

# WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Department Of Theatre

Curriculum Guide  
For the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

2007-08

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This document is a supplement to the Wayne State University Graduate Bulletin and updates Theatre Department PhD information included there. Students are responsible for knowing its contents, including any revised or updated information that may be issued periodically by the Graduate Advisor, Chair, or Graduate School. The University and the Theatre Department reserve the right to change provisions or requirements as needed.  
Revised: 12/15/07

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## **Description**

The PhD for scholar-directors is designed to prepare theatre generalists with an emphasis in directing for a broad range of college and university teaching positions. It combines traditional scholarly studies with significant practical directing experience.

On the academic side, the program emphasizes the broad intellectual issues of theatre scholarship, including dramaturgy, theatre aesthetics, theatre history, dramatic criticism, dramatic literature, and directing theory. On the production side, each of the program PhD students direct a play in the Studio Theatre with an undergraduate production team. Core classes are normally completed by the end of the second year, and the third year is devoted to the dissertation and directing the third play. The dissertation is planned for completion one or two years following residency.

The major parts of the program consist of:

- Direction a play each year of residency
- Reading knowledge of a foreign language
- Completion of the doctoral core curriculum and cognate/minor
- Completion of comprehensive written and oral Qualifying Examinations
- A dissertation demonstrating the ability to make a significant scholarly contribution to the field

## **Teaching Assistantships**

A selected number of PhD students may obtain financial aid from the Department of Theatre in the form of Graduate Teaching Assistantships, which normally involve Introduction to Theatre, Acting I, and direction of the Black Theatre Tour or Shakespeare tour. Assistantships include a bi-weekly stipend, tuition waivers for 10 credits each semester, and health insurance. Assistantships are for nine months and are renewable annually depending on the quality of the student's assistantship work and satisfactory progress toward the degree. Adjunct teaching assignments are sometimes available for self-supported students and normally involve Acting I and Introduction to Theatre.

Financial aid can also be obtained through the Graduate School, which offers financial aid in the form of Graduate-Professional Fellowships (covering in-state tuition) and Rumble Fellowships (stipend, waiver of 12 credits of tuition per semester, housing supplement, a housing allowance, medical and dental insurance). Graduate Professional and Rumble Fellowships are competitive with other graduate applicants throughout the university and require evidence of outstanding academic achievement. Students should contact the Graduate School, Wayne State University, 4300 FAB, Detroit, Michigan, 48202, (313-577-2172) for additional information. See also <http://www.gradschool.wayne.edu/>.

## Admission

Deadline for applications is March 1. Admission decisions are usually made by mid-March; however applications are accepted until all openings are filled. As a rule, an MA or MFA is required, but students with academically accredited conservatory training may be considered if they are prepared to spend additional time in the program to accumulate the necessary 90 credits beyond the BA degree. Part-time doctoral students are also accepted, though production opportunities will differ for them accordingly.

Admission to the program is contingent on admission to the Graduate School, for which see <http://www.gradschool.wayne.edu/>. Applicants must also satisfy the following Theatre Department criteria:

- Undergraduate degree in Theatre
- MA degree in Theatre with a minimum 3.3 (B = 3.0) grade point average. Students with an MFA are eligible if they meet PhD admission requirements, including evidence of scholarly writing
- Evidence of ability to write and speak effectively
- Experience directing for the stage

The application file should include:

- WSU Graduate School Application, including application fee
- Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended (unofficial transcripts may be used for the initial application sent to the Department of Theatre; official transcripts will be required for official admission to the university)
- Graduate Record Examination scores (Low GRE scores may be grounds for denial of admission to the program)
- At least three letters of recommendation from individuals in academic and/or professional theatre addressing the applicant's academic and directing talent and promise
- A scholarly paper of at least 2,000 words or a thesis demonstrating satisfactory research and writing ability
- A Statement of Goals (100-250 words)
- Reviews and other documentation of previous directing experience

Admission information is available at <http://www.gradadmissions.wayne.edu/apply.php>. Application is made online at <https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=wayne-grad>.

## General Degree Requirements

Candidates for the doctoral degree must complete ninety credits beyond the baccalaureate, including thirty hours of dissertation credit, one course in research methods, and a cognate/minor within or outside the department. Dissertations employ critical or historical methods; guidelines are available from the Graduate Advisor. Additional requirements may be provided by the student's Dissertation Advisor,

Dissertation Committee, or the Graduate Advisor. Qualifying Examinations cover both major and cognate/minor areas in the Plan of Work.

## **Competencies**

The Department has adopted the following minimum competencies for PhD program:

- Sufficient intellectual awareness and self-motivation to warrant continued professional development in the career and contributions to the discipline
- Knowledge of bibliographical resources appropriate to critical, theoretical, historical and empirical research in theatre
- Knowledge of representative plays and playwrights of each major period and style of dramatic literature and theatre history, including extensive knowledge of a particular period or style
- Knowledge of the history of theatre production, including acting, directing, theatre architecture, theatre management and organization, dramaturgy, design and technology
- Knowledge of the role of the theatre in contemporary society and throughout history
- Knowledge of the major theories and ideas that inform today's theatre and throughout history
- Special knowledge of a particular element of theatre studies related to directing, such as an influential figure, historical period, dramatic criticism, or dramatic theory
- Satisfactory writing and speaking skills to communicate clearly and effectively both to members of the academic community and the wider public
- Reading knowledge of a foreign language
- Demonstration of directing ability as reflected in one play each year of program residency
- Demonstration of teaching ability as reflected in at least one faculty- and student-evaluated undergraduate teaching assignment
- A dissertation demonstrating an original scholarly contribution to the field

## **Core Curriculum**

The doctoral core curriculum consists of the following courses, several of which are seminars that entail significant individual participation, extensive reading, and a research paper.

- THR 7040 Dramaturgy
- THR 7200 Theatre Aesthetics
- THR 7400 Research Methods in Theatre (or HIS 7830 Methods and Research in History or ENG 7010 Introduction to Graduate Study in Literature, or approved equivalent)
- THR 7890 Seminar: Period Drama or THR 8810 Seminar: Modern Drama
- THR 8100 Seminar: Theatre History

- THR 8190 Teaching Internship I (THR 1020 Play Analysis or THR1010 Intro. to Theatre or THR 1040 Acting I)
- THR 8200 Teaching Internship II (THR 1020 Play Analysis or THR1010 Intro. to Theatre or THR 1040 Acting I)
- THR 8500 Seminar: Directing
- THR 8600 Seminar: Dramatic Theory and Criticism
- THR 8890 Proseminar

### **Cognate/Minor**

A cognate/minor is required consisting of 6 credits from outside the major. The cognate may be outside or inside the department. The choice of a cognate must be approved by the Graduate Advisor as well as a Cognate Advisor in the selected subject.

Recommended internal cognate subjects for doctoral students are scenic design, lighting design, costume design, or any combination thereof. Recommended external cognates are dramatic literature, history, or communication.

### **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 taken at a previous institution. The recommended courses are THR 7400 Research Methods in Theatre, HIS 7830 Methods and Research in History, or ENG 7010 Introduction to Graduate Study in Literature.

### **THR 8890 Proseminar**

THR 8890 Proseminar is required each of the first two semesters of matriculation. First semester consists of Qualifying Examination subject study guided by members of the doctoral faculty, and teaching assistantship tutorials and is guided by faculty mentors. In the second semester, the Graduate Advisor helps the student to develop a dissertation topic and a draft of the Dissertation Prospectus.

### **Directing Requirement**

One directing assignment is required each year. Directing is normally done in the Studio Theatre PhD Director's Series using undergraduate students in small-cast shows with limited scenic investiture. Credit is through THR 8010 Advanced Theatre Practicum.

### **Plan of Work**

Doctoral students must file a Plan of Work by the time 40 credits have been earned, but are strongly encouraged to do so at the beginning of the second year of matriculation. Information about the Plan of Work may be obtained from the PhD Office of the Graduate School of the Graduate School website, <http://www.gradschool.wayne.edu/>. A Dissertation Advisor should be selected prior to submission of the Plan of Work.

## **Recommended Schedule** (individual schedules may vary)

### First Year—Fall Semester

- THR 7040 Dramaturgy
- Doctoral Seminar (THR 7890 Seminar: Period Drama or THR 8810 Seminar: Modern Drama or THR 8100 Seminar: Theatre History or THR 8500 Seminar: Directing or THR 8600 Seminar: Dramatic Theory and Criticism)
- THR 8890 Proseminar
- THR 8010 Adv. Theatre Practicum (play direction, first or second semester)
- THR 8190 Teaching Internship I (THR 1020 Play Analysis and THR1010 Introduction to Theatre or THR 1040 Acting I, first or second semester)

### First Year—Winter Semester

- THR 7200 Theatre Aesthetics
- Doctoral Seminar (THR 7890 Seminar: Period Drama or THR 8810 Seminar: Modern Drama or THR 8100 Seminar: Theatre History or THR 8500 Seminar: Directing or THR 8600 Seminar: Dramatic Theory and Criticism)
- THR 8010 Adv. Theatre Practicum (play direction, first or second semester)
- THR 8190 Teaching Internship I (THR 1020 Play Analysis or THR1010 Intro. to Theatre or THR 1040 Acting I, first or second semester)

### Second Year—Fall Semester

- Doctoral Seminar (THR 7890 Seminar: Period Drama or THR 8810 Seminar: Modern Drama or THR 8100 Seminar: Theatre History or THR 8500 Seminar: Directing or THR 8600 Seminar: Dramatic Theory and Criticism)
- THR 8010 Adv. Theatre Practicum (first or second semester)
- THR 8200 Teaching Internship II (THR 1020 Play Analysis or THR1010 Intro. to Theatre or THR 1040 Acting I, first or second semester)
- Cognate/Minor

### Second Year—Winter Semester

- Doctoral Seminar (THR 7890 Seminar: Period Drama or THR 8810 Seminar: Modern Drama or THR 8100 Seminar: Theatre History or THR 8500 Seminar: Directing or THR 8600 Seminar: Dramatic Theory and Criticism)
- THR 8010 Adv. Theatre Practicum (first or second semester)
- THR 8200 Teaching Internship II (THR 1020 Play Analysis or THR1010 Intro. to Theatre or THR 1040 Acting I, first or second semester)
- Cognate/Minor

### Third Year—Fall Semester

- THR 9991 Dissertation Research and Direction
- THR 8010 Adv. Theatre Practicum (first or second semester)

### Third Year—Winter Semester

- THR 9992 Dissertation Research and Direction
- THR 8010 Adv. Theatre Practicum (first or second semester)

Spring/Summer (optional 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> year)

- THR 5600 THR 5600 Study Abroad: WSU-Moscow Art Theatre School

Off Site (after degree candidacy is approved)

- THR 8893-4 Dissertation Research and Direction (to complete required 30 cr.)

### Approved Writing Style

The Department of Theatre requires use of the MLA (Modern Language Association) Style Manual for scholarly writing requirements including the dissertation. The MLA Style Manual is the standard guide for graduate students, teachers, and scholars in the arts and humanities. Further information, including the recommended text, can be found on the Internet at [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org).

### Foreign Language

The Department's foreign language requirement is fulfilled by translation into English of a 500-750 word passage of dramatic theory/criticism, theatre history, or dramatic literature. Three different selections should be submitted to the Graduate Advisor for approval. Arrangements for the examination should be made with the appropriate language department.

### Dissertation Advisor

The Dissertation Advisor guides the student's dissertation research and heads the Dissertation Committee. The choice of a Dissertation Advisor depends on the student's area of interest and the individual faculty member's research/creative specializations and consent. The choice of a Dissertation Advisor is an extremely important decision. Academically, the Department cannot approve a dissertation subject that the Dissertation Advisor is unqualified to guide satisfactorily. But more important, the Dissertation Adviser will become the academic mentor for the student throughout the dissertation processes, the employment search, and often beyond.

### PhD Reading List

Doctoral students are responsible for all the material in the PhD Reading List and any other reading the Qualifying Examination or dissertation committees may prescribe. Students will accumulate knowledge of many of these readings through core courses.

Students will also need to take the initiative, however, and read other works on the list to give themselves as much background as possible for the Qualifying Examinations and for developing their own artistic point-of-view.

### **Qualifying Examinations**

Upon completion of the core curriculum, students are required to successfully pass Qualifying Examinations covering the student's major and cognate/minor areas, the Graduate Reading List, and any other related reading which the examining committee may stipulate. The Qualifying Examinations are normally scheduled before the beginning of the third year of matriculation, either the week following the end of Winter classes or the week prior to Fall classes.

The doctoral faculty formulates a written examination 20 hours in length, with one question for each two hours of examination time. Subjects and questions are prepared as follows:

- Theatre History                    4 hours (Professor J. Calarco)
- Dramatic Literature            4 hours (Professor B. Anderson or M. Cooney)
- Dramatic Criticism            4 hours (Professor D. Magidson)
- Directing/Dramaturgy        4 hours (Professor J. Thomas)
- Technical/Design                1 hour (TBA from selected design area)
- Cognate/Minor                    3 hours (cognate advisor, optional)

Upon satisfactory completion of the written parts of the examination, the department will notify the Graduate School of the pending arrangements for the oral component of the Qualifying Examinations using the Qualifying Examination Report Form, and submit the names of the examination committee for approval. The Oral Qualifying Examination will be conducted by the doctoral faculty within thirty calendar days after the written examination has been satisfactorily completed.

If the doctoral faculty determines the applicant has not passed all parts of the written or oral examinations satisfactorily, specific instructions will be given to the student about arrangements for a second examination. A second examination on the unsatisfactory parts may not be scheduled until at least one semester has elapsed, but must be scheduled within one calendar year following the original examination. If a second written examination is held, the student will be required to answer new questions in the areas not originally passed, plus an Oral Qualifying Examination on those same areas according to normal practice. The second examination will be considered final.

### **Academic Progress Guidelines and Annual Student Assessments**

To remain in good academic standing, doctoral students must:

1. Make satisfactory progress toward the degree, as evidenced by:

- a. Meeting degree milestones—Plan of Work, play direction, Dissertation Prospectus approval, and doctoral candidacy—in a timely manner so that completion of the degree within the allotted time limit appears likely.
  - b. Meeting all Department and Graduate School requirements for annual enrollment.
  - c. Passing Qualifying Examinations within no more than two attempts, completing the dissertation, and completing the dissertation defense.
  - d. Accumulating only a limited number of “I” or “Y” grades.
2. Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA
  3. Meeting research, scholarship and creative activity requirements of the program.

Written reviews of progress toward the degree are performed at the end of each academic year. Forms are distributed and meetings are scheduled by and with the Graduate Advisor.

### **Dissertation**

The dissertation is the culmination of the student's entire work in the doctoral program. For this reason, the dissertation must demonstrate the highest standards of academic research and writing, including MLA style and format. It should be a major original work of research, explication, or criticism, in or closely related to the student's major area of specialization. Written work submitted for credit in other courses cannot be used in fulfilling dissertation requirement. The dissertation subject should be chosen and planned with great care because it will govern in great measure the student's future work in the profession.

### Dissertation Committee

The Dissertation Committee is responsible for evaluating the prospectus and dissertation, guiding the student through the dissertation writing process, and conducting the dissertation defense. The committee consists of 4 graduate faculty members including the Major Advisor and one member from outside the Department, usually from the minor area. Members of the Dissertation Committee may also be members of the Qualifying Examination Committee and *vice versa*. Formation of the Dissertation Committee is the responsibility of the student and Dissertation Advisor and should be done before more than 10 credits of THR 9990 Pre-Doctoral Candidacy or THR 9991-4 Dissertation Research and Direction are completed. It is expected that individual members of the Dissertation Committee will review the progress of the dissertation every year.

### Prospectus

The student should prepare and submit an official Dissertation Prospectus of the proposed dissertation before more than 10 credits of THR 9990 Pre-Doctoral Candidacy research or THR 9991-4 Dissertation Research and Direction are completed. The Dissertation Advisor, Dissertation Committee, and Graduate Advisor must approve the

prospectus. The student and Dissertation Advisor are responsible for completing and submitting the Prospectus and Approval Form to the Graduate Advisor and Graduate School.

## **Doctoral Candidacy**

A student is officially admitted to doctoral candidacy after:

- The Plan of Work is approved
- All course work except THR 9990 Pre-Doctoral Candidacy or THR 9991-4 Dissertation Research and Direction
- The written and oral Qualifying Examinations have been satisfactorily completed
- The dissertation outline and prospectus have been approved by the Graduate School

Doctoral students may register for not more than 8 credits of THR 9990 Pre-Candidacy Research prior to being admitted to doctoral candidacy and registering for THR 9991-4 Doctoral Research and Dissertation.

## **Graduate School Procedures**

Compliance with Graduate School deadlines, policies, and procedures for the doctoral degree are the responsibility of the individual student, although the Department and the student's adviser will offer as much advice and assistance as possible. Information is available from the Graduate Bulletin and the Handbook for Doctoral Students and Advisers, which may be obtained through the Graduate School or the Graduate School website, <http://www.gradschool.wayne.edu/>.

## **Timetable**

Careful planning is necessary to complete the doctoral program in a timely manner. The timetable given below has been shown to be a satisfactory guide for this process. Exceptions to this timetable should be regarded with careful attention to possible adverse consequences.

### First Year

- Attend the Orientation Meetings for Graduate Teaching Assistants sponsored by the Graduate School.
- Attend the Orientation Meetings sponsored by the Theatre Department and involving all new and returning PhD students as well as doctoral and undergraduate design faculty.
- Confirm the accuracy of initial registration, including financial support if any
- Register for core classes according to the Recommend Schedule above.

- With approval of the Dissertation Advisor, choose a provisional Dissertation Committee consisting of at least 4 graduate faculty members, including the adviser and one member from outside the Department, usually from the cognate/minor area.
- Complete research methods course, ENG 7010 or HIS 7380 or equivalent, if necessary.
- Complete directing assignment.

### Second Year

- Register for core classes according to the recommend schedule above.
- Identify and start course work for cognate/minor.
- Identify and start the foreign language requirement.
- Prepare the Plan of Work.
- Pass Written and Oral Qualifying Examinations at or before the beginning of the third year.
- Complete directing assignment.
- Register for THR 9990 Pre-Candidacy Research if core course work is completed.

### Third Year

- Register for THR 9990 Pre-Candidacy Research or THR 9991-2 Doctoral Research and Dissertation according to the recommend schedule above.
- Complete first draft of dissertation.
- Complete directing assignment.

### And Beyond...

- Complete and submit the dissertation for approval.
- Complete dissertation defense.

The above program requires an average of 10 credits/semester, 20 credits/academic year, to complete. The Graduate School allows seven years from the first semester of admission for completion of the doctorate degree.

### **Program Operation**

The Department Graduate Committee consists of four faculty members with approved Graduate Faculty Status and is headed by the Graduate Advisor. In addition to other duties, the Graduate Committee makes recommendations to the Graduate Advisor on PhD and MA admissions, course and reading list requirements, dissertation requirements, degree examinations, assessments of the student's academic progress, and exceptions.

The Graduate Advisor is the link between the student, the Department of Theatre and the Graduate School. As such, the Graduate Advisor oversees student's academic

progress, approves PhD and other graduate degree admissions, calls meetings of the Graduate Committee, approves Plans of Work, attends and certifies PhD oral examinations, and is responsible for supervising and maintaining the quality of graduate programs in the department.

### **Doctoral Faculty**

The following are members of the doctoral faculty and the only faculty members approved to act as Dissertation Advisors for doctoral students. Other members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to be directing mentors and to participate in the Qualifying Examinations and dissertation committee as needed.

**Blair Vaughn Anderson.** Chair and Associate Professor, received his BA degree from Wartburg College, MA from Western Illinois University, and PhD from Wayne State University. He was designer/technical director for the Bonstelle Theatre for eight years. He has also taught at Oakland University. His credits also include artistic director of the Rimrock Summer Repertory in Montana and seven summers as scenic/ lighting designer at Black Hills Playhouse. He has directed at Wartburg College, Oakland University, Rimrock Theatre in Billings, Montana, and the Attic Theatre in Detroit. He has directed *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Translations* at the Bonstelle and *A Winter's Tale*, *Interrogating the Nude*, *Nothing Sacred* and *Everything in the Garden* at the Hilberry.

**N. Joseph Calarco.** Professor of Theatre, is a graduate of Columbia University (BA, MA) and the University of Minnesota (PhD). He has studied acting with Lloyd Richards and Herbert Berghof and taught at the University of California, Berkeley. He is author of *Tragic Being: Apollo and Dionysus in Western Drama* and his published articles include an essay on *The Crucible*. Professor Calarco has directed Off-Broadway and served on the staff of the New York Shakespeare Festival. Among his Hilberry productions are *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Matchmaker* and *Pericles*.

**Mary Cooney.** Lecturer, is a graduate of Wayne State University (MFA and PhD). She has conducted workshops, and taught and worked as a drama consultant in the Detroit Public Schools, and in Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, and Washtenaw county schools. She has taught at Eastern Michigan University and presented at numerous conferences both here and abroad. She is Head of the BA program, and her academic specialty is applied theatre.

**David J. Magidson.** Professor, holds a BS and an MS from the University of Wisconsin and a PhD from the University of Utah. Prior to WSU, he was a Professor of Theatre and Director of the school of Arts at the University of Colorado, Denver. His Hilberry directing credits include *The Miser*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, and *Glengarry Glen Ross* among others; he also directed *The Half-Life of Karen Silkwood* at the Attic Theatre. He has directed more than 60 plays for 12 theatre companies at the college and professional level and has written and produced plays including *Black Rain* and *What Men Don't Tell Women*. He has also written, produced and hosted

*Conversations*, a television series for New Hampshire Public Television. He is Director of the Center for the Arts and Public Policy and continues to write plays, screenplays, books and articles.

**James Thomas.** Professor, Head of the PhD Program, and Graduate Advisor, is a graduate of St. Ambrose College (BA), Villanova University (MA), and the University of Texas at Austin (PhD). He came to WSU from Florida State University, where he was Associate Dean of the School of Theatre. He has taught at Mount Holyoke College, the University of North Florida and Marquette University. He has directed over sixty plays and published a number of articles and two books, including *The Art of the Actor-Manager: Wilson Barrett and the Victorian Theatre* and *Script Analysis for Actors, Directors and Designers*. Most recently he has translated *The Joy of Rehearsal* and *The Craft of Rehearsal* by Russian director Anatoly Efros. At the Hilberry Theatre he has directed *Measure for Measure*, *Beyond the Horizon*, *Three Sisters*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *The Inspector General*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *On the Verge*; at the Bonstelle Theatre, *The Roof*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Ah, Wilderness!*, and *The House of Bernarda Alba*. He is also originator and director of the department's summer study abroad program with the Moscow Art Theatre School.