

# THEATRE, B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre within the Department of Visual and Performing Arts (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/visual-and-performing-arts/>) at Saint Louis University creates exceptional learning experiences for the upcoming generation of leaders in the field. A SLU theatre major's education takes place in classrooms, studios, workshops and via the production of theatrical works.

In the classrooms, students examine the concepts, theories and ideas that define theatre and performance. In the studios and workshops, students observe, practice and refine techniques for performing, directing and designing theatre.

In productions, students apply their knowledge and technique to create theatrical work. Each semester SLU Theatre and Dance produces a season of theatrical productions. Mentored by our full-time faculty and staff and visiting artists, students execute a comprehensive range of roles on and off stage.

Seasonal performances are both on campus in our proscenium and studio theatres and off campus in professional venues across St. Louis. Students benefit from studying in a city with a vibrant arts scene, where they can attend performances at places like the Fabulous Fox Theatre, located in Grand Center one block from campus; the historic Stifel Theatre; and the Muny, America's oldest and largest outdoor musical theatre. Competitive students can pursue internships and professional positions with companies producing everything from star-studded operas to fringe festivals supporting independent artists.

Students who study theatre at SLU immerse themselves in creating theatre. They play lead roles in plays like *Macbeth* and *Ride the Cyclone*. They call the cues for these plays in professional venues. They construct the costumes, program the lights and even design the sets. They direct each other in their own original works. They discover the meaning of theatre and performance for the world and find their roles within that meaning.

## Curriculum Overview

Like all Bachelor of Arts degrees at Saint Louis University, theatre majors receive a comprehensive and rigorous liberal arts education. Within their field, theatre majors develop academic proficiency and practical knowledge in all aspects of theatre while also completing the required University Undergraduate Core curriculum (<https://www.slu.edu/core/>). The B.A. in theatre emphasizes the collaborative process of creating theatre and the importance of shared commitment and responsibility in pursuing a goal. The core curriculum provides students with the educational foundation for success in professional theatre or to continue their studies at the graduate level. Students also gain a wide breadth of skills transferable to many other fields, such as law, management and journalism.

The theatre major requires 38 credits of specialized classes in which students experience learning, experimenting with and applying the philosophies, techniques and practices of professional theatre artists and scholars.

## Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Theatre and Dance (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/visual-and-performing-arts/theatre/>) stages a yearly season of main stage productions. Every theatre major is involved in some way with each

production. Theatre majors and minors form a company of actors, designers and technicians who, with the mentorship and participation of faculty and staff, are responsible for all aspects of each work. Productions take place on campus, in our 400-seat, proscenium theatre or our 70-seat studio theatre, or off campus in professional venues in St. Louis' Grand Center Arts District, including the Kranzberg Arts Center and the Grandel. The arts district is adjacent to SLU's campus.

Benefits of the theatre major also include internship and career opportunities. Students may pursue local auditions for summer theatre jobs and are encouraged to apply for internships with organizations across the country. Students find local employment and internship opportunities with the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the St. Louis Black Repertory Company, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, the Muny and other professional organizations.

The SLU Theatre and Dance program regularly collaborates with Prison Performing Arts (PPA). An internship is often available through this partnership. The partnership affords students an opportunity to create theatre while engaging with a diverse community and promoting social equity. Productions created in collaboration with PPA culminate with a performance inside a Missouri correctional center and ticketed performances for the public in St. Louis.

## Careers

Alumni from SLU Theatre work in professional theatre, feature films, television productions, commercials, and any other milieu that employs actors, writers, directors, producers, dramaturgs, designers or theatrical craftspeople. Some become theatre educators. Theatre majors also graduate with transferable skills directly applicable to fields such as law, journalism, sales, marketing, management, health care, entrepreneurship and any other career where creativity, communication and collaboration skills are necessary.

## Admission Requirements

Begin Your Application (<https://www.slu.edu/apply.php>)

Saint Louis University also accepts the Common Application and the Coalition Application.

## Freshman

All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, applicants must be graduating from an accredited high school, have an acceptable HiSET exam score or take the General Education Development (GED) test.

## Transfer

Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED or HiSET.

Students who have attempted fewer than 24 semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must follow the above freshmen admission requirements. Students who have completed 24 or more semester credits (or 30 quarter credits) of college credit must submit transcripts from all previously attended college(s).

In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the Office of Admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University. Where applicable, transfer students will be evaluated on any courses outlined in the continuation standards of their preferred major.

## International Applicants

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/>)
- All academic records must include an English translation. An official course-by-course transcript evaluation may be required and accepted.

## Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$58,960
University Fees	\$1,000

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Cost of Attendance (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/cost-of-attendance.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/tuition-summer-current.pdf>)

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2025, 99.6% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$517 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

## Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to characterize the social and artistic movements that have transformed theatre.
2. Graduates will be able to analyze and interpret texts and performances through written and oral analysis or commentary.
3. Graduates will be able to distinguish prominent developments, conventions and genres of theatre history and dramatic literature in a social and historical context.
4. Graduates will be able to practice collaborative skills in various theatrical roles and assignments.
5. Graduates will be able to create a personal definition of theatre and a statement of intent.
6. Graduates will be able to formulate and apply process skills in rehearsal, production and classroom settings.
7. Graduates will be able to demonstrate proficiency in one or more area-specific skills: acting, directing, design, technical theatre, management, playwriting or dramaturgy.
8. Graduates will be able to experience the impact of design and production on the theatrical experience.
9. Graduates will be able to identify theatre career opportunities.

## Requirements

Theatre majors must complete a minimum of **38 credits** for the major.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>University Undergraduate Core (<a href="https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/">https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/</a>)</b>		<b>32-35</b>
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
<i>Theatre Core</i>		
THR 1500	Introduction to Theatre	3
THR 2510	Acting I: Fundamentals	3
THR 2200 or THR 2520	Survey of Theatre Design Introduction to Technical Production	3
THR 3500 or THR 4515	Playscript Analysis History of Theatre and Dance Advanced Studies	3
THR 3560	Advanced Theatre Workshop (2 credit course-repeat 4 times)	8
THR 3600	Career Preparation	3
THR 3700	Directing I: Theories & Method	3
<i>Theatre Elective Courses</i>		<b>12</b>
Select 12 credits with the Theatre Elective attribute, such as:		
THR 2500	Costume Construction	
THR 3510	Musical Theatre Performance	
THR 3545	Scenic and Lighting Design	
THR 4570	Advanced Acting: Scene Study	
<b>General Electives</b>		<b>47-50</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120</b>

## Continuation Standards

Students must have a minimum of a 2.00 average GPA in their major-related courses. Students who fall below a 2.00 average in major-related courses will be placed on probation. If the student fails to obtain at least a 2.00 average GPA in major-related courses after two consecutive

semesters on probation the student will not be allowed to continue in the program.

### Graduation Requirements

- Complete a minimum of 120 credits (excluding pre-college level courses numbered below 1000).
- Complete the University Undergraduate Core curriculum requirements.
- Complete major requirements: minimum of 30 credits required.
- Complete remaining credits with a second major, minor, certificate or electives to reach the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.
- Achieve at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, a 2.00 grade point average in the major(s), and a 2.00 grade point average in the minor/certificate or related elective credits.
- Complete department- and program-specific academic and performance requirements.
- Complete at least 50% of the coursework for the major and 75% for the minor/certificate through Saint Louis University or an approved study-abroad program.
- Complete 30 of the final 36 credits through Saint Louis University or an approved study-abroad program.
- Complete an online degree application by the required University deadline.

### Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student’s academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an “!” are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
THR 1500	Introduction to Theatre	3
THR 2510	Acting I: Fundamentals	3
THR 3550	Theatre Practicum	0
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar (Must be taken in first 36 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	2-3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community (Must be taken in first 36 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	1
CORE 1900	Eloquentia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication (Should be taken in first 36 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	3
General Electives		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15-16</b>

<b>Spring</b>		
THR 2520	Introduction to Technical Production	3
THR 3500	Playscript Analysis	3
THR 3550	Theatre Practicum	0
CORE 3200	Ways of Thinking: Quantitative Reasoning	3
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
General Electives		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
THR 2200	Survey of Theatre Design	3
THR 4515	History of Theatre and Dance Advanced Studies	3
THR 3550	Theatre Practicum	0
CORE 1200	Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication (Should be taken in first 60 credit hours at SLU / Cannot carry attributes)	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
General Electives		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

<b>Spring</b>		
THR 3550	Theatre Practicum	0
THR Elective	This may be selected from any course with the 'Theatre Elective' attribute.	3
CORE 3800	Ways of Thinking: Natural and Applied Sciences	3
CORE 2500	Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation	0
General Electives		9
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

<b>Year Three</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
THR 3550	Theatre Practicum	0
THR Elective	This may be selected from any course with the 'Theatre Elective' attribute.	3
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	2-3
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
General Electives		7
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15-16</b>

<b>Spring</b>		
Recommended Study Aboard (CAS Core)		
CORE 3600	Ways of Thinking: Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
CORE 4000	Collaborative Inquiry	2-3
General Electives		10
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15-16</b>

<b>Year Four</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
THR 3550	Theatre Practicum	0
THR 3700	Directing I: Theories & Method	3
THR Elective	This may be selected from any course with the 'Theatre Elective' attribute.	3

CORE 3500	Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World	1
General Electives		8
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
THR 3600	Career Preparation	3
THR Elective	This may be selected from any course with the 'Theatre Elective' attribute.	3
General Electives		9
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120-123</b>

## 2+SLU

2+SLU programs provide a guided pathway for students transferring from a partner institution.

- Theatre, B.A. (STLCC 2+SLU) (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2plusslu/stlcc/theatre/>)

## Contact Us

For additional information about this program, please contact [arts@slu.edu](mailto:arts@slu.edu) or call 314-977-2410.