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The Theatre School - Graduate Studies

General Information

Catalog Version

GRADUATE UPDATE: MAY 15, 2012
Please use the menu items to the left for current catalog navigation. Access archived catalogs by choosing the link to the right.

About

FOUNDED AS THE GOODMAN SCHOOL OF DRAMA IN 1925

The Theatre School is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres, Illinois Arts Alliance, ASSITEJ/USA, American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE), USITT, and the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education.

When The Theatre School was founded in 1925 at The Art Institute of Chicago, it was called the Goodman School of Drama. By all measurements the school is stronger now than it has ever been. Although our name has changed, the essential life and purpose of the school remains the same. Our basic principles and standards are exactly what they have been for over 80 years. The Theatre School is a conservatory, a strong part of a vital urban University, and we operate with professional concentrations on the development of artists for the theatre and related professions. Further information about The Theatre School is available via the internet at The School's web site, located at http://theatreschool.depaul.edu.

GRADUATE STUDY IN THE THEATRE SCHOOL

The MFA Programs are designed for the student who has had considerable experience at the undergraduate level, the student seeking additional training as a consequence of prior professional work, or the student whose life experience and professional potential meet the qualifications for advanced training. The goals of the training are accomplished by an intense and eclectic process that combines classroom work with a variety of production experiences that:

- Help the student find a way of working that is effective and unique to his or her talent.
- Aid the student in integrating his or her individual work into the collaborative demands of production experiences.
- Equip the student with the skills and released imagination necessary for the highly competitive theatre professions.
The Theatre School buildings are located at 2130 and 2135 North Kenmore Avenue on DePaul’s Lincoln Park Campus. In addition to housing most Theatre School classes, the buildings provide rehearsal rooms, design studios, shop facilities, script library, sound design studio, CAD lab, computer lab, and faculty and staff offices. The buildings are minutes from downtown Chicago by elevated train, bus or car.

DePaul’s historic Merle Reskin Theatre, built in 1910 and formerly called the Blackstone Theatre, was purchased from the Shubert Organization in 1988 and renamed for a major donor in 1992. It provides The Theatre School with a professional-standard, state-of-the-art theatre facility to match the professional standards of the school’s training and productions.

The public productions of The Theatre School Showcase and Chicago Playworks are fully realized at the Merle Reskin Theatre. Students begin their training as part of the backstage and house crew, allowing them hands-on experience in all components of the theatre profession.

The theatre is also shared with several not-for-profit arts organizations in Chicago and an occasional feature film company, exposing Theatre School students to a broader view of the entertainment industry. The DePaul Merle Reskin Theatre is located in the South Loop in the heart of the city. The Theatre School transports students via bus between the school and the theatre for performances.

For the past several seasons the school has been producing the new director’s series and several workshop productions in an 80 seat studio theatre at the Athenaeum Theatre building, one of Chicago’s main off-Loop theatre facilities.

The Theatre School is situated in the center of Chicago’s world renowned theatre community. Neighboring theatre and performing arts companies include the Steppenwolf Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, Royal George Theatre, Apollo Theatre Center, TimeLine Theatre and the Theatre Building.
Faculty and Staff

The Theatre School - Graduate Studies

Faculty and Staff

In keeping with the school's concept of the dual importance of theory and practice and of producing a superior quality of instruction, The Theatre School's faculty and staff are highly qualified, both professionally and academically. The faculty is regularly supplemented by accomplished working professionals. In addition, visiting artists and professionals appear in our guest speaker series, CHICAGO LIVE: THE ARTS. Among them have been playwright David Mamet; actresses Celeste Holm, Florence Henderson, and Julie Harris; actors Rip Torn, Charles Durning, Ray Liotta, Jonathan Pryce, Brian Dennehy and Laurence Fishburne; Chicago's nationally known Steppenwolf Ensemble including John Malkovich, Jeff Perry, and Gary Sinise; the late comedian Avery Schrieber; directors JoAnne Akalaitis, Anne Bogart, Frank Galati, and Paul Sills; and alumni Gillian Anderson, Joe Mantegna, John C. Reilly, and Kevin Anderson, among scores of others. In addition, master classes have recently been conducted by Oscar-winners Faye Dunaway and F. Murray Abraham.

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University of Wisconsin

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Make-up
University of Minnesota

DEXTER ZOLLCOFFER, M.F.A.
Diversity Student Mentor
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Programs of Study

The Theatre School offers programs leading to the Master of Fine Arts degree in the areas of acting, arts leadership and directing. The minimum quarter hour requirements vary from program to program. The acting and directing programs require a three-year course of study. The arts leadership program requires a two-year course of study concurrent with a two-year fellowship employment placement at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.
Admission

The first charter of DePaul University included a statement on nondiscrimination and the policy has been enforced vigorously for 100 years. Students, faculty and the public are entitled to equal treatment regardless of race, creed or color. It is the policy of The Theatre School to make admission decisions without regard to the race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or handicap of the candidate. Admission to the Master of Fine Arts degree programs is based on evidence of ability to be successful in graduate study. Specific requirements include:

- Completion of an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited college or university (as evidenced by official transcripts).
- Completion of graduate application materials.
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Demonstration of special competence in the major area through an audition or interview.

**Application Deadline and Entry Terms**

Applications are only accepted for entry into the fall quarter of each academic year and are generally accepted from September through January for entry the following fall. Detailed information is available at http://theatreschool.depaul.edu/graduate_admissions.php.
Auditions for Candidates in Acting and Directing

ACTING

Our auditions place special emphasis on the applicants potential for future growth. We believe that imagination, personal initiative, self-discipline, stamina, seriousness of commitment to the acting profession and trainability are fundamental.

By trainability, we mean that we attempt to judge the applicants potential for growth. We believe that this potential can be assessed by evaluating how the student reveals inner resources through the work. We look for the students ability to focus personal energies in a relaxed manner which will enhance communication of the conflict the character faces in the context of the play. Students who get trapped in characterization or style tend to demonstrate their level of virtuosity rather than tapping their deeper, inner resources.

MFA Acting applicants should prepare two (2) monologues one contemporary and one classical, a maximum of four minutes total. The classical monologue must be Shakespearean, or from the Restoration, Jacobian or Elizabethan periods. You are urged to select material for which you are temperamentally suited; preferably something in which you might conceivably be cast now or in the near future. Avoid material which causes you to disguise yourself or put on a character. The pieces selected should be from plays. Recital of poetry or cuttings from short stories are not acceptable. Concentration and a sincere interest in your pieces are important. During your audition, keep your attention on what you are doing rather than on the effect you are having on the audition committee.

The audition begins with group physical and vocal work. Wear comfortable clothes appropriate for physical activity (examples: sweats, tee-shirts, shorts, leotards). You may be asked to remove your shoes and socks. If you wish, you may bring a change of clothing to change into after the warm up, though this is not required. After the group session, each person presents his or her monologues privately with our committee. After the monologues, you are assigned a scene partner from among the other auditionees and you and your partner will be given a six-line open scene to work on with our faculty. Once you have completed your scene, you have completed the audition and are done for the day. There are no callbacks.

DIRECTING

In addition to the audition process outlined above, directing students interview with faculty in the directing program and submit a series of written statements including a directorial analysis of a play previously assigned by the program head. Please contact The Theatre Schools Admissions Office for exact written requirements.
Interviews for Candidates in Arts Leadership

In addition to the application materials, arts leadership applicants submit a series of written statements including a personal statement. Please contact The Theatre School's Admissions Office for exact written requirements.

Arts Leadership applicants are evaluated by an admissions committee and semi-finalists are contacted for phone interviews. Finalists are selected for an in-person interview with personnel from The Theatre School and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. The in-person interview will take place in Chicago at applicant's expense. Significant consideration regarding the admissions decision will be placed on the in-person interview.
Procedures for Admission

The Theatre School - Graduate Studies

Procedures for Admission

Applicants for admission should complete the graduate application either online at http://www.depaul.edu/admission/apply_online.asp or obtain a hard copy application by writing, calling or e-mailing the Director of Admissions, The Theatre School, 2135 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614-4111, (773) 325-7999. Outside Illinois, you may call toll free: 1-800-4DEPAUL, extension 57999. E-mail is: theatreadmissions@depaul.edu. In addition to the completed application, a photograph, resume, three letters of recommendation, and official transcripts of undergraduate credit should be submitted to the above address. An audition or interview may be scheduled by contacting the admissions office.

There is an application fee, which you can pay online as part of the online application or send a check or money order payable to DePaul University. Consult the application instructions for specific information about amount of the fee. If you are paying by check, send the fee to The Theatre School, Office of Admissions, 2135 N. Kenmore, Chicago, Illinois 60614-4111. Applications submitted without an application fee will not be processed. The fee is nonrefundable.

DePaul University requires official transcripts from all universities, colleges, and junior colleges you have attended. Please request that transcripts be sent directly to the address provided on the online application Web site or on the paper application form. We recommend that you request transcripts in sufficient time to meet the programs deadline.

Admission Decisions

Admissions decisions are made and communicated after all applicants have auditioned or interviewed. The Theatre School does not operate an early action, early acceptance or rolling admissions process. Decisions are communicated in writing and are mailed mid-March with an April 15 response deadline. Decisions cannot be communicated over the phone or by email. Only applicants who have completed all admissions requirements will be considered for admission.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Every graduate student admitted to The Theatre School is automatically awarded a Graduate Talent Scholarship. Incoming scholarships are awarded in the admissions decision letter.

Financial Aid. There are two types of need-based financial aid available to admitted graduate students loans and work study. To be considered for a need-based financial aid package, applicants must submit a valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is the only application required for need-based financial aid and is not require for scholarship consideration.

The FAFSA becomes available on January 1 of the year in which you will enter college and can either be submitted through a hard copy generally available from college financial aid offices or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. To have your FAFSA results reported to The Theatre School, enter DePaul University's FAFSA code, 001671, in the college section.

We suggest you complete the FAFSA by February 15. Because financial aid packages are packaged on a first-come, first-served basis, submitting your FAFSA by this date will insure you receive full consideration for need-based financial aid. Financial aid packages are mailed separately from the admissions decision letter and are only mailed to students after they have been admitted to The Theatre School.

International Student Admission

Students who require a student visa (I-20) in order to study at DePaul must meet all admission requirements and demonstrate adequate financial support. Applicants educated in a country in which the native language is
not officially recognized as English must also submit proof of English proficiency. Theatre School programs
require a minimum TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 80 (Internet-based test; no section
lower than 17), 213 (computer-based test) or 550 (paper-based test) is required for all applicants. The Theatre
School also accepts an IELTS score of 6.5 or higher in place of the TOEFL. The letter of admission and I-20 are
issued only after admission. International students are encouraged to complete their applications at least one
month prior to any published program deadline, or no later than three months before the start of the term,
whichever date comes first.
Residence Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree

All courses for the Master of Fine Arts degree must be taken at DePaul University. Graduate credit for courses completed at other institutions may not be applied toward the degree, though in some exceptional cases they may be used as a foundation for advanced placement in the design areas only.

Candidates for Acting and Directing must complete nine quarters of a three year course of study. Each course of study is sequential and begins in the autumn quarter only. While it is possible for a student to apply for a leave of absence for one year between two given years of study (i.e., between the second and third year, first and second year), it is never possible to skip one quarter within a single year.

Candidates for Arts Leadership must complete six quarters of a two year course of study and complete a two year fellowship employment placement at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. The fellowship is full-time, salaried with benefits.

All requirements for the degree must be completed within eight calendar years from the time a student is admitted to the degree program. For special students removing deficiencies, this period will begin when all deficiencies are removed and admission to the M.F.A. degree program has been formally granted.
Terminal Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree

The Theatre School - Graduate Studies

Terminal Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree

In addition to completing the graduate requirements of the major program, each student must complete two or three terminal requirements:

1. All graduate students must complete the three-quarter Graduate Seminar sequence with a grade of B- or better in each quarter.

2. For actors, three analytical/reflective papers, each a minimum of 10 pages in length, that in total comprise the graduate thesis.

3. For directors, a graduate thesis project.
**Introduction**

In addition to the DePaul University Graduate Student Handbook, The Theatre School Graduate Student Handbook includes requirements, rules and regulations for its graduate programs.

Upon admission to a graduate program, a student is to follow the catalog requirements in effect at the time of entrance. A student who is readmitted or who changes his or her program or enrollment status is subject to the terms of the catalog in effect at the time of readmission or status change.

As a graduate student you assume the responsibility to know and meet both the general and particular regulations, procedures, policies, and deadlines set forth in this catalog and handbook. This catalog does not constitute a contract between the student and the University. Every effort has been made to provide accurate and firm information. The University reserves the right to revise the content of its catalogs and schedules, and to change policies, programs, requirements, rules, regulations, procedures, calendars and schedule of tuition and fees; to establish and modify admission and registration criteria; to cancel or change courses or programs and their content and prerequisites; to limit and restrict enrollment; to cancel, divide or change time or location or staffing of classes; or to make any other necessary changes.

**Registration & Enrollment**

No one is permitted to attend a class for which he or she has not been properly registered. Credit is accumulated on the basis of quarter hours. The normal class extends over a ten-week period.

Students enrolled for eight or more quarter hours of credit are considered full-time. Those enrolled in four to 7 hours of credit are considered half-time. Those registered for less than 4 quarter hours of credit are considered less than half-time. Normally, students in Theatre School programs are required to be enrolled as full-time students.

**Probation**

**Academic Probation**
A student is subject to probation as soon as his/her graduate GPA falls below 2.500. The student remains on probation until the end of the subsequent quarter, at which time another evaluation is made. If, at that time, the student has failed to raise his/her GPA to the required level of 2.500 the student may be dismissed for poor scholarship, and prohibited from registering for additional course work. If the student has raised his/her GPA to the required level of 2.500, the student will be removed from academic probation.

**Disciplinary Probation**

**Professional Probation**
Invitation to Return & Evaluation Policies

A grade of D+ or D is unacceptable for graduate credit. If earned in a required course, the course must be repeated.

A student must earn a grade of B- or higher to receive graduate credit for any upper level undergraduate course (300 or above) that has been accepted for graduate credit.

Please consult The Theatre School Student Handbook (http://theatreschool.depaul.edu/graduate_conservatory.php) for details on the following:
- MFA Acting Program Capacities and Invitations to Return
- MFA I Grading Procedures for the Acting Program
- MFA Directing Program Evaluation and Continuance Policies
- MFA Arts Leadership Evaluation and Continuance Policies
- Invitations to Return for all Programs
- Invitations to Return Appeal Process

Readmission

A student who was previously enrolled in a graduate program in The Theatre School but has not been in attendance since the end of a leave of absence, but not more than four calendar years, must file a Readmission Application. Normally, this application requires that the student take part in the annual interview and audition process and meet the annual application deadlines. Detailed information is available at http://theatreschool.depaul.edu/graduate_admissions.php. (If more than four years have elapsed since the student been in attendance, a new application is required.)

Official copies of transcripts recording scholastic work taken while not enrolled at DePaul University must be submitted. As a policy, students are held to the degree requirements that are in force at the time of readmission.

Transfer Credit

Normally graduate programs at The Theatre School do not accept credit transferred from another institution. Exceptions can only be granted by the specific departmental chair or program director.

Undergraduate Courses

Courses numbered 300 through 399 are advanced undergraduate courses. If listed in this Catalog, they may be accepted for graduate credit within the limitations stipulated by the specific departmental chair or program director.
Graduation Requirements

You must have successfully completed all of the general and specific degree requirements as listed in departmental or program sections of the catalog under which you were admitted. Current requirements for all Theatre School graduate programs are detailed at: http://sr.depaul.edu/catalog/catalogfiles/Current/The%20Theatre%20School%20Graduate%20Studies/pg14.html

Completed degree requirements can include the submitting of the dissertation or thesis or the research paper, examination scores, and, if necessary, grade changes. Students need to achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.500 to graduate.

Graduation With Distinction

Distinction is conferred upon a student who has maintained a 3.75 cumulative grade point average in the degree program, and passes with distinction the final oral, written examination or masters thesis or project where applicable.

Additional Policies

The Theatre School Student Handbook (http://theatreschool.depaul.edu/graduate_conservatory.php) details additional policies, including (but not limited to) policies related the productions, production assignments, casting, and rehearsal procedures.

Leaves of Absence

Students who find it necessary to interrupt their attendance at The Theatre School may apply for a leave of absence. For details about this policy, please consult The Theatre School Student Handbook (http://theatreschool.depaul.edu/graduate_conservatory.php). Students applying for a leave should also complete the DePaul University Leave of Absence application on Campus Connect.
Major Field Requirements

The Theatre School - Graduate Studies

I. Acting

**FIRST YEAR**
Acting I: PRF 511, PRF 512, PRF 513
Voice I: PRF 531, PRF 532, PRF 533
Speech: PRF 530, PRF 540
Movement I: PRF 521, PRF 522, PRF 523, PRF 524, PRF 525
Improvisation: PRF 551
Acting, Meisner Technique: PRF 552, PRF 553
Rehearsal and Performance: PRF 563
MFA Workshop I, Actor as Entrepreneur: PRF 571, PRF 572, PRF 573

**SECOND YEAR**
Stage Combat: PRF 580
Acting II, Classical: PRF 611, PRF 612, PRF 613
Movement II: PRF 621, PRF 622, PRF 623
Voice and Speech II: PRF 631, PRF 632, PRF 633
Acting II, Contemporary: PRF 641, PRF 642, PRF 643
Rehearsal and Performance: PRF 661, PRF 662, PRF 663
MFA Workshop II, Actor as Entrepreneur: PRF 671, PRF 672, PRF 673

**THIRD YEAR**
Acting III, Company Creation: PRF 711
Acting III, Professional Preparation Seminar: PRF 712
Acting III, Advanced Improvisation: PRF 713
Audition Techniques: PRF 714
Graduate Showcase: PRF 716
Movement III: PRF 721, PRF 722, PRF 723
Voice and Speech: PRF 731
On-Camera Seminar: PRF 720
On-Camera Practicum (Directing Actors for the Camera): DC 450
Theatre Elective: choose one course from PRF 599, PRF 317, PRF 381, PRF 431, PRF 432 or some other performance class with approval from department head
Rehearsal and Performance: PRF 761, PRF 763

II. Directing

**FIRST YEAR**
Directing I: PRF 581, PRF 582, PRF 583
Directing Seminar: PRF 691, PRF 692, PRF 693
Acting I: PRF 511, PRF 512, PRF 513
Acting, Meisner: PRF 552
Dramaturgy I: THE 234, THE 235
Directing Theories: PRF 591, PRF 592
Survey of the Arts for Theatre: take one of THE 382 or THE 383
Theatre Electives: two courses chosen in consultation with advisor
Rehearsal and Performance: take two of PRF 561, PRF 562 or PRF 563
SECOND YEAR
Directing II: PRF 681, PRF 682, PRF 683
Theatrical Collaboration: DES 641, DES 642
Topics in Scene Study: PRF 617, PRF 618, PRF 619
Directing Seminar: PRF 691, PRF 692, PRF 693
Acting II, Classical: PRF 611, PRF 612, PRF 613
Rehearsal and Performance: PRF 661, PRF 662, PRF 663

THIRD YEAR
The Director and New Play Development: PRF 619
Thesis Project: PRF 781, PRF 782, PRF 783
Directing Seminar: PRF 691, PRF 692, PRF 693
Graduate Voice II: PRF 631
Rehearsal and Performance: two courses of PRF 761, PRF 762 or PRF 763
Internship: PRF 690

The Theatre School - Graduate Studies ▶ Major Field Requirements ▶ III. Arts Leadership

III. Arts Leadership

FIRST YEAR
Introduction to Public Service Management   MPS 500
Business and Professional Communication   CMN 546
Writing in the Professions   WRD 522
Financial Administration   MPS 515
Leadership in Organizations   MGT 530
Fundraising and Development for Non-Profit Organizations   MPS 519
Graduate Management Practicum   THE 511, THE 512, THE 513

SECOND YEAR
Working with an External Board   MPS 525
Law and Non-Profit Organizations   MPS 561
Organizational and Interpersonal Dynamics   AP 550
Elective Courses   eight credits total, as approved by advisor
Graduate Thesis Project   THE 681
Current Courses

Please visit Campus Connection at https://campusconnect.depaul.edu/ for current course information. If you do not have a password for Campus Connection you may log on as a guest. Once you are on Campus Connection please select Course Descriptions followed by the department.