2026-27 Academic Year

THEATRE ARTS

The Theatre Arts degree program dives deep into the heart of storytelling and stagecraft. If you have a love for the spotlight, Wayne State can build your foundation and make you a well-rounded performer. Mainstage productions at Wayne State give you the opportunity for acting, directing, costume design, special effects, lighting, and more. Here you'll have the opportunity to participate in the annual Kennedy Center American Theatre Festival Region V and tour with our children's theatre. Or, join the WSC Drama Club, a thriving student organization with a busy programming schedule. With a Theatre Arts degree, you'll be prepared to steal the show on the big screen, or you can use your speaking talents to become an announcer, on-air personality, or even a salesperson. No matter what route you take, you'll gain skills that are beneficial to any career, such as design, production, management, and even cultural awareness.

fast facts

Program credit hours: 36 (non-comprehensive) or 48

Students must also take 30 credit hours of General Studies courses. A total of 120 credit hours are needed to graduate from WSC. Additional majors or minors can be added to help meet graduation requirements.

Degree options: B.A. or B.S.

Department: Communication Arts

School: Arts and Humanities

Popular pairings: Construction Management, Drafting and Design, Digital Film Production, Music, Political Science, Pre-Law

focus on results

Skills Learned

- Acting and performance
- Set construction and scene design
- Play directing and stage management
- Creative expression and presentation
- Interpersonal and group communication
- Speech delivery / public speaking
- Persuasion, argumentation, and advocacy
- Communication and leadership
- Critical thinking and reasoning
- Professional standards and ethics
- Project and time management

Possible Careers

- Actor or performing artist
- Theatre director
- Playwright
- Stage effects technician
- Stage or set designer
- Stage manager
- Theatre critic
- Theatre arts instructor
- Professional speaker
- Business representative

Types of Employers

- Theatre companies
- Performing arts groups
- Production companies
- Television / film studios
- Media outlets
- Art and design firms
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Community theatres
- Youth camps
- Hospitals and medical clinics
- Businesses and corporations

outside the classroom

Visit www.wsc.edu/clubs to learn more about clubs and organizations on campus.

Activities / Opportunities

- Theatre productions
- Trips and conferences
- Service-Learning
- Study Abroad

Clubs / Organizations

- Drama Club
- Forensics Team
- Lambda Pi Eta *(national honor society for communication majors)*

Courses and outcomes

2026-27 Academic Year

The following courses are required for the program of study described on this sheet. Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. To develop a plan for registering and taking these courses, please consult the current academic catalog and your advisor.

Program courses

For CAT 2, take CNA 100 Principles of Human Communication.
For CAT 4, take CNA 101 Introduction to Theatre.

Communication Studies Core Courses

CNA 335 Theatre History 3
CNA 443 Theatre Management 3
CNA 455 Senior Seminar in Communication Arts 3
Select one of the following 3
CNA 201 Small Group Communication (3)
CNA 210 Interpersonal Communication (3)

Theatre Arts Concentration

Must act in a minimum of two WSC Theatre mainstage productions and must assist with build for a minimum of two WSC Theatre mainstage productions.

CNA T120/220/320/420 Theatre Workshop 3
CNA 223 Acting 3
CNA 232 Stagecraft 3
CNA 318 Directing 3
CNA 337 Costumes and Make up for Stage and Screen 3
Select one of the following 3
CNA 333 American Theatre (3)
CNA 386 Modern World Drama (3)
Select one of the following 3
CNA 322 Children's Theatre (3)
CNA 382 Movement Specialties: Combat for the Stage and Screen (3)
Select one of the following 3
CNA 331 Scene Design (3)
CNA 387 Lighting (3)

Communication Studies Content Courses (required only for the 48-hour option)

Choose from the following electives 12
CNA 140/240/440 Intercollegiate Forensics (0-3)
CNA 263 Introduction to Mass Communication (3)
CNA 280 News Writing (3)
CNA 302 Language and Human Behavior (3)
CNA 303 Environmental Communication (3)
CNA 318 Directing (3)
CNA 322 Children's Theatre (3) OR CNA 339/439 Musical Theatre (3)
CNA 333 American Theatre (3) OR CNA 386 Modern World Drama (3)
CNA 337 Costumes and Make Up for the Stage and Screen (3)
CNA 342 Persuasion (3)
CNA 345 Rhetorical Criticism (3)
CNA 352 Organizational Presentations (3)
CNA 374 Public Relations (3)
CNA 382 Movement Specialties: Combat for the Stage and Screen (3)
CNA 419 Advanced Directing (3)
CNA 426 Public Relations through Social Media (3)
CNA 431 Advanced Design (3)
CNA 443 Theatre Management (3)
CNA 450 Media Design Applications (3)
CNA 452 Public Relations Case Studies (3)
CNA 453 Integrated Brand Promotion (3)
CNA 457 Special Topics in Communication (3)
CNA 459 Organizational Leadership (3)
CNA 460 Leadership Theory (3)
CNA 462 Communication Research Methods (3)
CNA 465 Qualitative Research Design (3)
CNA 467 Intercultural Communication (3)
CNA 470 Family Communication (3)
CNA 471 Mass Media and Society (3)
CNA 475 Communication Law (3)

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic concepts of interpersonal communication, public address, communication theory, organizational communication, and argumentation. Students demonstrate knowledge through exams, written materials, theatre performances, and classroom projects.
2. Demonstrate communication skill through student presentations in theatre productions, acting, workshops, forensics, interpersonal, small group, argumentation, public speaking, public relations, leadership, and organizational communication classes.
3. Demonstrate application of communication studies and theatre arts through participation in workshops, forensics, internships, service-learning projects, communication conference participation, and senior portfolio development.

theatre arts faculty

Visit www.wsc.edu/communication-arts-department to learn more about the Department of Communication Arts.

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