

# THEATER, BFA

**Banner Code:** AR-BFA-THR

**Sara Simanski, Academic Advisor**

A407 deLaski Performing Arts Building  
Fairfax Campus

Phone: 703-993-6079

Email: [ssimansk@gmu.edu](mailto:ssimansk@gmu.edu)

Website: <https://theater.gmu.edu/academics>

## Admissions & Policies

### Admissions

Entrance to the program is by audition/interview or portfolio review. Information about the audition process, including dates on the School of Theater website (<https://theater.gmu.edu>). Admission to the university is determined by the Admissions Office.

### Policies

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/>).

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

#### Mason Core

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Foundation Requirements</b>		
	Oral Communication ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#oral">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#oral</a> )	3
	Information Technology ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#information-technology">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#information-technology</a> )	3
	Quantitative Reasoning ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#quantitative">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#quantitative</a> )	3
ENGH 101	Composition (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>	3
ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
	Literature ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature</a> )	3
	Arts ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts</a> ) <sup>2</sup>	3
	Natural Science ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science</a> ) <sup>3</sup>	7
	Global History ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global-history">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global-history</a> )	3
	Global Understanding ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global</a> )	3

Social and Behavioral Sciences (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#social-behavioral-science>) 3

Total Credits 37

1

Nonnative speakers of English with limited proficiency in the language may substitute ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) for ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>). Students must attain a minimum grade of C in ENGH 100 Composition for Multilingual Writers (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) or ENGH 101 Composition (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), as well as in ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), to fulfill degree requirements.

2

Outside the major. Students earning a concentration in Musical Theater Performance must take DANC 125 Modern/Contemporary Dance I (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 131 Beginning Jazz Technique (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 145 Ballet I (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 161 Beginning Tap Dance (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 225 Modern/Contemporary Dance II (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 231 Intermediate Jazz Technique (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), DANC 245 Ballet II (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>), or DANC 331 Advanced Jazz Dance (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>).

3

Including one laboratory science

### Major

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Theater Core Requirements</b>		
Note: All THR majors may not double count THR courses within the major. All THR courses count either towards the degree core or the concentration, but not both.		
THR 150	Global Theater Histories I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
THR 151	Global Theater Histories II (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
THR 196	Production Practicum	1
THR 197	Literary Management Practicum	1
THR 198	Construction or Admin Practicum	1
THR 199	Production Run Crew Practicum	1
THR 201	Stage Management	3
THR 210	Acting I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
THR 230	Fundamentals of Production (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
THR 300	Voice and Speech	3
THR 329	Directing	3
THR 350	Script Analysis	3

THR 411	Great Film Directors (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
or THR 412	Great Film Performances (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	

### Movement 3

Select one course from the following: <sup>3</sup>

THR 303	Movement for Actors
THR 304	Advanced Movement for Actors
THR 305	Unarmed Stage Combat
THR 306	Movement in Musical Theater

### Synthesis 3

Select one course from the following:

THR 440	Advanced Studies in Directing/ Dramaturgy (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )
THR 496	Text in Production (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )

### Design/Tech in the Discipline 3

Select one course from the following: <sup>3</sup>

THR 240	Introduction to Theatrical Design <sup>2</sup>
THR 313	Event Technical Production
THR 314	Lighting Stagecraft
THR 315	Sound Engineering
THR 316	Scene Painting
THR 330	Seminar in Technical Theater
THR 342	Makeup Design

### Writing in the Discipline 3

Select one course from the following: <sup>3</sup>

THR 351	Dramatic Theory and Criticism
THR 380	Playwriting I
THR 382	Screenplay Workshop
THR 484	Translation Adaptation for Stage Screen

### Dramatic Literature

Select one course from the following: <sup>3</sup>

THR 352	Dramatic Literature Seminar
THR 353	Advanced Studies in Theater History
THR 354	American Voices
THR 359	World Stages (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>
THR 424	Contemporary Women Playwrights

Total Credits 46

1

May fulfill Mason Core (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) global understanding or the upper-level dramatic literature requirement but not both.

2

Design & Tech concentration students must complete THR 240 for the Design/Tech in the Discipline requirement.

3

or with permission of Director

## Concentrations

Theater majors earning a BFA in Theater must select one of the following concentrations:

### Concentrations

- Design for Stage and Screen Concentration (DSS)
- Musical Theater Performance Concentration (MTPF)
- Performance for Stage and Screen Concentration (PSS)

### Design for Stage and Screen Concentration (DSS)

Code	Title	Credits
THR 339	Principles of Design	3
THR 492	Advanced Practicum <sup>2</sup>	3
Select 24 credits from the following: <sup>1</sup>		24
THR 196	Production Practicum	
THR 197	Literary Management Practicum	
THR 198	Construction or Admin Practicum	
THR 199	Production Run Crew Practicum	
THR 313	Event Technical Production	
THR 314	Lighting Stagecraft	
THR 315	Sound Engineering	
THR 316	Scene Painting	
THR 330	Seminar in Technical Theater	
THR 331	Drafting and Modeling	
THR 332	History of Fashion and Dress	
THR 333	Scenic Design	
THR 334	Lighting Design	
THR 335	Costume Design	
THR 336	Technical Direction	
THR 337	Sound Design	
THR 340	Advanced Studies in Directing	
THR 342	Makeup Design	
THR 343	Costume Technology	
THR 401	Professional Presentation	
THR 415	Advanced Sound Engineering	
THR 428	Musical Theater Ensemble <sup>2</sup>	
THR 434	Advanced Lighting Design	
THR 437	Advanced Sound Design	
THR 490	Special Topics in Theater	
THR 491	Seminar on the Profession	
THR 492	Advanced Practicum <sup>2</sup>	
THR 493	Collaborative Lab Experience <sup>2</sup>	
THR 494	Field Experience	
THR 497	Independent Study	
Total Credits		30

1

or with permission of Director

2

Registration by audition/interview only. Students completing THR 428, THR 492, or THR 493 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

**Musical Theater Performance Concentration (MTPF)**

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Core Courses</b>		
MUSI 108 or MUSI 115	Practical Musicianship <sup>1</sup> Introduction to Music Theory	3
MUSI 113	Aural Skills I <sup>1</sup>	1
MUSI 171	Keyboard Skills I <sup>1</sup>	1
MUSI 223 or MUSI 243	Applied Music in Voice Applied Music in Voice	8
THR 306	Movement in Musical Theater	3
THR 310	Acting II	3
THR 320	Performance Studio	3
THR 406 or DANC 331	Advanced Movement in Musical Theater Advanced Jazz Dance (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	3
THR 427	Musical Theater Workshop	3
<b>Advanced Performance</b> 3		
Select one course from: <sup>3</sup>		
THR 365	Characterization	
THR 410	Acting for the Camera	
THR 420	Advanced Performance Studio	
<b>Ensemble</b> 3		
Select one course from: <sup>3</sup>		
THR 428	Musical Theater Ensemble <sup>2</sup>	
THR 493	Collaborative Lab Experience <sup>2</sup>	
THR 494	Field Experience	
THR 495	Senior Capstone Project	
<b>Elective</b> 3		
Select one course from: <sup>3</sup>		
DANC 118	Global Dance Perspectives I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
DANC 119	Dance in Popular Culture (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
DANC 125	Modern/Contemporary Dance I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
DANC 131	Beginning Jazz Technique (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
DANC 145	Ballet I (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
DANC 225	Modern/Contemporary Dance II (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
DANC 231	Intermediate Jazz Technique (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
DANC 245	Ballet II (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
DANC 331	Advanced Jazz Dance (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> ) (200 level pre-requisite must be met)	
MUSI 102	Popular Music in America (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
MUSI 107	Jazz and Blues in America (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	

MUSI 301	Music in Motion Pictures (Mason Core) ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/</a> )	
THR 304	Advanced Movement for Actors	
THR 305	Unarmed Stage Combat	
THR 365	Characterization	
THR 405	Advanced Stage Combat	
THR 406	Advanced Movement in Musical Theater	
THR 420	Advanced Performance Studio	
THR 421	One-Person Show	
THR 422	Performance: Process and Portfolio	
Total Credits		37

1

The School of Music offers placement tests in Theory, Sight Singing, Ear Training and Keyboard Skills for students with an exceptional level of competency or prior academic experience in these areas. Placement tests are optional. However, students must pass the specific placement tests in order to receive "credit-by-examination" to be applied for credit to the concentration. These exams are only available the semester you begin coursework at Mason and cannot be scheduled for a later time. Opportunities to take the placement exams and additional exam details are posted on the School of Music website: [music.gmu.edu](https://music.gmu.edu) (<https://music.gmu.edu>)

2

Registration by audition/interview only. Students completing THR 428 and THR 493 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

3

or with permission of Director

**Performance for Stage and Screen Concentration (PSS)**

Code	Title	Credits
THR 301	Advanced Study in Voice	3
THR 310	Acting II	3
THR 365 or THR 421	Characterization One-Person Show	3
THR 410	Acting for the Camera	3
Select 18 credits from the following: <sup>1</sup>		18
THR 196	Production Practicum	
THR 197	Literary Management Practicum	
THR 198	Construction or Admin Practicum	
THR 199	Production Run Crew Practicum	
THR 304	Advanced Movement for Actors	
THR 305	Unarmed Stage Combat	
THR 306	Movement in Musical Theater	
THR 320	Performance Studio	
THR 321	Acting Shakespeare	
THR 340	Advanced Studies in Directing	
THR 342	Makeup Design	
THR 401	Professional Presentation	
THR 405	Advanced Stage Combat	
THR 420	Advanced Performance Studio	
THR 422	Performance: Process and Portfolio	
THR 423	Audition Techniques: Stage and Camera	

THR 427	Musical Theater Workshop	
THR 428	Musical Theater Ensemble <sup>2</sup>	
THR 490	Special Topics in Theater	
THR 491	Seminar on the Profession	
THR 492	Advanced Practicum <sup>2</sup>	
THR 493	Collaborative Lab Experience <sup>2</sup>	
THR 494	Field Experience	
THR 497	Independent Study	
Total Credits		30

1  
or with permission of Director

2  
Registration by audition/interview only. Students completing THR 428, THR 492, or THR 493 for the first time must register for 3 credits. Students repeating the course may elect to register for 1-3 credits.

### General Electives

Code	Title	Credits
After fulfilling degree requirements, BFA students may use remaining general electives credits inside or outside of the department. All students are required to take a minimum of 45 credits of upper-division courses (300-400 level).		0-7
Total Credits		0-7

## 4-Year Plan

### Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater Sample Plan of Study

The sample plan below is a recommended sequencing of courses based on pre-requisites and scheduling. This may not fit every student's needs and is a guideline, not a requirement. Students should confirm major requirements with their academic advisor and with PatriotWeb Degree Evaluation to ensure they enroll in the proper courses and are on track to graduate.

#### First Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
THR 150	3	THR 151	3
THR 201 or 210	3	THR Concentration Course	3
THR 230	3	Mason Core (typically COMM 100 or 101)	3
Mason Core (typically ENGH 101)	3	Mason Core (typically Literature)	3
Mason Core (typically Quantitative Reasoning)	3	Mason Core (typically Arts outside the major)	3

	Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1
		15
		16

#### Second Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
THR 201 or 210	3	THR 329	3
THR 350	3	Movement or Design/Tech in the Discipline	3
Movement or Design/Tech in the Discipline	3	THR Concentration Course	3
THR 300 or THR Concentration Course	3	Mason Core (typically HIST 100 or 125)	3
Mason Core (typically Information Technology) or THR Concentration Course	3	Mason Core (typically Information Technology) or THR Concentration Course	3
Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1	Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1
		16	16

#### Third Year

Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Dramatic Literature or Writing in the Discipline	3	Dramatic Literature or Writing in the Discipline	3
Mason Core (typically Lab Science)	4	Film Study or THR Concentration Course	3
THR 300 or THR Concentration Course	3	THR Concentration Course	3
THR Concentration Course	3	Mason Core (typically ENGH 302)	3
Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1	Mason Core (typically Social & Behavioral Sciences)	3

Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1		
	15		15
<b>Fourth Year</b>			
<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Synthesis or THR Concentration Course	3	Synthesis or THR Concentration Course	3
Film Study or THR Concentration Course	3	THR Concentration Course	3
THR Concentration Course	3	THR Concentration Course	3
Mason Core (typically Non-Lab Science)	3	General Elective	3
Mason Core (typically Global Understanding)	3	General Elective	3
		General Elective	1
	15		16

Total Credits 124

Detailed four year plans and degree planning checklists can be found at <https://advising.gmu.edu/current-student/majors-at-mason/>.

## Concentration in Musical Theater Performance

### First Year

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
THR 150	3	THR 151	3
THR 210	3	THR 230	3
Mason Core (typically ENGH 101)	3	THR 310	3
Mason Core (typically Quantitative Reasoning)	3	Mason Core (typically COMM 100 or 101)	3
DANC Course (Chosen from Mason Core Arts list)	3	Mason Core (typically Literature)	3
MUSI 223	1	MUSI 223	1
	16		16

### Second Year

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Mason Core (typically Information Technology)	3	Mason Core (typically Social & Behavioral Sciences)	3
Mason Core (typically HIST 100 or 125)	3	Mason Core (Typically Global Understanding)	3
Movement (THR 303, 304, or 305) or THR 300	3	THR 350	3
THR 427	3	THR 306 or 201	3
MUSI 115 or 108	3	MUSI 171	1
MUSI 223	1	MUSI 223	1
		Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1
	16		15

### Third Year

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Mason Core (typically Lab Science)	4	Mason Core (typically Non-Lab Science)	3
THR 329	3	THR 306 or 201	3
Movement (THR 303, 304, or 305) or THR 300	3	THR 411 or 412	3
THR 320	3	Dramatic Literature or Concentration Elective	3
MUSI 113	1	MUSI 223	1
MUSI 223	1	Writing in the Discipline or Design/Tech in the Discipline	3
Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1		
	16		16

### Fourth Year

<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Mason Core (typically ENGH 302)	3	Synthesis (THR 440 or 496)	3

Dramatic Literature or Concentration Elective	3	Writing in the Discipline or Design/Tech in the Discipline	3
Writing in the Discipline or Design/Tech in the Discipline	3	THR 428, 493, 494, or 495	3
THR 411 or 412 (or Concentration Movement Elective)	3	THR 406 or DANC 331	3
MUSI 223	1	MUSI 223	1
Practicum (THR 196, 197, 198 and 199 - must complete one of each)	1		
	14		13

Total Credits 122

Detailed four year plans and degree planning checklists can be found at <https://advising.gmu.edu/current-student/majors-at-mason/>.

## Honors

### Honors in the Major

Highly-qualified students who have completed 75 credits may pursue advanced work leading to graduation with honors in the major. Students apply for Honors in Theater by submitting to the Director (by November 15 or April 15) a two-page written statement outlining their reasons for pursuing advanced coursework and specific professional goals, along with the names of two Mason theater faculty members who have agreed to serve as references.

Students satisfy the honors course sequence by taking three honors-specific courses from their chosen concentration. They must also maintain an overall GPA of 3.50 and a GPA of 3.75 within the major.