THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES (THPF)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract


The M.A. program is designed to enhance and develop students’ practical, historical, and critical knowledge of theatre so that they may go on to graduate work in Ph.D. or M.F.A programs, or upgrade their skills for high-school teaching. The School’s application deadline for best consideration for the MA program and the PhD program is January 15. Applications fully submitted by February 1 may also receive consideration on a space available basis.

The doctoral program in Theatre and Performance Studies is an interdisciplinary course of study that prepares students for careers as educators, professors in higher education, publishing scholars, and cultural critics. The program offers a rigorous exploration of both Theatre History and Performance Studies through the critical and theoretical analyses of historical archives, dramatic and performance texts, and cultural behavior as performance. Applicants who do not hold an undergraduate or graduate degree in theatre (or an equivalent field), may be required to take preparatory coursework prior to admission into the Ph.D. program.

Financial Assistance

The School nominates outstanding applicants for competitive University fellowships. Teaching assistantships are available to a limited number of students. The Graduate program head will discuss these with accepted students at the time of acceptance.

Website: http://tdps.umd.edu

Contact

James Harding
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies
2822 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
8115 Alumni Drive
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone: 301.405.6675
Email: jharding@umd.edu

Crystal Gaston
Coordinator of Graduate Studies
Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies
2809 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
8115 Alumni Drive
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone: 301.405.6695
Email: cgaston@umd.edu

Admissions

General Requirements

• Statement of Purpose
• Transcript(s)
• TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students [https://gradschool.umd.edu/education/z069])

Program-Specific Requirements

• Letters of Recommendation (3)
• Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
• CV/Resume
• Writing Sample: A 10 – 15 page paper demonstrating ability to do university level research – uploaded to the Uploads Requirement section of the application.
• Publications/Presentations (optional)

Applicants must have earned a 4-year baccalaureate degree from a regionally-accredited U.S. institution, or an equivalent degree earned at a non-U.S. institution with at least a 3.0 GPA. Applicants for the PhD must also have earned MA or MFA degree from a regionally-accredited U.S. institution, or an equivalent degree earned at a non-U.S. institution with at least a 3.0 GPA. All International students must show evidence of acceptable scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL [https://www.ets.org/toefl]). See information on the International Educational Services website for specific admissions requirements (http://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-students-scholar-services), including minimum TOEFL score.

Our PhD program also requires the Graduate Record Exam (GRE [https://www.ets.org/gre]). Scores must be less than five years old. (Use institutional score reporting code 5814.)

We expect scores above the 80th percentile on the Verbal Reasoning and Analytical Writing portions of the exam. We do not consider the quantitative reasoning score in our admissions process.

Generally, our successful applicants have GRE scores well above the 80th percentile but this is not always the case. In making determinations on admissions our committees consider many other factors including, but not limited to, the quality and source of the letters of reference, success in previous programs as indicated by transcripts, the strength of the researched writing sample, the interest generated in the faculty by the statement of goals, how the applicants research interests might have a synergy with the work currently being done by our students, the intellectual diversity the applicant might bring to the program.

Please consider that we are a program of Theatre and Performance Studies and that our students study both areas, not one or the other. Include information on what attracts you to scholarship (as opposed to the professional training you might receive in an MFA program), what attracts you to our program (which faculty member or members would you most want to work with, for example) and what your primary research interests are. Consider too that we are dedicated to developing scholar/artists so indicate what practical areas your skills are in or how you hope to develop such skills while engaged in rigorous scholarly work. How

Financial Assistance

The School nominates outstanding applicants for competitive University fellowships. Teaching assistantships are available to a limited number of students. The Graduate program head will discuss these with accepted students at the time of acceptance.

Website: http://tdps.umd.edu

Contact

James Harding
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies
2822 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
8115 Alumni Drive
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone: 301.405.6675
Email: jharding@umd.edu

Crystal Gaston
Coordinator of Graduate Studies
Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies
2809 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
8115 Alumni Drive
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Telephone: 301.405.6695
Email: cgaston@umd.edu

Admissions

General Requirements

• Statement of Purpose
• Transcript(s)
• TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students [https://gradschool.umd.edu/education/z069])

Program-Specific Requirements

• Letters of Recommendation (3)
• Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
• CV/Resume
• Writing Sample: A 10 – 15 page paper demonstrating ability to do university level research – uploaded to the Uploads Requirement section of the application.
• Publications/Presentations (optional)

Applicants must have earned a 4-year baccalaureate degree from a regionally-accredited U.S. institution, or an equivalent degree earned at a non-U.S. institution with at least a 3.0 GPA. Applicants for the PhD must also have earned MA or MFA degree from a regionally-accredited U.S. institution, or an equivalent degree earned at a non-U.S. institution with at least a 3.0 GPA. All International students must show evidence of acceptable scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL [https://www.ets.org/toefl]). See information on the International Educational Services website for specific admissions requirements (http://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-students-scholar-services), including minimum TOEFL score.

Our PhD program also requires the Graduate Record Exam (GRE [https://www.ets.org/gre]). Scores must be less than five years old. (Use institutional score reporting code 5814.)

We expect scores above the 80th percentile on the Verbal Reasoning and Analytical Writing portions of the exam. We do not consider the quantitative reasoning score in our admissions process.

Generally, our successful applicants have GRE scores well above the 80th percentile but this is not always the case. In making determinations on admissions our committees consider many other factors including, but not limited to, the quality and source of the letters of reference, success in previous programs as indicated by transcripts, the strength of the researched writing sample, the interest generated in the faculty by the statement of goals, how the applicants research interests might have a synergy with the work currently being done by our students, the intellectual diversity the applicant might bring to the program.

Please consider that we are a program of Theatre and Performance Studies and that our students study both areas, not one or the other. Include information on what attracts you to scholarship (as opposed to the professional training you might receive in an MFA program), what attracts you to our program (which faculty member or members would you most want to work with, for example) and what your primary research interests are. Consider too that we are dedicated to developing scholar/artists so indicate what practical areas your skills are in or how you hope to develop such skills while engaged in rigorous scholarly work. How
might you use this degree in the future if it does not lead directly to a job in higher education?

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website: https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions

**Application Deadlines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Applicant</th>
<th>Fall Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Applicants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Citizens and Permanent Residents</td>
<td>Preferred: 17 Jan / Final: 7 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Applicants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants</td>
<td>Preferred: 17 Jan / Final: 7 Feb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Deadlines: Please visit the program website at http://www.tdps.umd.edu

**Requirements**


**Facilities and Special Resources**

The School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies is housed in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at Maryland. This state-of-the-art facility includes the 650-seat Ina and Jack Kay Theatre, the 200-seat Robert and Arlene Kogod Theatre and the 100-seat Cafritz Theatre.

The campus is within a few miles of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Arena Stage, the National Theatre, Ford’s Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre at the Lansburgh, and the Olney Theatre Center, which are among more than 80 professional area theatres. Two of the greatest libraries in the world, the Library of Congress and the Folger Shakespeare Library, are in close proximity to campus. Students also make regular use of the Smithsonian Institution, the Federal Theatre Project Archives, the National Archives, and more than 50 specialized libraries and institutions in the Washington metropolitan area.