The Theatre School

The Theatre School is the Midwest’s oldest theatre conservatory. Founded as the Goodman School of Drama in 1925, the school carries on an almost 100 year history as a leading drama school in the United States. The conservatory format provides for an intensive, highly disciplined training program. The central core of the program is an extensive production-oriented approach. The School produces more than 150 public performances each season for an audience of more than 50,000 people, featuring students in every aspect of the production. Programs of study are offered in acting, scene design, costume design, lighting design, sound design, theatre technology, costume technology, wig and makeup design & technology, projection design, stage management, playwriting, dramaturgy/criticism, comedy arts, theatre management, and theatre arts. Graduate programs are offered in acting, directing and arts leadership. The objectives of the professional curricula are to prepare the student for creative participation in any form of theatre requiring a high level of technical competence, to provide the student with the aesthetic and cultural background requisite to an understanding of their art and of the world in which they work, and to develop the specific skills and disciplines necessary for competence in the student’s area of specialization. Theatre School students are not eligible for the Theatre Studies Minor.

Each Theatre School course builds and expands upon its predecessor. When the program is complete, the student will have been exposed to the necessary artistic tools and shown their proper usage in order to realize their goals. In addition, liberal education requirements are incorporated into all of the school’s programs so that the student may practice their craft with an awareness of history, literature, philosophy, and current and past cultural and social events.

Advanced students in the Theatre Studies and Design and Technical programs enhance their training experience by completing internships at local and national organizations. Internships have been conducted at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, Goodman Theatre, Guthrie Theatre, Arena Stage, Playwrights Horizons, the David Letterman Show, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Disney Theatricals, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Fox Theatricals, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkshire Theatre Festival, The Second City, and Steppenwolf Theatre Company, among numerous others.

Contact Us

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Faculty and Staff
In keeping with the school’s concept of the dual importance of theory and practice and of producing a superior quality of instruction, The Theatre School’s faculty and staff are highly qualified, both professionally and
The faculty is regularly supplemented by accomplished working professionals. In addition, visiting artists and professionals appear in our guest speaker series, CHICAGO LIVE: THE ARTS. Among them have been playwright David Mamet; actresses Celeste Holm, Florence Henderson, and Julie Harris; actors Rip Torn, Charles Durning, Ray Liotta, Jonathan Pryce, Brian Dennehy, and Laurence Fishburne; Chicago’s nationally known Steppenwolf Ensemble including John Malkovich, Jeff Perry, and Gary Sinise; the late comedian Avery Schrieber; director JoAnne Akalaitis, Anne Bogart, Frank Galati, and Paul Sills; and alumni Gillian Anderson, Joe Mantegna, John C. Reilly, Kevin Anderson, David Datsmalchian, Michael Rooker, Sean Gunn, among scores of others.

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Neena Arndt
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Coya Paz Brownrigg, Phd
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Dean Emeritus
New York University

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Syracuse University

Dominic DiGiovanni
Scene Shop Foreperson

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Head of Movement
Southern Methodist University

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San Diego State University

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University of South Florida
Kristina Fluty, MA
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Dean
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Jan Kallish
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Loyola University Chicago

Matthew Randle-Bent, MA  
Performance  
Queen Mary, University of London

Birgit Rattenborg-Wise  
Costume Design

Clifton D. Robinson  
Master Drummer/West African Dance

Maren Robinson, MA  
Dramaturgy  
University of Chicago

Michael Rourke, MFA  
Design Workshop, Lighting Technology  
University of Virginia
The Theatre School is home to undergraduate majors and minors and graduate programs.

Students in undergraduate programs at The Theatre School must achieve a grade of C- or better in major requirements to receive course credit. Any grade lower than a C- will require the student to repeat the course.

Students in the graduate programs must achieve a grade of C or better in major requirements to receive course credit. Any grade lower than a C will require the student to repeat the course. If a graduate student is taking an undergraduate level course, to fulfill a major requirement, the student must receive a B- or better to receive course credit.

Admission and Retention

The Theatre School only admits students for entry into Autumn quarter each year. Enrollment in each area of concentration is limited by strict capacities. In all of The Theatre School’s programs, students are evaluated annually by the faculty and formally invited to continue into the subsequent year. The evaluation, a professional and confidential process, is based on four key elements: discipline, collaboration, professional potential, and progress in the program.

Honors Program

Most students follow the Liberal Studies Program (https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/liberal-studies-program/) to meet their general education requirements. However, students accepted into the Honors Program (https://catalog.depaul.edu/undergraduate-core/honors-program/program-requirements/) fulfill general education requirements through an alternative set of courses. A student in the Honors Program pursuing a primary major in The Theatre School follows the requirements below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Quarter Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HON 100</td>
<td>RHETORIC AND CRITICAL INQUIRY</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 102</td>
<td>HISTORY IN GLOBAL CONTEXTS</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>HON 104</td>
<td>RELIGIOUS WORLDVIEWS AND ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 105</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 110</td>
<td>HONORS DISCOVER CHICAGO</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Students in undergraduate programs at The Theatre School must achieve a grade of C- or better in major requirements to receive course credit. Any grade lower than a C- will require the student to repeat the course.

Students in the graduate programs must achieve a grade of C or better in major requirements to receive course credit. Any grade lower than a C will require the student to repeat the course. If a graduate student is taking an undergraduate level course, to fulfill a major requirement, the student must receive a B- or better to receive course credit.

**The Theatre School Graduate Student Handbook**

In addition to the DePaul University Graduate Student Handbook, The Theatre School Graduate Student Handbook includes requirements, rules and regulations for its graduate programs.

Upon admission to a graduate program, a student is to follow the catalog requirements in effect at the time of entrance. A student who is reenrolled or who changes his or her program or enrollment status is subject to the terms of the catalog in effect at the time of readmission or status change.

As a graduate student you assume the responsibility to know and meet both the general and particular regulations, procedures, policies, and deadlines set forth in this catalog and handbook. This catalog does not constitute a contract between the student and the University. Every effort has been made to provide accurate and firm information. The University reserves the right to revise the content of its catalogs and schedules, and to change policies, programs, requirements, rules, regulations, procedures, calendars and schedule of tuition and fees; to establish and modify admission and registration criteria; to cancel or change courses or programs and their content and prerequisites; to limit and restrict enrollment; to cancel, divide or change time or location or staffing of classes; or to make any other necessary changes.

**Honors Senior Thesis Option**

Students who choose to complete an Honors Senior Thesis must have their project approved at least one term prior to executing the project. To gain approval for a senior thesis, students must complete an application, including a project proposal signed by two faculty advisors. In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the program, the thesis should attempt to move outside the boundaries normally associated with one particular discipline and should be supervised by two readers from different academic fields. While the final product must be a substantial piece of work building on the student’s accumulated knowledge and new research, specific requirements for each thesis will depend on the nature of the project. See the Director or Associate Director for an application and thesis materials. Students may opt to enroll in HON 300 (a two-credit elective) to receive dedicated guidance as they prepare the thesis project.

**Grade Requirements**

A grade of C- or higher in HON 100 and HON 110 or HON 111 is required to remain in the Honors Program.

A grade of C- or higher is required to pass the following courses: HON 100, HON 350, HON 351, and HON 395.

**Graduate Academics**

The Theatre School is home to undergraduate majors and minors and graduate programs.
Invitation to Return & Evaluation Policies
A grade of C or better is required in all required courses.

A student must earn a grade of B- or higher to receive graduate credit for any upper level undergraduate course (300 or above) that has been accepted for graduate credit.

Please consult The Theatre School Student Handbook on the school's website for details on the following:

- MFA Acting Program Capacities and Invitations to Return
- MFA I Grading Procedures for the Acting Program
- MFA Directing Program Evaluation and Continuance Policies
- MFA Arts Leadership Evaluation and Continuance Policies

Readmission
A student who was previously enrolled in a graduate program in The Theatre School but has not been in attendance since the end of a leave of absence, but not more than four calendar years, must file a Readmission Application. Normally, this application requires that the student take part in the annual interview and audition process and meet the annual application deadlines. Detailed information is available on the school's website. (If more than four years have elapsed since the student been in attendance, a new application is required.)

Official copies of transcripts recording scholastic work taken while not enrolled at DePaul University must be submitted. As a policy, students are held to the degree requirements that are in force at the time of readmission.

Transfer Credit
Normally graduate programs at The Theatre School do not accept credit transferred from another institution. Exceptions can only be granted by the specific departmental chair or program director.

Undergraduate Courses
Courses numbered 300 through 399 are advanced undergraduate courses. If listed in this Catalog, they may be accepted for graduate credit within the limitations stipulated by the specific departmental chair or program director.

Graduation Requirements
Students must have successfully completed all of the general and specific degree requirements as listed in departmental or program sections of the catalog under which the student was admitted.

Completed degree requirements can include the submitting of the dissertation, thesis or research paper, examination scores, and, if necessary, grade changes. Students need to achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.500 to graduate.

Graduation with Distinction
Distinction is conferred upon a student who has maintained a 3.75 cumulative grade point average in the degree program, and passes with distinction the final oral or written examination or the master’s thesis or project where applicable.

Additional Policies
The Theatre School Student Handbook located on the Theatre School website details additional policies, including (but not limited to) policies related the productions, production assignments, casting, and rehearsal procedures.

Leaves of Absence
Students who find it necessary to interrupt their attendance at The Theatre School may apply for a leave of absence. For details about this policy, please consult The Theatre School Student Handbook on the school's website.

Students applying for a leave should also complete the DePaul University Leave of Absence application on Campus Connect.

Admission & Aid
Admission
Candidates interested in admission to any of the undergraduate or graduate programs of The Theatre School should contact The Theatre School Admissions Office at (773) 325-7999 or (800) 4DEPAUL (Extension 7999). The office will provide each candidate with detailed instructions for the application and audition/interview process.

Theatre applicants are responsible for scheduling their own audition (for acting) or interview (for all other majors), which can be done on The Theatre School's website. If, for any reason, an applicant is unable to reserve a slot online, he or she should contact The Theatre School Admissions Office directly.

The Theatre School only admits students for entry into Autumn quarter each year. Enrollment in each area of concentration is limited by strict capacities. In all of The Theatre School's programs, students are evaluated annually by the faculty and formally invited to continue into the subsequent year. The evaluation, a professional and confidential process, is based on four key elements: discipline, collaboration, professional potential, and progress in the program. For more information about the School's policies about admission, retention, evaluations of students, invitations to return, and related matters, please see The Theatre School website.