THEATRE, BFA

for the Bachelor of Fine Arts Major in Theatre

department website: https://theatre.illinois.edu
department faculty: https://theatre.illinois.edu/people/meet-our-faculty/
college catalog page: Fine & Applied Arts (http://catalog.illinois.edu/faa)
college website: https://faa.illinois.edu/

Students pursuing this major select one of eight concentrations:

Acting (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/theatre-bfa/acting)
Costume Design & Technology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/theatre-bfa/costume-design-technology)
Lighting Design & Technology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/theatre-bfa/lighting-design-technology)
Scenic Design (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/theatre-bfa/scenic-design)
Scenic Technology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/theatre-bfa/scenic-technology)
Sound Design & Technology (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/theatre-bfa/sound-design-technology)
Stage Management (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/theatre-bfa/stage-management)
Theatre Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/faa/theatre-bfa/theatre-studies)

The curricular concentrations in the Department of Theatre provide intensive and extensive preparation for the rigorous demands of a professional career in the theatre. A strong commitment to work in the theatre and a realistic understanding of its intellectual, aesthetic, and physical demands are therefore necessary in students who enter the department.

Before acceptance into theatre, applicants must participate in auditions or interviews, which take place at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts five or more weekends each year, and at selected regional locations (normally Chicago and New York). In these auditions, applicants who plan to pursue the concentration in acting should present a three-minute audition, comprising two contrasting works from dramatic literature. Applicants wishing to pursue one of the concentrations in design, technology, and management should present a portfolio of previous theatre work. Applicants who intend to pursue the theatre studies concentration should also bring evidence of their previous theatre work and a 500-word essay addressing the aspects of the theatre studies program that interest them most and why they want to pursue those aspects. Information on these auditions and interviews will be sent to applicants once they have applied to the University and their eligibility has been determined by the Office of Admissions and Records.

Concentrations in theatre are in Acting, Costume Design and Technology, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, Scenic Technology, Sound Design and Technology, Stage Management, and Theatre Studies. Students are initially accepted as theatre majors and then formally admitted to one of these concentrations after an evaluation by the faculty during the student’s first or second year. The concentrations in acting and design, technology, and management are intended for students who, in the judgement of the faculty, are ready to concentrate in these specialties in an intensive undergraduate professional training curriculum. The theatre studies concentration is intended for students who plan to pursue advanced training in directing, dramaturgy, playwriting, arts management, social issues theatre, and theatre history and criticism.

As one of the resident producing organizations at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, the Department of Theatre produces six or seven fully mounted productions each academic year and three each summer. The theatres and workshops of the Krannert Center serve as laboratories for theatre students, who have the opportunity to learn and to work alongside an outstanding staff of resident theatre professionals and visiting artists, preparing performances in theatre, opera, and dance. In addition, the department sponsors a small experimental theatre space for student-written and student-directed productions.

All theatre majors must successfully complete production crew assignments at the Krannert Center under THEA 100-Practicum I. Acting and theatre studies students cast in Krannert Center productions or assigned to assist in Krannert Center productions must also take THEA 400-Practicum, II. Design, technology, and management students are required to work on Krannert Center productions as assigned for THEA 400-Practicum, II, credit. Students seeking credit for practical theatre work outside the Krannert Center must secure the approval and supervision of theatre faculty in the form of an Individual Project (THEA 391) or THEA 392) or as a Professional Internship (THEA 490) or Creative Project (THEA 595).