

THEATRE ARTS

Program Description

The Theatre program offers rigorous conservatory-style training within a well-rounded liberal arts education at an affordable public school price. The program is constructed to help students meet the rigorous demands of a professional career in theatre and to provide a strong artistic foundation and practical experience. The program is led by a dynamic faculty composed of current and former artistic directors, actors, singers, designers, and dancers with deep connections to top industry professionals from coast to coast.

Acting/Directing students at CMU can expect a full sequence of Stanislavski-based acting classes in addition to training in Shakespeare, voice, speech, acting for the camera, script analysis, movement, stage combat, make-up, dance, and more. Unlike many other undergraduate programs, CMU also offers students the opportunity to not only take directing classes but also direct full productions as part of the performance season. The program is large enough to tackle ambitious projects and yet small and flexible enough to tailor to students' particular needs. Classes are intimate, with a small faculty-to-student ratio, allowing for significant individual attention, and each season's productions are picked specifically for the current class of students. Opportunities to perform begin in the freshman year.

The Music Theatre concentration represents one of the most unique programs offered in Colorado, stressing strong technical foundations in music, theatre, and dance. This approach creates "triple threats" and enhances a young performer's potential for a career in musical theatre. To complement technique courses, students also participate in a wide variety of performance-related assignments. Students develop all disciplines of performance in an intimate and rigorous setting. Individuality and diversity are at the heart of all acting courses (from contemporary to "Shakespeare", vocal studies (including jazz, pop, and rock), and dance classes (jazz, tap, and hip hop).

Dance at CMU is thriving, with an array of dance styles, performance opportunities, and travel. Equal emphasis is placed on Modern, Jazz, Ballet, and Hip Hop with course offerings from beginner to advanced levels. The faculty members have professional backgrounds across multiple forms of dance. With three dance concerts a year, Colorado Mesa University faculty and students choreograph and invite visiting guest artists from the professional dance world. Students annually travel to American College Dance Association, conferences, and engage in local and state outreach. The BA in Dance is constructed to help students meet the rigorous demands of a professional dance career and provide a strong foundation and practical experience for future dance artists.

For our Design/Technology major, we cultivate daring artistic and scholarly pioneers poised to be the luminaries our industry demands. CMU strives to promote an environment where students exist as an ensemble of artists, who create work together and are active supporters of each other. This is an intimate and rigorous program. We give personalized attention to students with a specific focus on making students the best versions of themselves. The program accentuates absolute involvement and immersion in our seasons. This deep involvement within a production process prepares students for the rigors and demands of producing theatre well beyond the walls of CMU. Technology in the Moss Performing Arts Center is state-of-the-art. We have a multi-level costume construction and design facility, a spacious

scenic construction area, a robust and fully rigged proscenium space, and an experimental black-box-style theatre.

The goal of our Theatre Generalist BA program is to encourage theatre studies for students who may be interested in cultivating a broad range of theatrical skills or who want to pursue theatrical careers outside of performance or design/technology, such as producing, arts administration, teaching, dramaturgy or playwriting. Beginning with the first semester, students follow a curriculum that offers a grounding in the fundamentals while allowing the flexibility to focus or move between dance, theatre, musical theatre, or design/technical theatre options.

Through the theatre minor, students may choose courses from a broad range of theatrical endeavors including acting, scenery, costumes, theatre history, the teaching of theatre, arts management, and dramatic literature. Students will also have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the creation of two mainstage shows during the CMU theatre season. The training afforded by the study of theatre is also attractive to many other professions, including teaching, non-profit leadership, human resources, and law.

Special Requirements

Students seeking admission as theatre majors must successfully audition for acceptance into the Acting/Directing, Music Theatre, and Dance concentrations. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission into one of these programs. Prospective theatre majors should consult the department's website or contact the department directly for information regarding audition dates and requirements. Prospective students interested in departmental scholarships must audition no later than April 15 of the year they seek admission.

- Students deficient in piano skills will be required to complete MUSA 130 and MUSA 131. MUSA 130 and MUSA 131 may be taken as lower-division electives or Musical Theatre Support Courses.
- Students deficient in theory skills will be required to complete MUSA 113 before taking MUSA 114. MUSA 113 may be taken as a lower division elective or a Musical Theatre Support Course.

Contact Information

Department of Theatre Arts
Moss Performing Arts Center 141
970.248.1242

Programs of Study Bachelors/Minors

- [Acting/Directing, Theatre Arts \(BFA\)](#)
- [Design/Technology, Theatre Arts \(BFA\)](#)
- [Music Theatre, Theatre Arts \(BFA\)](#)
- [Theatre \(Minor\)](#)
- [Theatre Arts, General \(BA\)](#)