives: 15 units (5 courses)

Students are invited to develop a broad-based or specialized curriculum in theater and performance studies, choosing courses from within the Performing Arts Department (including Dance) or as many as four courses (12 units) from departments outside the Performing Arts Department. The program works closely with faculty affiliates in other departments, including Anthropology; Classics; English (and non-Anglophone languages and literatures); Film and Media Studies; Music; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.

III. Master's Research (3 units)

The capstone to the master's degree is the completion of an essay of publishable length (typically 25 double-spaced pages) and quality. This essay is based on a seminar paper written during the student's first three semesters in the program, which must be extensively revised and expanded under the guidance of an advisor. After the revised seminar paper has been submitted to and approved by the director of graduate studies, the student will meet with a committee of three faculty members for an oral exam.

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