

THEATRE DESIGN, MASTER OF FINE ARTS (M.F.A.)

Total Credits: Minimum of 60 credits required

Student designers must present and pass three formal design portfolio reviews, at the conclusion of their second, fourth, and sixth semesters in the program. In addition, portfolio interviews take place at the end of the first, third, and fifth semesters. Design portfolios include studio projects as well as fully realized academic and professional scenic, costume, or lighting designs. The fourth semester portfolio review will include an evaluation of a pre-thesis design project (usually a fully realized design, but may include independent study design projects). The pre-thesis design project, in preparation for the thesis, will include a written component. Successful completion of the portfolio reviews will result in the assignment of the thesis project.

Portfolio requirements

Successful completion of the portfolio review will result in the assignment of pre-thesis (after the first year) and thesis (after the second year) projects. Upon completion of each portfolio review, the candidate will receive a formal letter indicating a grade of pass, conditional pass, or fail. In the event of a conditional pass or fail, the faculty may require the candidate to complete additional projects or coursework.

First year portfolio should include:

- A current resume
- Projects from primary and secondary design emphasis courses
- Craft projects from foundation component courses
- Production photographs illustrating realized craft or design work for projects produced by the School or by professional theatres
- Supporting materials, drawings, and photographs that demonstrate effective and productive work as a design assistant (academic or professional projects)

Second year portfolio should include:

- A current resume
- Projects from primary and secondary design emphasis courses
- Production photographs illustrating realized craft or design work for projects produced by the School or professional theaters
- Supporting materials, drawings, and photographs that demonstrate effective and productive work as a design assistant (academic or professional projects)
- A written design analysis and supporting research material for the pre-thesis project that should follow the form of the first chapter of the written component of the thesis project

For their thesis, M.F.A. design students create and realize a scenery, costume, or lighting design for a major production. Each student must meet all deadlines for that production and the design and execution must be acceptable to all members of her/his thesis committee. The written component of the thesis includes all relevant visual material, including research images, drawings, renderings, and production photographs.

M.F.A students typically design three or four productions in our main season during their three years in residence. The first year of study includes several assistant design assignments. We plan our productions at least one semester in advance; therefore, there is a good possibility

that students will be designing their first main season production in the spring semester of the first year. We produce five main season shows and approximately five student produced productions per academic year. M.F.A. students also have the opportunity to work with our award-winning faculty on professional projects within the Washington metropolitan theatre community, as well as work in regional theatres, off-Broadway and Broadway.

An exciting feature of the MFA in Design program in the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies is the annual public portfolio exhibit and review. Each year the Cafritz Theatre is transformed into a gallery where all MFA Design students display their set, costume, and lighting designs.

A multi-day affair, the first day is open to the general public when professional designers and directors from the Washington, DC theatre community have an opportunity to respond to student work and where students often make important professional contacts. The second day involves longer one-on-one critique sessions with the nation's leading designers and directors.

In the past few years our respondents have included designers and directors such as **Paloma Young, Donyale Werle, Jeff Croiter, Ming Cho Lee, John Lee Beatty, David Korins, Ken Posner, Linda Roethke, Serge Seiden, Joy Zinnoman, John Iacovelli, Aaron Posner, James Kronzer, Mary Zimmerman, Jim Ingalls, and Anna Kuzmanic.**

Curriculum Requirements

Students choose from one of the following specializations: Costume Design, Scene Design, Lighting Design, or Projected Design. Teaching Assistants should complete one credit of THET606. Course requirements are as follows:

Course	Title	Credits
Core Requirements		30-36
THET465	History of Fashion for the Theatre	
THET6xx	Introduction to Theatre Design	
THET670	Period Style for the Theatre: Fashion and Decor	
THET788	Master's Tutorial	
THET789	Master's Practicum	
THET799	Master's Thesis Research	
Studio:		15-18
THET649	Advanced Design Studio in Costume	
THET639	Advanced Design Studio in Scenery	
THET659	Advanced Design Studio in Lighting	
THET678	Theory of Visual Design For the Performing Arts	
Electives		6-15
Select additional electives chosen with your advisor		
Specialization Options:		
Costume Design		
Scene Design		
Lighting Design		
Projected Design		