

East Stroudsburg University
Theatre Department
Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Plan
(updated May 2021)

The Theatre Department BA program's combined performance, design, and technical curriculum develops a breadth of knowledge and practical skills necessary to enter the profession of graduate school. Students receive specific training in one of our four concentrations: Acting for Theatre, Television, and Film, Musical Theatre, Directing, and Design/Technical Theatre. As they discover and develop their unique talents, students work closely with faculty advisors to develop their strengths as an actor, designer, director, stage manager, or theatre technician. All students are introduced to the entrepreneurial aspects and creative enterprises to become successful artisans. Theatre studies prepares students to use innovative thinking for a variety of professional careers and to enrich many aspects of their lives.

Concise list the Student Learning Outcomes for this program:

Upon successful completion of the Department of Theatre BA, students will be able to:

- **Communication:** Demonstrate knowledge of theatre in verbal, visual and written formats.
- **Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills:** Acquire and apply innovative skills and techniques in creating performance, design and technology.
- **Collaboration:** Practice theatre proficiencies and transferrable skills, including: leadership, collaboration, communication, and time management through the production process.
- **Ethics and Globalization:** Adhere to the ethical standards and principles of professional theatre in a diverse working environment.
- **Professionalism:** Prepare for entry-level jobs, graduate school and/or advanced training.
- **Creativity and Experience:** Engage in entrepreneurial practices in preparation for a professional career in the entertainment industry.

The Student Learning Outcomes of the core program and the specific concentrations are below:

I. CORE OUTCOMES (*Core Courses* (21 semester hours): THTR 100, 101 or 230, 102, 103 (taken twice for a total of two semester hours), 302, 304, 341, 440 or 490 and three semester hours selected from: 320, 325, 330, 335 or 420.

- 1) **Knowledge and Comprehension -Information Literacy:** distinguish, compare and value the role of performing art and artists within diverse socio-political cultures throughout history and in our current global society.
 - a) Classify key theatrical styles and periods, influential theatre artists, and major works of dramatic literature.
 - b) Compare the mutual influence between various historical and contemporary cultures and their representative theatre/performing arts and dramatic literature.
 - c) Distinguish the responsibilities of playwrights/screenwriters, producers, directors, designers, stage managers, dramaturges, actors, casting directors, managers and agents.

Assessment Tools: Essay, or oral and/or written exam, or oral and/or visual presentation.

- 2) **Knowledge and Application - Technological Skills:**

- a) Demonstrate proper use of and safety measures for computers and equipment in theatres and design shops.

Specific additional literacy and technological skills will depend upon the chosen track.

Assessment Tools: All students must pass a safety exam for key equipment and demonstrate use of specific equipment to realize aspects of original designs under supervision of faculty designers.

3) Competence in Presentation and Performance skills:

- a) Demonstrate memorization skills
- b) Recognize and manage performance stress.
- c) Evaluate and develop listening and observation skills.
- d) Identify and solve communication problems between artistic collaborators
- e) Demonstrate focus and concentration without being distracted.
- f) Understand adjustments needed to vocally articulate and project
- g) Articulate and understand basic acting techniques and terminology.

More complex acting skills will be expected from students in the acting and musical theatre tracks.

4) Analysis, Synthesis and Application: Organize a complex array of theatrical elements into a cohesive production.

- a) Conduct dramaturgical research and analyze dramatic literature as a blueprint for production.
- b) Develop a production concept to combine practical theatrical elements in the areas of acting, directing, design, and technical theatre in an interpretive response to dramatic literature.
- c) Complete a specific aspect of a production under a strict time deadline and using limited resources.
- d) In collaboration with other theatre artists, execute an aspect of a production from concept through opening performance.

Assessment Tools: A production book from directing or stage management, production design portfolio, dramaturgical and/or acting play analysis; an evaluation of an onstage or backstage role in a full production process.

5) Application and Evaluation: Critically assess a play for creative challenges. Debate, select and implement solutions collaboratively using critical thinking, leadership and creative problem-solving skills:

- a) Analyze and execute a variety of plays from script through production using the perspective of a theatrical leader in technical theatre, design, directing or performance.
- b) Develop leadership, team-building, time-management and organization skills under strict deadlines.
- c) Evaluate a production from the perspective of any theatre artist to assess the thematic impact and aesthetic achievement.
- d) Critique his/her personal work on a production from a variety of perspectives.
- a) Evaluate and apply relevant professional regulations, protocol and ethics for television studios, film sets and theatres.

Assessment Tools: Demonstrated ability in an onstage or backstage role on a public production. Demonstrate evaluation and observation skills through written and oral production critiques.

Core Curriculum data collection and evaluation:

Dept SLO	Course or event (direct and indirect)	Assessment Type (with rubric)	Course offering	Evaluation of assessment
Demonstrate knowledge of theatre in verbal, visual and written formats.	THTR 100	Final Presentation	Every semester	
	THTR 101 or 230	Projects and production reviews	Every semester	
	THTR 102	Final Presentation	Every semester	
	THTR 210	Final Presentation	Every year	
	THTR 302 & 304	Final Presentation	Every other year	
	THTR 341	Final Promptbook	Every other year	
	THTR 440 or 490	Final Presentation	Every other year	
Acquire and apply innovative skills and techniques in creating performance, design and technology.	THTR 103	Final Production	Every semester	
	THTR 210	Final Presentation	Every year	
	THTR 440 or 490	Final Presentation	Every other year	
	Production Post-mortem	Brief meeting following each production to evaluate the production with all those involved	Every production	
Practice theatre proficiencies and transferrable skills, including: leadership, collaboration, communication, and time management through the production process.	THTR 103	Final Production	Every semester	
	THTR 341	Final Promptbook	Every other year	
Adhere to the ethical standards and principles of professional theatre in a diverse working environment.	THTR 103	Final Production	Every semester	
	THTR 440 or 490	Final Presentation	Every other year	
	End of Year Evaluation	Faculty meet with each student for a one-on-one evaluation	Every spring	
Prepare for entry-level jobs, graduate school and/or advanced training.	THTR 101 or 230	Projects and production reviews	Every semester	
	THTR 102	Final Presentation	Every semester	
	THTR 103			
	THTR 210	Final Presentation	Every year	
	THTR 341	Final Promptbook	Every other year	
	THTR 440 or 490	Final Presentation	Every other year	
Engage in entrepreneurial practices in preparation for a professional career in the entertainment industry.	THTR 440 or 490	Final Presentation	Every other year	

In addition to these core outcomes, students in the specified tracks below will demonstrate the following additional competencies:

I. TRACK #1 ACTING FOR THEATRE, TV AND FILM - Requirements (19 credits): THTR 127 (1 s.h), 211, 341, 343, 370 plus three semester credits from: THTR 202, 310 or 470, **Co-requisite** three semester hours from: MCOM 210 or CMST/THTR163, 229, 267, or 229.)

1) Knowledge, Comprehension and Application:

- a) Distinguish between and demonstrate a range of acting, movement and vocal techniques used for theatre, television and/or film.
- b) Define and demonstrate relevant acting terminology as well as specialized terminology vital for actors in television, film and theatre.

2) Analysis and Synthesis and Application:

- a) Utilize critical thinking skills to identify and analyze central ideas and creative challenges in dramatic literature or screenplays and determine where the actor must respond with creative and interpretive choices. Articulate these orally and in written actor notation.
- b) Independently or collaboratively apply acting techniques to memorize and prepare a variety of contemporary and classical styles of dramatic texts in an array of genres for performance.

3) Verbal and Non-verbal Communication Skills:

- a) Effectively communicate to a public audience, through verbal and non-verbal acting technique, an interpretation of a play and character as developed by the actor in response to a production concept (both developed independently and prescribed by a director).
- b) Use a variety of verbal and non-verbal forms to communicate with collaborators and transmit a complex story to audiences.

4) Evaluation:

- a) Weigh the merits of professional performances and articulate in critical insights using acting terminology.

Assessment Tools: Demonstration through monologue and scene presentations either live or on camera. Sample research and text analysis articulated in oral or written presentations for a variety of roles. Sample acting critique.

II. TRACK #2 MUSICAL THEATRE - Requirements (19 credits): THTR 127 (1 s.h), 211, 350, three semester credits from: THTR 202, 310 or 470, and 341 or 343 **Co-requisites:** two semester hours chosen from: MUS 110, 111, 160, 161, 260, 261, 360, 361, 460, 461 and three semester hours chose from: MUS 101, 220 or 320, and one semester hour from DANC.

1) Knowledge and Comprehension:

- a) Identify and analyze the various genres and styles of musical theatre history as demonstrated by the completion of written and oral research assignments.
- b) Define and understand the roles of individual musical theatre artists in the history of American Theatre.

2) Analysis and Application Create and/or critique various forms of musical theatre performance in written assignments and performance demonstrations.

3) Synthesis and Application:

- a) Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the fundamentals of music through the application and synthesis of theory with performance skills in performance projects.

- b) Students will demonstrate an ability to collaborate with the various directors and creators of a musical theatre work (stage director, choreographer, musical director, vocal coach, composer and lyricist) by creating a final performance or project in the field of musical theatre.

Evaluation and Application: Evaluate and critique various forms of musical theatre performance using acting and musical theatre terminology.

Assessment Tools: Demonstration through musical monologue and scene presentations. Sample research and text analysis articulated in oral or written presentations. Written critiques.

TRACK #3 DESIGN/TECHNICAL THEATRE - Requirements (19 Credits): THTR 210, 341 or 343 and nine semester hours selected under advisement from the following (at least six must be design courses): 240, 301 331, 332, 430 and one additional credit of 103 (taken as a design assistant or in technical leadership). Co-requisite: **Co-requisite:** Three semester hours in studio Art (by advisement)

1) Knowledge and Comprehension

- a) Ability to demonstrate the principles and practices of design for theatre.

2) Communication:

- a) Ability to articulate design concepts in through verbal, visual, and aural systems of communication

3) Analysis, Synthesis and Application:

- a) Critically examine the available options and create a design.
b) Analyze and evaluate the director's as well as other collaborators' perspectives on a play/musical/opera, and synthesize these different artistic points of view into a cohesive design.
c) Ability to understand theatre's role in society and reflect topical issues through creative responses in design.

4) Knowledge and Application - Technological Information and Competency:

- e) Ability to understand the applications and implications of technology that is used for theatre and employ them.
f) Demonstrate the languages of stage notation and performing arts drafting.
g) Employ OSHA safety guidelines in all shops.

Assessment Tools: Design portfolio; Verbal, visual, and aural research and design presentations.

TRACK # 4 DIRECTING - Requirements (19 credits): 202 or 310, 210 (or upper division design course) 341, 343: 470 or 486 and THTR 103 Practicum (as AD, ASM or stage manager) (1 credit in addition to 2 in core) **co-requisite:** MCOM 210

1) Knowledge and Comprehension:

- a) Distinguish between the director's interpretive and creative choices and the basic facts of a play.
b) Describe the diverse contributions of our rich legacy of directing artists.

2) Analysis and Synthesis:

- a) Synthesize a variety of theories and techniques from directing, acting and design to pinpoint creative challenges and theatrical possibilities in dramatic literature.
b) Interpret and envision a play, after gathering research and completing analysis, and communicate a production concept to collaborators.

3) Synthesis and Application:

- a) Understand and demonstrate the basic principles of stage composition.
- b) Develop a production plan from first design meetings through technical rehearsals and previews.
- c) Develop a rehearsal process from casting through to opening night.

4) Evaluation and Synthesis:

- a) Assess production obstacles and creatively problem solve.
- b) Apply flexible thinking to incorporate ideas from an array of collaborators on a production.

5) Group and Public Communication:

- a) Translate a director's interpretation of text into practical directives for actors;
- b) Communicate a production concept to motivate and lead a creative team from project inception through final performance meeting strict deadlines.
- c) Communicate in writing and orally with various media sources to generate publicity.

Assessment Tools: Written exams or critiques and/or oral/visual presentations; Production book; Performance presentations of interpretations of dramatic literature.