Master of Fine Arts in theatre

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Theatre		
Degree abbreviation	M.F.A.	**CIP code**	50.0501
Program website	Enter program web address (e.g., www.fau.edu/program-name)		

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 M.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

M.F.A. students follow a rigorous plan of study consisting of classroom study, practical performance, and production experience. They audition or interview for every main-stage production and complete at least one major role per semester through casting, design or production working alongside faculty directors and designers. The graduate program provides intensive study, experimentation, and practical application through course work, training, and production opportunities.

.

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 demonstrate growth as a student and an artist in both classroom and production application

How students show it

The student participates in classroom work and assignments on productions each semester.

Where it is assessed

Faculty observation

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 demonstrate professionalism and maturity in the classroom, production and work assignment

How students show it

The student participates in classroom assignments, production participation, and assistantship work product.

Where it is assessed

Faculty observation.

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

The Graduate will be able to demonstrate collaborative effort and collegiality in the classroom, production and work assignment.

The Graduate will be able to demonstrate the ability to function effectively as a collaborative artist in a team environment.

How students show it

The student participates in classroom assignments, production participation, and assistantship work product.

Where it is assessed

Faculty observation

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.

To ensure that students remain in constant touch with the program's expectations and requirements, students are observed and evaluated on a continuing basis throughout the term in the following three areas: 1. The classroom/ laboratory 2. In performance and production settings, 3. In the workplace (assistantship duties) graduate assessments are conducted at the end of each term by the entire Theatre and Dance faculty.

Assessment methods may change over time.