

Theatre (Directing), MFA

FADIRMFA

ASU is not currently accepting applications for this program.

Do you want to collaborate with some of the most innovative theatre minds in the country? Come and explore how to develop new work with gifted playwrights, devisors and community-engaged artists.

Program description

Degree awarded: MFA Theatre (Directing)

The MFA in theatre with a concentration in directing is a program for students who demonstrate serious purpose, professional aspirations, theatrical daring, and the desire to explore new work in collaborating with playwrights and in the devising and creation process. Holding respect for fellow artists and having a desire to learn about how all the parts fit together are essential qualities in the successful candidate and the successful director.

Students are introduced to varied critical viewpoints from select artists and scholars. A hands-on, mentor-student approach is emphasized with the intent of developing the skill, artistry and communication abilities required to be an excellent professional director.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#)

Degree requirements

60 credit hours including the required applied project course (THP 693)

This is a three-year program culminating in an applied project. Directing classes and mentored directing projects constitute approximately 50% of the coursework. Classes also include:

- acting (viewpoints and composition)
- assistant directing for a professional or faculty director working on the main stage
- design collaboration
- devising methodologies
- directing the new play
- dramatic theory and criticism
- dramaturgy
- performance technology
- projects in community-based drama
- reenvisioning
- research methods
- theatre for social change
- theatre history and literature

MFA directors will direct a new work every year. Major assignments may include:

- creating and directing an adaptation of an existing work
- directing a new play by a Master of Fine Arts playwright
- directing one applied project in the Theatre or Music Theatre season
- guiding an ensemble in the devising process and directing the resulting devised piece

Directing faculty members mentor all student projects. Academic and artistic progress is evaluated at the end of each semester by a faculty committee. Program continuation is contingent upon a successful review. A professional internship is required for each Master of Fine Arts director.

Additional information on degree requirements for this degree is available on the curriculum check sheet located at the bottom of [the school's program page](#).

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. [School of Music, Dance and Theatre Application](#), including statement of purpose, current resume and a written directorial approach to a play selected by the reviewing committee
4. three letters of reference from professionals familiar with the student's work
5. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of [English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency.

A personal interview is required. Interviews via phone, video conference or campus visit are available by appointment.

The Master of Fine Arts in theatre with a concentration in directing recruits every three years. The next round of applications will be accepted in January 2024 for fall 2024. Interested students should check back for updates.

Students should see the [program website](#) for application deadlines and admission terms.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Develop a directing approach suitable to the shepherding of a substantial production process from start to finish.
- Apply understanding of directing methods in assistant directing situations.
- Evaluate one's directing technique, employing reflective practice toward continuous growth.

Career opportunities

Professionals with a Master of Fine Arts degree in directing have obtained a variety of creative roles within the arts, including directing professionally, starting theatre companies, working within established theatres and arts organizations, and building entrepreneurial ventures that bridge the arts with other sectors.

Career examples include:

- creating and producing original devised theatres for festivals or communities
- directing at theatres
- teaching in a variety of contexts as a visiting faculty member, professor of practice or tenure-track professor
- working as a teaching artist at a public or community school

Contact information

[School of Music, Dance and Theatre](#) | MUSIC E167

MDTAdmissions@asu.edu | 480-965-5069