ASSESSMENT

The Theatre Department, along with the rest of the university, has developed a series of assessment instruments to measure student achievement as well as the effectiveness of departmental courses and programs. The Theatre Department has defined the following Student Learning Outcomes for all degree programs.

DEPARTMENT STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The student should be able to communicate and collaborate effectively in the interactive and creative process of theatre.
   • Identify the common elements and vocabulary of theatre and of the interaction of these elements.
   • Think, speak, and write clearly in order to communicate one’s views effectively and rationally with members of the production team.
   • Work effectively in team assignments, interacting productively with individuals from diverse areas of knowledge and skill.
   • Recognize organizational structures and management principles as they apply to theatre.

2. In preparation for careers within a global society, students should demonstrate a working knowledge of the historical, cultural, and stylistic dimensions of drama and theatre.
   • Identify and describe the major theatrical developments in various historical periods.
   • Relate the theatre and dramatic arts to the social, political, and religious history of each theatrical period.
   • Identify major playwrights, actors, directors, designers, and other theatre practitioners from various theatrical periods.
   • Recognize the structure, style, substance, language, and historical importance of plays that are representative of the development of theatre and drama in world cultures.
   • Place works of theatre in historical and stylistic contexts.
   • Utilize the skills and techniques needed to conduct research into the culture, history, and style of a particular period or genre for the purpose of production.

3. Students should be able to utilize critical thinking skills in order to analyze and interpret a script for the purpose of developing a concept and systematic plan for the production of a play.
   • Analyze a script for the development of a character in a scene or monologue.
   • Analyze scripts to develop visual and aural perceptions related to theatre performances.
   • State a theme and explain how that theme ties together the major events and actions of the play.
   • Analyze each character and the character’s relationship to all of the other
characters and to the plot and theme.

- Analyze the language characteristics of the script as they relate to character, rhythm, and style.
- Analyze the structure, action, motivational units, and beats within the script.

4. Students should be able to form, communicate, and defend value judgments about quality and aesthetics in works of theatre.

- Apply dramatic theory and criticism to assess theatrical works of art.
- Apply performance of production analysis to assess theatrical works of art.
- Evaluate current critical thinking about theatre and other arts.
- Communicate clearly in written or oral form a response to an observed theatrical production.
- Critique constructively the creative work of peers.
- Analyze one’s own creative process and product.
- Apply developing aesthetics values by attending academic and professional theatre and arts events.

5. The student should be able to demonstrate technical proficiency in the areas of acting and directing in order to create and present theatrical performances.

- Recognize the concepts of characterization in order to develop a character through the application of physical and vocal techniques.
- Develop a flexible, strong, and controlled voice with trained breath support, appropriate vocal range and freedom from vocal and postural tension in rehearsal and performance.
- Develop a flexible, relaxed and controlled body trained in basic stage movement.
- Employ imagination, focus, concentration, observation, memorization, and risk-taking in the acting process.
- Identify and analyze personal vocal and physical restrictions and habitual behavior patterns.
- Prepare productively for performance outside of the formal rehearsal process.
- Recognize and apply elements of style through vocal and physical characterization.
- Demonstrate ability in solo and ensemble performances.
- Describe and perform the functions and responsibilities of the director and actor.
- Recognize various directing approaches, theories, and styles.
- Employ stage composition, movement, blocking, rehearsal management and audition procedures.
- Direct actual scenes or plays for classroom or public performance.

6. The student should be able to demonstrate a basic proficiency in the areas of theatre design and technology in order to create and present theatrical performances.

- Apply the basic technical skills, technology, and operations needed to mount a theatrical production.
- Function safely and effectively using contemporary theatre technology.
- Produce freehand drawings, technical drawings, color renderings, models and/or designs.
• Explain and demonstrate the correct application of stage makeup.
• Prepare and present a portfolio of design work in an area of specialization.
• Identify, define, and explain the design elements including line, form, mass, and color and their relationship to theatrical design.
• Recognize the functions and responsibilities of the various members of a production design team.
• Develop and communicate orally and visually a design concept and specific designs for a theatrical production.

7. The student should be able to technical direct and direct one-act plays for public performances and successfully fulfill significant production assignments for public performances in the department’s mainstage and/or children’s theatre series.
  • Distinguish the processes involved in the creation of theatre, from script selection through performance and production.
  • Undertake responsibilities, fulfill them in a timely manner, and commit to the entire process of mounting a production.
  • Demonstrate a level of mastery of theatre artistry through production assignments for public performance.

The Theatre Department has developed a curriculum matrix for all program outcomes and program offerings and these are communicated on all departmental syllabi.
The Theatre Department currently utilizes the following assessment instruments:

**Freshmen/Transfer Showcase.** During the first semester of their freshmen or transfer year, students perform or present a portfolio to the Theatre Department in a showcase format. This allows the members of the department to assess the incoming student's work early in their program. (BSE, BFA, BA, Minors)

**Sophomore Review.** On a specified day, each individual sophomore theatre major, minor, or transfer student confers with the collective theatre faculty to assess student progress and goals at an approximate mid-point in the student's undergraduate career. During this review, students also have the opportunity to present their portfolios to the theatre faculty for review. This session has proved valuable for both students and the department. Students receive oral and written assessment. All written Assessments are kept in the student’s folder in the theatre office. (BSE, BFA, BA, Minors)

**Studio Theatre.** Each theatre major is required to technical direct a one-act play in the Studio Theatre series, enrolling in Studio Theatre I, and to direct a one-act play in the series, enrolling in Studio Theatre II. These performance-based assessments allow each student to demonstrate artistic and technical proficiency in public productions. The Studio Theatre experiences measure the student-artist's ability to apply previously learned theory. Each student receives both oral and written critiques from the faculty. (BSE, BFA, BA)

**Senior Exams.** Each graduating senior takes a locally generated written examination over the following classes: Oral Interpretation, Acting, Stagecraft, Directing, Literature and History of the Theatre I, and Literature and History of the Theatre II. The student will also write one essay on a selected area from their degree program. The exam is administered during the final semester. The examination assesses the individual student's achievement and the effectiveness of the program. All students receive a copy of their scores. BSE students also take the C-Base and the Praxis examination.

**Senior Showcase.** During the spring semester, senior BFA theatre majors present to the department and public either ten minutes of performance or a portfolio presentation. The Senior Showcase may be comprised of monologues, scene work, songs, portfolios, models, or working demonstrations to showcase their talents or skills. Students receive a written evaluation of their work.