General Course Progression for Theatre Majors and Dance Minors  
Department of Theatre, Speech, and Dance  
2012-2013

We expect Theatre majors to become knowledgeable about all facets of theatrical practice including direction, design, technical production, and performance. Theatre inherently embraces the liberal arts, fusing historical and theoretical studies with creative work. Our undergraduates excel because the department provides major opportunities for students to fulfill high level production assignments and in-depth scholarly research while investigating a variety of theatrical genres. A distinctive feature of the department is our faculty’s deep collaboration with global, ethnic, and interdisciplinary based programs of study such as Africana Studies, American Studies, Asian Studies, Film Studies, Literary & Cultural Studies, and Women’s Studies. The department prepares students to continue working in theatre, to teach, to pursue graduate studies, or to apply lessons learned in other occupations. The immersion in both scholarship and performance at William and Mary provides an excellent basis for any pursuit which demands leadership, collaboration, practical expertise, and creative intelligence.

**Freshman Year**

152W or 200/200L. **Introduction to Theatre.** Please note: Students taking THEA 152W may not take THEA 200 for credit and vice versa

201. **Beginning Acting**  
205. **Stagecraft**  
One Dance course (Any Dance technique level, Alexander Technique, or South & South East Asian Folklore Performance)

Electives in areas of interest/prerequisites for Practicums (Fall: Costume Construction, Scene Painting, Introduction to Stage Lighting; Spring: Stage and Production Management, Makeup, Introduction to Stage Lighting; Spring alternating years: Theatre Administration)

**Sophomore Year**

300. **Fundamentals of Design**  
328. **Survey of Theatre History from 500 B.C. to 1750** and/or  
329. **Survey of Theatre History from 1750 to the present**  
*Major Writing requirement section for appropriate courses (328W, 329W, 331W, etc.)*

Electives in areas of interest/prerequisites for Practicums (Fall: Costume Construction, Scene Painting, Introduction to Stage Lighting; Spring: Stage and Production Management, Makeup, Introduction to Stage Lighting; Spring alternating years: Theatre Administration)

**Junior Year**

**Theory or Playwriting:** One from the following: Playwriting (317), Feminist Theory and Contemporary Theatre (331), Sex & Race in Plays & Films (332), African American Theatre History I (336), African American Theatre History II (337), Theatre and Society in 20th-Century America (410), Shakespeare's Renaissance Theatre (415), Topics in Theatre History, Theory and Criticism (461), Dramatic and Theatrical Theory (481)

*Major Writing requirement section for appropriate courses (328W, 329W, 331W, etc.)*

**Design:** One from the following: **Fall:** Sound Design (312), Lighting Design (314); **Spring:** Costume Design (309), Scenic Design (310) (Complete junior year if you are interested in applying for a mainstage design in your senior year)

407. **Direction** (Complete junior year if you are interested in applying for a senior directorial)  
380. **Practicum** (Two Practicums in two areas are required for the major)

**Senior Year**

Courses as necessary to complete requirements listed above.  
Intermediate or advanced Practicums, senior directorials, mainstage designs, electives in areas of interest
**Additional Electives:**

*Design/Technical Theatre:* Costume Construction, Makeup, Millinery, Scene Painting, Introduction to Stage Lighting, a second design area (Sound, Lighting, Costume, Scenic), Stage Properties, Theatre Photography, Advanced Stagecraft


*Business of Theatre:* Theatre Administration, Auditioning and the Business of Acting, Stage and Production Management (Please note: Knowledge of Technical Theatre is extremely valuable for “real world” employment for performers as well as technicians. Some Theatre majors also pursue a Business minor when it supports their future Theatre goals.)

**Theatre Notes:**

Many courses have pre-requisites and not all courses are offered every semester, so it’s necessary to plan ahead and keep alternates in mind. Production commitments can involve up to 100 hours per project and must be balanced with course responsibilities (both in the major and outside of it).

*Practicum:* A production responsibility in two areas (at least one backstage) is required for the major. Ask the advisor in your area of interest what opportunities are available and complete a course contract with them. Practicum assignments are often leadership roles that will help build your theatre resume.

*Major Writing Requirement:* Two (2) upper level writing intensive course sections are required. The Major writing requirement is separate from the lower-division writing requirement. Students enroll in a 0-credit section of 328W, 329W, 331W, 332W, 336W, 337W, 410W, 415W, 461W or 481W when they wish to fulfill the requirement through those courses. Please note: 317 does not have a W section.

*48 hour rule:* Students may take as many credits as they wish in Theatre, but may apply a maximum of 48 credits toward the 120-credit graduation requirement.

*Theatre Minor:* Intro to Theatre, Beginning Acting, Fundamentals, 2 Theatre History, 1 Practicum

**Course Progression for Dance Minors:**

Danc 220 - *History of Modern Dance* (Spring – Freshman or Sophomore year)
Danc 305 - *Dance Composition I* (Fall – Soph or Jr yr)
Danc 306 - *Dance Composition II* (Spring – Soph or Jr yr)
Danc 401 and 401L - *Group Choreography* (Fall – Jr or Sr year)
Danc 406 - *Independent Projects in Dance* (Spring – Jr or Sr year)
4 credits in *Modern III and/or Modern IV* (Fall and Spring – across Fresh through Sr year)

Elective credits as needed for a minimum of 22 credits of dance courses

*16 hour rule:* Students may take as many credits as they wish of Modern, Ballet, Jazz technique and Performance Ensemble, but Dance Minors may apply a maximum of 16 credits (14 credits for non-Minors) toward the 120-credit graduation requirement. Please note: This limit does not include any other Dance Program courses.