A degree in Theatre and Drama from the University of Wisconsin–Madison opens doors to a wide range of careers. Our alumni are successful in theatre, film, television, gaming, production management, development, design, education, and all aspects of the entertainment industry. Our faculty are active theatre professionals who bring current and practical knowledge into the classrooms and productions. Our department is well known for the individual attention, mentoring, and commitment we give our students.

Through mainstage, open-stage, and student-produced works, the Department of Theatre and Drama provides students with excellent opportunities to apply the skills and techniques learned in the classroom within fully staged productions.

Theatre and Drama majors will complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Theatre and Drama through the School of Education. Students may informally select areas of emphasis such as design, stage management, directing, acting, or theatre technology.

Majors whose primary interest is acting may pursue the Acting Option (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/theatre-drama/theatre-drama-bs/theatre-drama-acting-bs/). This highly structured program of study offers students a deeper practical knowledge and experience of the skills required to pursue professional work as an actor and/or advanced studies in theatre. Students are highly mentored and will benefit from personalized performance reviews with the acting faculty at the end of each semester. Upon completion, this named option will be formally documented on the student’s transcript.

Admission to the Acting Option is by audition only; auditions are announced at the midpoint of each semester and require the completion of certain courses. Students in the Acting Option are expected to audition for University Theatre (UT) productions to gain experience and support a robust UT season. Contact the department advisor for more information on the Acting Option and audition process.

Non-majors who wish to extend their familiarity with theatre in theory and practice are encouraged to enroll in department courses and participate in productions. The Certificate in Theatre (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/theatre-drama/theatre-certificate/) allows students from across campus, regardless of their major or degree program, to engage in a structured, meaningful theatre-related experience. The department has hosted students from many disciplines — such as law, business, medicine, art, dance, science, and social work — who wish to develop effective communication skills, enhance problem-solving abilities, and cultivate visual acumen.