

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Theatre

CURRICULUM GUIDE

MASTER OF ARTS

2008-09

This document is an addendum to the Wayne State University Graduate Bulletin and supersedes Department of Theatre information printed therein. MA students should read this guide carefully and keep it on hand for reference. Students are responsible for a knowledge of its contents and any revised or updated information which may be issued periodically by the Department's Graduate Committee, the Chairman, and the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School. The University and the Department of Theatre reserve the right to change provisions or requirements as needed.

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Table of Contents

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEATRE	3
Description	3
Admission	3
Degree Requirements	3
Master of Arts in Theatre: Plan A - Thesis	3
Master of Arts in Theatre: Plan B - Essay	4
Major Adviser	5
Plan of Work	5
Graduate Research Methods Course	5
Oral Examination Committee	5
Form and Content of Thesis or Essay	5
Thesis or Essay Submission Process	6
Thesis or Essay Course and Credit Registration	6

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEATRE

Description

The MA curriculum is a two-year program of advanced theatre studies. Emphasis is on subjects which are of broad general interest in Theatre plus at least one special interest area chosen by the student. The degree requires thirty-two credit hours and is offered with a thesis or essay option. A minimum of fifteen semester credits is required in a special interest area.

Admission

Graduate applicants must hold or be completing an earned baccalaureate degree in Theatre or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. A completed Graduate Application Form, application fee, and official transcripts from each college or university attended with a minimum 3.00 honor point average (B=3) for the upper division of the undergraduate course work are required before a student can be considered for admission to graduate study. All application materials should be submitted directly to Graduate Admissions, Wayne State University, Welcome Center, 42 West Warren, Detroit, Michigan, 48202, (313-577-3577). Applicants should also telephone and/or meet in person with the Chair of the Department of Theatre for discussion of the MA program prior to application for admission.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts degree is offered under the following two options:

- Plan A: Thirty-two credits, including an 8-credit thesis.
- Plan B: Thirty-two credits, including a 3-credit essay.

Master of Arts in Theatre: Plan A - Thesis

24 Hours of course work

8 Hours of Thesis

32 Total Hours

Research Methods (3 cr. from the following)

ENG 7010 Introduction to Graduate Study in Literature

HIS 7830 Methods and Research in History

THR 7400 Research Methods in Theatre

Literature Sequence (6 cr.)

THR 5220 Black Dramatic Literature

THR 6120 Development of Drama II

Criticism, Playwriting Sequence (6-9 cr. from the following)

THR 7040 Dramaturgy

THR 7200 Theatre Aesthetics

THR 5250 Playwriting I (not offered on a regular basis)

Thesis (8 cr.)

THR 8999 Master's Thesis Research and Direction

Electives (6-9 cr., at least one course from the following seminars)

THR 7890 Seminar: Period Drama

THR 8100 Seminar: Theatre History

THR 8500 Seminar: Directing

THR 8810 Seminar: Modern Drama

plus

Other electives with approval of adviser

Oral Examination

A final oral examination covering the thesis, the Graduate Reading List and all course work taken at Wayne State University will also be required.

Master of Arts in Theatre: Plan B - Essay

29 Hours of course work

3 Hours of essay

32 Total Hours

Research Methods (3 cr. from the following or equivalent)

ENG 7010 Introduction to Graduate Study in Literature

HIS 7830 Methods and Research in History

THR 7400 Research Methods in Theatre

Literature Sequence (6 cr.)

THR 5220 Black Dramatic Literature

THR 6120 Development of Drama II

Criticism, Playwriting Sequence (6 cr.)

THR 5250 Playwriting I (not offered on a regular basis)

THR 7040 Dramaturgy

THR 7200 Theatre Aesthetics

Essay (3 cr.)

THR 7999 Master's Essay Direction

Electives (9-15 cr., at least one selected from the following seminars)

THR 7890 Seminar: Period Drama

THR 8100 Seminar: Theatre History

THR 8500 Seminar: Directing

THR 8810 Seminar: Modern Drama

plus

Other electives with approval of adviser

Oral Examination

A final oral examination covering the essay, the Graduate Reading List and all course work taken at Wayne State will also be required.

Major Adviser

The adviser, who must have approved Graduate Faculty Status, represents the department in helping plan the student's program. The adviser also approves the Plan of Work, recommends candidacy, guides the student's research and/or creative activity, approves the thesis or essay, and serves on the Oral Examination Committee. The student's adviser should be selected no later than the end of the first semester of residency.

The choice of an adviser depends on the student's area of special interest and the faculty member's expertise and consent. Academically, the Department cannot approve a thesis or essay subject which the major adviser is unqualified to guide satisfactorily. But principally, the major adviser will become the academic mentor for the student throughout the matriculation and thesis/essay processes. Master's students should carefully consider their choice of an adviser.

Plan of Work

Master's students should file a Plan of Work by the time 12 credits have been earned. The rank of "candidate" is conferred upon approval of the Plan of Work by the College Office. Information about completing the Plan of Work may be obtained from the Faculty Secretary.

Graduate Research Methods Course

A course in research methods is required and should be taken during the first 12 credits of graduate study if not already completed at another institution. The recommended courses are ENG 7010 Introduction to Graduate Study in Literature, or HIS 7380 Methods and Research in History, THR 7400 Research Methods in Theatre, or equivalent.

Oral Examination Committee

Determining the membership of the Oral Examination Committee is the responsibility of the student and major adviser, and should be completed no later than the beginning of the student's final semester of classes. The Oral Examination Committee consists of three major departmental members, including the student's adviser, plus a Graduate Examiner (Moderator), all of whom must have approved Graduate Faculty Status. The Graduate Examiner is also identified by the student and major adviser and must be a tenured member of the Graduate Faculty in a department other than the student's major. The Graduate Examiner serves as the representative of the Graduate Council as moderator of the oral examination.

Form and Content of Thesis or Essay

The essay is intended for creative work such as production books, professional text analyses, translations of plays, prompt books, etc. The thesis is intended for academic research projects.

There is no prescribed form for the essay. Students electing to write an essay should consult with the major adviser for information concerning content, form, and other particulars of style. For more information, the "Guide for the Masters Essay" should be obtained from the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, Wayne State University, 5104 Gullen Mall, Detroit, Michigan, (313-577-5342).

The thesis must be a work of original academic research associated with the student's area of specialization. For more information, the "Guide for Preparing Thesis and Dissertations" should be obtained from the Graduate School, 4300 Faculty/Administration Building, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, 48202, (313-577-8050).

Several general types of theses have been approved by the department in the past, including:

- Historical study of a period, style, design, or individual
- Empirical study, statistical analysis, or survey
- Critical or historical analysis of play(s) or character(s)
- Composition of a full-length play, including discussion of production issues and dramaturgical methods

Thesis or Essay Submission Process

To insure that the thesis or essay has been satisfactorily examined by the Oral Examination Committee prior to the oral examination, a final draft should be submitted for approval at least two weeks prior to the date of the examination. The official typed copy should be prepared only after approval of the final draft by the committee and after the oral examination has been satisfactorily passed. A student working on a thesis or essay should not begin work on a manuscript until submission and approval of a Plan of Work.

Thesis or Essay Course and Credit Registration

Under the thesis plan, Master's candidates should register for THR 8999 Master's Thesis Research and Direction for a total of 8 hours. Candidates writing essays should register for THR 7999 Master's Essay Direction for a total of 3 hours.

A graduate student who has enrolled for all courses (including essay or thesis) stipulated in the Plan of Work and completed all the requirements of these courses except the essay or thesis is required to enroll for 1 credit of essay or 1 credit of thesis direction each semester in which university facilities are used or the student receives advisory services until such time as the student:

- Completes the requirements for the degree
- Declares self no longer a candidate for the degree
- Exceeds the six-year time limit for securing the degree

For these essay or thesis credits students will pay customary fees and register as an auditor. No degree credit will be granted for these courses which are beyond the required 3 credits for an essay and 8 credits for a thesis. A mark of "Z" (Auditor) will be recorded on the student's master record for these additional elections.
