INTERDISCIPLINARY THEATRE STUDIES, M.A.

The Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies program prepares M.A. students to pursue innovative, interdisciplinary research in theatre studies, and to conduct inquiry through scholarly research, practice as research and meaningful teaching experiences. The M.A. can serve as a preparatory degree for the Ph.D., or as a terminal degree for students seeking greater exposure to theatre, drama and performance studies beyond the undergraduate degree. Students with a background in theatre by, with, and for children and youth may apply to specialize in theatre for youth.

The program’s core and affiliate faculty are leaders in theatre and performance studies, whose scholarship, practice and leadership in the profession are recognized nationally and abroad. The core faculty’s strengths include global dramatic literatures, theatre history and historiography, theatre and cultural theory, the theory and practice of theatre for youth, and relational performance. Our affiliate faculty expand the coursework and advising available to students, incorporating related fields of visual cultures, anthropology, art and art history, literary and theatre studies across English and non-English-speaking traditions, music, new media and digital design, gender and women’s studies, and other disciplines.

The program attracts students from across the United States as well as internationally. It creates opportunities for students to engage in teaching and practice as part of their research. It also encourages students to participate in national and international professional meetings, working groups and colloquia; and to share their art and research through practice and publication in their field.

ADMISSIONS

Applicants to the M.A. degree program in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies need to include in their application a thoughtful statement about their interests in theatre research and the areas in which they might like to study, as well as a sample of their writing in the form of an advanced research paper. Applications are judged on the basis of the prospective student’s previous academic record, Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores, references, personal statement, and writing sample.

Fall semester admission: Applications must be received by January 5 to guarantee consideration for financial aid.

Spring semester admission: The program does not accept applications for study beginning in spring semester.

GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Financial support available to students in the program includes fellowships, teaching assistantships and project assistantships. Please contact the program director or graduate coordinator for more information about financial support.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

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<th>Mode of Instruction</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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Mode of Instruction Definitions

Evening/Weekend: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Online: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules.

Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

Hybrid: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Accelerated: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Minimum 30 credits

Credit Requirement
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement
16 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement
Half of degree coursework (15 credits out of 30 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement
3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements
Candidates may not file more than one grade of Incomplete per semester.

Assessments and Examinations
A thesis is required; this thesis should be the product of the candidate's independent research. A one-hour examination on the thesis presentation is required.

Language Requirements
No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES
Students choose courses in consultation with their advisor. There is one required 3-credit course, ENGL 850 Proseminar in Theatre Research, taken in the fall semester of the first year. 21 of the 30 credits must be in ITS courses.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES
The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

PRIOR COURSEWORK
Graduate Work from Other Institutions
With program approval, students may count no more than 18 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
With program approval, students may count up to 7 credits numbered 300 or above.

UW–Madison University Special
With program approval, students may count up to 15 credits numbered 700 or above if difference in tuition is paid.

PROBATION
Students are reviewed annually by the research faculty and may be placed on probation if they are not making satisfactory progress on program requirements.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
The thesis must be prepared under the supervision of their program advisor.

The thesis committee consists of three faculty members—their advisor, at least one additional faculty member from Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies, and one other member.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS
The M.A. program is designed to be completed in three to four semesters of full-time study. Students may request a variance in this time frame by approval of the program steering committee.

OTHER
Most ITS students are funded through teaching assistantships in the following courses: Introduction to Theatre and Dramatic Literature and Theatre in Education. Both courses provide opportunities for students to develop their own teaching styles and skills. Students also receive funding through fellowships and project assistantships.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Articulates, critiques, or elaborates the theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry or schools of practice in theatre, drama and performance.

2. Identifies sources and assembles evidence pertaining to questions or challenges in the study of theatre, drama and performance.

3. Demonstrates understanding of theatre, drama and performance in historical, social, and global contexts.

4. Selects and/or utilizes the most appropriate methodologies and practices. Evaluates or synthesizes information pertaining to questions or challenges in the fields of drama, theatre and performance.

5. Communicates clearly in projects that include collaborative theatre practice, writing seminar-level research papers, and a master’s thesis.

6. Recognizes and applies principles of ethical and professional conduct.
PEOPLE

**Faculty:** Professors Dharwadker, Vanden Heuvel, van de Water; Associate Professors Hernández, Peterson, Trotter. The program also works closely with affiliate faculty from programs across the university.

ACCREDITATION

**Accreditation**

National Association of Schools of Theatre (https://nast.arts-accredit.org)