School of Arts and Humanities

Visual and Performing Arts with Theatre Concentration (BA)

Students who complete the major in Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) pursue an interdisciplinary study of the arts by selecting among courses in historical context, studio practice, performance ensemble, creative writing, and ideas and interpretation of the arts. In the VPA core course, students will experience the theory and practice of the arts in a workshop setting and, in studio or ensemble courses, will gain practical experience in at least one area of the visual or performing arts or creative writing. Courses in the historical context and interpretation of the arts will enable students to understand how style, subject matter, and materials may respond to different motivations and purposes. Students may also choose to enroll in courses associated with concentrations in communication, dance, theatre, film, music, or visual arts.

Since the following catalog course descriptions are very general, students are urged to consult the detailed course descriptions available on the web site for the School of Arts and Humanities. Unless otherwise noted, courses in Visual and Performing Arts are open to all students in the University.

Bachelor of Arts in Visual and Performing Arts with Theatre Concentration

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)\(^1\)

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Professors: Fred I. Curchack, Thomas P. Riccio
Clinical Assistant Professor: Shelby Hibbs
Senior Lecturer: Kathy Lingo

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours\(^2\)

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
RHET 1302 Rhetoric

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

Choose one course from the following:

MATH 1306 College Algebra for the Non-Scientist
MATH 1314 College Algebra

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Mathematics core courses
Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours
Select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences core courses

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours
Choose one course from the following:
- HUMA 1301 Exploration of the Humanities
- LIT 2331 Masterpieces of World Literature
- PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 2316 History of Philosophy I
- PHIL 2317 History of Philosophy II
Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture core courses

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours
Choose one course from the following:
- ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts
- AHST 1303 Survey of Western Art History: Ancient to Medieval
- AHST 1304 Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern
- AHST 2331 Understanding Art
- DANC 1310 Understanding Dance
- THEA 1310 Understanding Theatre
- FILM 2332 Understanding Film
- MUSI 1306 Understanding Music
- MUSI 2322 Music in Western Civilization

American History: 6 semester credit hours
Choose two courses from the following:
- HIST 1301 U.S. History Survey to Civil War
- HIST 1302 U.S. History Survey from Civil War
- HIST 2301 History of Texas
- HIST 2330 Themes and Ideas in American History
- HIST 2332 Civil War and Reconstruction

Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours
- GOVT 2305 American National Government
GOVT 2306 State and Local Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Social and Behavioral Sciences core courses

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours
Choose two courses from the following or other Component Area Option courses:
- ARHM 2340 Creativity
- ARHM 2342 Connections in the Arts and Humanities
- ARHM 2343 Science and the Humanities
- ARHM 2344 World Cultures

Or any 6 hours of Component Area Option courses

II. Major Requirements, Lower-Division: 9 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum
- THEA 1310 Understanding Theatre
3 semester credit hours from a THEA studio course, including:
- THEA 1351 Acting 1
- THEA 1352 Acting 2
- THEA 2311 Topics in Theatre
- THEA 2364 Musical Theatre Workshop
- THEA 2371 Technical Theatre
- THEA 2372 Improvisation
- THEA 2373 Languages of the Body
- THEA 2V71 Independent Study in Theatre
- THEA 2350 Voice for the Actor
3 semester credit hours from a THEA/DANC/MUSI studio ensemble course

III. Major Requirements, Upper-Division: 42 semester credit hours

Major Core Courses: 9 semester credit hours
- AP 3300 Elements of Art and Performance
- ARHM 3342 Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts and Humanities
- AP 3340 Writing in the Arts

Major Distribution and Elective Courses: 24 semester credit hours

- **THEA 3323** Performance in Historical Context

3 semester credit hours from the following:
- **THEA 3310** Theatre/Performance Ensemble
- **THEA 3324** Technical Theatre 2
- **THEA 3325** Directing
- **THEA 3351** Light Design
- **THEA 3372** Advanced Improvisation

3 semester credit hours from the following:
- **THEA 3342** Advanced Topics in Theatre
- **THEA 3356** Acting 3
- **THEA 3361** Performing Shakespeare
- **THEA 3372** Advanced Improvisation
- **THEA 4301** Acting for Film and Video
- **THEA 4342** Advanced Topics in Technical Theatre

6 semester credit hours of upper-division THEA studio/ensemble courses (THEA 3380 suggested), including:
- **THEA 3310** Theatre/Performance Ensemble
- **THEA 3323** Performance in Historical Context
- **THEA 3324** Technical Theatre 2
- **THEA 3325** Directing
- **THEA 3342** Advanced Topics in Theatre
- **THEA 3351** Light Design
- **THEA 3356** Acting 3
- **THEA 3372** Advanced Improvisation
- **THEA 3380** Theatre and Literature
- **THEA 4301** Acting for Film and Video
- **THEA 4310** Theatre Internship
- **THEA 4V71** Independent Study in Theatre
- **THEA 4342** Advanced Topics in Technical Theatre

6 semester credit hours of upper-division THEA/DANC/MUSI courses

3 semester credit hours of upper-division Visual and Performing Arts elective

Major-Related Courses: 9 semester credit hours
Students may select any combination of upper-division courses in Arts and Humanities, Humanities, Historical Studies, Philosophy, Literature, and/or Languages.

IV. Elective Requirements: 27 semester credit hours

**Free Electives: 27 semester credit hours**

Both upper- and lower-division courses may be used as electives, but students must complete at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation. Students are encouraged to enroll in courses in other performance areas, such as dance and music.

Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of [ARHM 1100](#). 

1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.