THEATRE DESIGN, MASTER OF FINE ARTS (M.F.A.)

Course	Title	Credits
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Students choose from one of the following specializations: Costume Design, Scene Design, Lighting Design, or Multimedia Design. Course requirements are as follows:

Course	Title	Credits
Required Courses, 15 credits:		
THET606	Teaching Theatre	1
THET680	History of Fashion for Theatre	3
THET670	Period Style for the Theatre: Fashion and Decor	3
THET788	Design for Live Performance Tutorial	5
THET6XX/7XX	(Graduate Seminar) [1]	3
Design Studio as approved by Advisor, 12 credits: [2]		**12**
THET639	Graduate Design Studio - Scenery	
THET649	Graduate Design Studio - Costume	
THET659	Graduate Design Studio - Lighting	
THET679	Graduate Design Studio - Multimedia Design (Graduate Design Studio--Multimedia)	
Scenography or Theory of Visual Design, 3 credits (choose 1):		**3**
THET672	Scenography	
THET678	Collaborative Design & Production for Performance	
Design Practicum, 6-9 credits: [3]		**6**
THET789	Theatre Design Process and Production	
Thesis, 6 credits:		**6**
THET799	Master's Thesis Research and Preparation	
Electives: 18 credits as approved by advisor. Choices may include classes above and the following: [3]		**18**
THET633	Figure Drawing for Theatre Design (Figure Drawing for Theatre Design)	
THET636	Photoshop for Theatrical Rendering (Photoshop for Theatre Design)	
THET643	Puppetry and Performance	
THET645	Graduate Rendering for Costume Design (Graduate Rendering for Costume Design)	
THET659	Graduate Design Studio - Lighting (Graduate Lighting Studio 2)	
THET669	Independent Study	
THET677		
Other courses as approved by advisor.		
Total Credits		**60**

[1] Graduate Seminar must be selected from approved list.
[2] Must take one studio outside of specialization.
[3] Beyond six credits, an additional 3 credits of the Design Praticum may count toward the elective total.

Total Credits: Minimum of 60 credits required

Student designers must present and pass three formal design portfolio reviews, at the conclusion of their second, fourth, and sixth semesters in the program. In addition, portfolio interviews take place at the end of the first, third, and fifth semesters. Design portfolios include studio projects as well as fully realized academic and professional scenic, costume,

or lighting designs. The fourth semester portfolio review will include an evaluation of a pre-thesis design project (usually a fully realized design, but may include independent study design projects). The pre-thesis design project, in preparation for the thesis, will include a written component. Successful completion of the portfolio reviews will result in the assignment of the thesis project.

Portfolio requirements

Successful completion of the portfolio review will result in the assignment of pre-thesis (after the first year) and thesis (after the second year) projects. Upon completion of each portfolio review, the candidate will receive a formal letter indicating a grade of pass, conditional pass, or fail. In the event of a conditional pass or fail, the faculty may require the candidate to complete additional projects or coursework.

First year portfolio should include:

- A current resume
- Projects from primary and secondary design emphasis courses
- Craft projects from foundation component courses
- Production photographs illustrating realized craft or design work for projects produced by the School or by professional theatres
- Supporting materials, drawings, and photographs that demonstrate effective and productive work as a design assistant (academic or professional projects)

Second year portfolio should include:

- A current resume
- Projects from primary and secondary design emphasis courses
- Production photographs illustrating realized craft or design work for projects produced by the School or professional theaters
- Supporting materials, drawings, and photographs that demonstrate effective and productive work as a design assistant (academic or professional projects)
- A written design analysis and supporting research material for the pre-thesis project that should follow the form of the first chapter of the written component of the thesis project

For their thesis, M.F.A. design students create and realize a costume, lighting, multimedia, or scenic design for a major production. Each student must meet all deadlines for that production and the design and execution must be acceptable to all members of her/his thesis committee. The written component of the thesis includes all relevant visual material, including research images, drawings, renderings, and production photographs.

M.F.A students typically design three or four productions in our main season during their three years in residence. The first year of study includes several assistant design assignments. We plan our productions at least one semester in advance; therefore, there is a good possibility that students will be designing their first main season production in the spring semester of the first year. We produce five main season shows and approximately five student produced productions per academic year. M.F.A. students also have the opportunity to work with our award-winning faculty on professional projects within the Washington metropolitan theatre community, as well as work in regional theatres, off-Broadway and Broadway.

An exciting feature of the MFA in Design program in the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies is the annual public portfolio exhibit and review. Each year the Cafritz Theatre is transformed into a

gallery where all MFA Design students display their set, costume, and lighting designs.

A multi-day affair, the first day is open to the general public when professional designers and directors from the Washington, DC theatre community have an opportunity to respond to student work and where students often make important professional contacts. The second day involves longer one-on-one critique sessions with the nation's leading designers and directors.

In the past few years our respondents have included designers and directors such as **Paloma Young, Donyale Werle, Jeff Croiter, Ming Cho Lee, John Lee Beatty, David Korins, Ken Posner, Linda Roethke, Serge Seiden, Joy Zinnoman, John Iacovelli, Aaron Posner, James Kronzer, Mary Zimmerman, Jim Ingalls, and Anna Kuzmanic.**