Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Department of Theatre and Dance		
Degree abbreviation	B.F.A.	**CIP code**	50.0501
Program website	www.fau.edu/artsandletters/theatre/study-with-us/theatre-undergraduate		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The mission of the Department of Theatre and Dance is to produce innovative artists and scholars through a pursuit of academic and creative excellence. The B.F.A. offers intensive training for students pursuing careers in theatre.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The program supports the university's mission by transforming lives through intensive, real-world training. Students audition for and perform in main-stage productions and work on shows every semester, graduating ready for careers.

About the program

B.F.A. students train intensively for professional theatre careers. They audition for every main-stage production and complete six production practicums with faculty directors and designers. The program is a great fit for dedicated performers ready for conservatory-style training.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☐ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☒ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to use research on scripts and their contexts to inform production and performance work.
Graduates will be able to apply acting and theatre production skills at a professional level.

How students show it

Production assignments in the six required production practicums, auditions and main-stage performances reviewed by the acting faculty.

Where it is assessed

THE 4954 Production Capstone; Main-stage performances reviewed by acting faculty

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☐ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☒ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☒ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Graduates will be able to communicate clearly with fellow artists and share a production's artistic goals with an audience.
Graduates will be able to collaborate successfully with directors, designers and other artists on a production.

How students show it

Main-stage performances and production assignments, reviewed by faculty for collaboration and communication.

Where it is assessed

THE 4955 Summer Rep Theatre Workshop; THE 4954 Production Capstone; Main-stage performances reviewed by acting faculty

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

- ☐ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☒ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to create theatre by combining scripted works, critical research and creative imagination.

How students show it

Main-stage performances and each student's creative contribution to productions, reviewed by faculty.

Where it is assessed

THE 4954 Production Capstone; Main-stage performances reviewed by acting faculty

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

The acting faculty assess each student's audition skills and, after each role, the student's performance and growth as an actor. At the end of each term, a faculty committee of production directors and designers reviews each student's production practicum work, including the size and complexity of assignments and artistic skill.

Assessment methods may change over time.