

# Theatre Arts, BA, BFA

**Emphases:** Acting (BFA); Theatre Design and Technology (BFA); Theatre Education (BFA)

**Department:** Theatre Arts Department

**College:** Caine College of the Arts

## Overview

### About This Degree

The Theatre Arts Department at USU believes that a well-trained theatre artist or educator must have a working knowledge of all areas and aspects of theatre in order to be truly successful. The department strives to help students acquire and develop the tools needed to succeed in their future pursuits by emphasizing general training, which provides students with a broad background of courses and practical experiences, plus advanced training in their emphases. A few of the areas in which students gain experience are design, technical work, stage management, acting, and directing. Each student in this program will receive the individual attention required to learn and grow within the theatre arts.

Students in the theatre arts major can earn either a BFA or a BA degree. The **BFA** is a professional art degree requiring above-average accomplishment in art. Students must first apply and be accepted to the professional degree program.

To receive a **BA**, students must gain proficiency in one or more foreign languages. Students pursuing the BA receive a degree in general theatre studies. This is a four-year program designed for students who want a more comprehensive liberal arts background in theatre. This emphasis prepares students for graduate study and is also appropriate for those entering the field of stage directing.

Students pursuing the BFA must choose an emphasis.

## Career Options

With a degree in theatre arts, students can pursue the following careers:

- Costume designer
- Film editor
- Drama therapist
- Casting director
- Set designer
- Stage manager
- Talent manager
- Playwright
- Teacher
- Stage actor

[Career Services](#) provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

## What it takes

### Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's [admissions requirements](#), the theatre arts program has additional requirements:

- **Freshmen:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to this major as BA general theatre studies student. Admission to the BFA program requires completion of certain core courses and either audition and interview, or an interview and portfolio review.
- **Transfer Students:** Transfer students need a 2.75 GPA for admission in good standing, and they must meet with the department head for a degree audit and interview before being accepted into the theatre arts major.
- **STEP Requirements (theatre education emphasis only):** In order to be accepted into STEP, students must go through an application process, which includes the following:

- Complete 60 semester credits with a minimum GPA of 2.75
- Complete certain core courses (see department for more information)
- Complete a speech and hearing test
- Pass the Teacher Education Writing Exam
- Provide an unofficial copy of your transcript
- Pass a criminal background check (this should be done one semester before submitting the application)

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

## Major Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Arts**.

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Fine Arts**.

All theatre arts students work on all Utah State theatre productions in some capacity. BFA students also complete a capstone recital or project during their senior year.

## Contact

### Advising

All new USU students participate in a [New Student Orientation](#) program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

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## Get Involved

## Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

**Educational Theatre Association:** The Educational Theatre Association, and its International Thespian Society branch, have been working since 1929 to honor excellence among students of theatre and support the work of theatre educators. Originally focused on theatre in high schools, EdTA has broadened the scope of its mission to embrace the concept of theatre as an instrument of lifelong learning and has expanded its membership to include students and teachers in middle schools, high schools, and colleges.

**Stage Managers' Association:** The Stage Managers' Association is a professional organization created by and for stage managers. The association seeks to create a network through which they can share problems, ideas, and stories; educate members; and help to create better stage managers overall.

**Theatre Student Association:** TSA is a student-governed club that produces several plays independently each year, performs service and recruiting projects for the department and college, and supports its own members with some travel funding to festivals and conferences.

**USU Opera Theatre:** The USU Opera Theatre offers students the opportunity to participate in a fully staged opera every semester under exceptional directors from across the country and around the world. Performances take place in the Caine Lyric Theatre in downtown Logan. The Opera Theatre has been an excellent starting place for young opera students, many of whom have gone on to study opera at some of the nation's finest graduate schools and conservatories. Many have gone on to careers with prominent opera companies around the world.

## Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest [undergraduate research](#) program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The [Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities](#) program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's [Honors Program](#) prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

**Black Box Theatre:** The Black Box Theatre is a 90-seat studio/laboratory venue.

**Caine Lyric Theatre:** The Caine Lyric Theatre is located in downtown Logan. The 378-seat proscenium theatre, listed on the Utah State Historical Register (1913), is home to the Old Lyric Repertory Company and hosts USU Opera program performances.

**Morgan Theatre:** A 670-seat thrust theatre is used for plays and small concerts and performances. The Morgan Theatre is the main performance venue for the USU Theatre Department. It also serves as a wonderful venue for music, dance, or conferences that want a more intimate performance venue.