

# Theatre Performance

The Forest Roberts Theatre is one of the finest university theatres in the nation, boasting an upgraded computerized lighting control along with an upgraded sound system. Theatre majors put what they learn in performance and technical theatre classes into practice onstage and backstage in five major productions per year.

Experimental theatre space in the Black Box Theatre located in the McClintock Building is also home to numerous student-directed productions, as well as, many performance classes.

If you're interested in pursuing a theatre-related career, and are willing to work hard to gain the necessary experience and skills, then a Theatre and Entertainment Arts degree from NMU may be for you. You will have the opportunity to become involved in all NMU theatrical productions, from acting to directing to working on production and technical crews. These are all occurrences from which you will gain critical experience and acquire marketable skills and competencies. You may even find yourself a part of award-winning productions, like the students involved in the 1994 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival award-winning production of *Haywire*.

## Skills and Competencies

Aspiring actors and directors—and anyone interested in careers within the dramatic field—should take part in high school and university theatre, or work with community and nonprofit theatres for experience. Formal theatre training or acting experience is generally necessary, although some people enter the field without it. Most training takes place at colleges and universities throughout the country offering bachelor's and master's degrees in theatre. College theatre curricula usually include courses in acting, directing, stagecraft, design, theatre history and the liberal arts. Northern Michigan University is no exception. In fact, the preparation you'll receive as a theatre major at NMU will provide you with a solid academic background that will help you whether or not you decide to enter the theatre field. Your ability to write and speak effectively is absolutely critical in today's workforce. Similarly, your ability to analyze and solve problems is also important. Much of your academic course work—be it in theatre, literature, or philosophy—will help you fine-tune these skills.

## Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

Total Credits Required for Degree (62 cr.)

General Education (32 cr.)

Theatre Performance Required Courses (34 cr.)

- TH130 The Theatre Experience (4 cr.)
- TH131 Stagecraft (2 cr.)
- TH132 Acting 1 (2 cr.)
- TH234 Makeup Studio (2 cr.)
- TH247 Performance Studio (4 cr.)
- TH352 Directing Theory (4 cr.)
- TH360 Theatre History 1 (4 cr.)
- TH432 Theatre and Entertainment Careers (1 cr.)
- TH456 Entertainment Arts Management (4 cr.)
- TH491 Practicum in Theatre and Entertainment Arts (2 cr.)
- TH493 Field Studies (1 cr.)

## Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship and the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society, the more ways you have to develop your professional skills and gain experience. In addition to participating in the various productions and activities offered by the Forest Roberts Theatre, NMU, and beyond, members have the opportunity to be part of a family unlike any other. Of course, your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

## Additional Considerations

Practical experience on stage or backstage is imperative in these fields.

Graduate work focusing on cinema exclusively is a necessary prerequisite to some film careers.

A business minor or second major would be helpful if you're interested in the business field. Proficiency in a second language may be helpful.

Remember to take any necessary exams early; it can take up to six weeks for results to be sent to schools to which you applied.

## Job Outlook

Careers in theatre arts are expected to grow as fast as average. Due to the very diverse collection of professions, salary can range from very low to as much as top earning Hollywood stars.

# Potential Careers

NMU's Theatre Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

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|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Actor                   | Scenic Designer     |
| Advertising Manager     | Screenwriter        |
| Booking Agent           | Sound Designer      |
| Box Office Manager      | Special Effects     |
| Box Office Treasurer    | Speech Writer       |
| Campaign Manager        | Stage Carpenter     |
| Casting Director        | Stage Electrician   |
| Choreographer           | Stage Manager       |
| Company Manager         | Technical Director  |
| Costumer                | Theatre Management  |
| Critic                  | Tour Coordinator    |
| Playwright              | Composer            |
| Director                | Press Agent         |
| Talent Agent            | Arts Administrator  |
| Dolly Grip              | Producer            |
| Dramaturge              | Properties Designer |
| Fund Raising            | Radio/TV Announcer  |
| Gaffer                  | Fine Arts Teacher   |
| Librettist              | Film Director       |
| Lighting Designer       |                     |
| Makeup Technician/Agent |                     |
| Event Planner           |                     |

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

Theatre and Dance  
214 Thomas Fine Arts  
P: 906-227-2760  
E: [theatreanddance@nmu.edu](mailto:theatreanddance@nmu.edu)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

For Information about NMU Student Organizations  
Associated with this Major Contact:  
Center for Student Enrichment  
1206 University Center  
906-227-2439  
[www.nmu.edu/cse](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:  
[www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org) -Theatre Communication Group, Inc.



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2022



What to do with  
a major in...

## Theatre Performance- Associate of Arts

