

# MUSICAL THEATER, BFA

## Contact

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## Faculty

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## Description

The purpose of the musical theater program is to train students in a systematic way that prepares them for the complex world of professional musical theater. Achieving this goal requires a carefully structured balance of studio and academic work. Musical theater studio work requires skills not only in dramatic performance, but in music and dance as well. Students develop their skills in a structured, intensive format that features careful and expert guidance.

Performance is a major focus of the 128-credit program. Students gain skills and experience in the various modes of musical theater: the revue, traditional musical comedies, operettas, and new and experimental forms. Coursework includes a balance of acting, voice, dance, theater history, music theory, and liberal education studies.

The first year is the foundation for all future training. It focuses on techniques of acting, ballet, voice (both singing and speaking) sight-singing, music theory, dramatic theory, and technical theater crafts. The first year is a non-performance year, but students are assigned to work on one production behind the scenes. They may elect to work on additional productions in a wide variety of jobs.

After the first year, students may audition for all productions - musicals, dramas, films - i.e., all productions connected with the Department of Drama, Syracuse Stage and the wider University. They also begin specialized training in musical theater performance, scene study, audition techniques, musical theater history, musical theater dance, and choreography. Supplementing these studies are courses in theater history, additional weekly lessons in voice, piano, and academic electives.

Students must complete a total of 128 degree credits for the Musical Theater, BFA. This includes 30 credits of liberal arts and science courses: 6 credits of Writing, 1 credit of First Year Seminar, and 23 credits of academic electives.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Sing with a flexible voice that can execute the requisite sounds and styles of the MT repertoire, drawing on a wide and diverse heritage of music genres
2. Exhibit technical and stylistic proficiency in the various dance forms of musical theater, drawing on a wide and diverse heritage of dance genres
3. Demonstrate the acting techniques to create and inhabit various characters, including material with which they can personally and artistically identify

4. Apply the acquired skills of analysis, in music and acting, to the preparation of a wide and diverse variety of literature for performance
5. Demonstrate the ability to participate and contribute to collaborative artistic endeavors to a professional standard

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Drama Requirements</b>		
DRA 115	Drama in Context I	3
DRA 125	Introduction to Acting I - Majors	5
DRA 126	Introduction to Acting II - Majors	5
DRA 127	Core Intensives	3
DRA 220	Introduction to Scene Study	3
DRA 221	Voice/Verse I	3
DRA 222	Voice/Verse II (x2, 3 credits each)	6
Upper Level Acting Course (3 credits)		3
DRA 116	Drama in Context II	3
<b>Musical Theater Requirements</b>		
DRA 151	Foundations of Musical Theater I	2
DRA 153	Introduction to Musical Theater Literature	3
DRA 161	The Musical Theater Singer's Voice	2
DRA 162	Musical Theater Skills	2
DRA 251	Foundations of Musical Theater II	1
DRA 261	Musical Theater Performance I	3
DRA 262	Musical Theater Performance II	3
DRA 362	Musical Theater Scene Study	3
DRA 453	History of Musical Theater	3
DRA 462	Auditioning for Musical Theater	3
Upper-level Musical Theater (x2) 6 credits. Can be satisfied by DRA 450, DRA 461, or Topics courses as approved by faculty.		6
<b>Dance Requirements</b>		
Ballet (x4) (2 credits each)		8
Dance Electives (x5) (2 credits each)		10
(eight credits MUST be at the 300-level or higher)		
<b>Applied Music</b>		
DRA 118	Vocal Techniques for Musical Theater Majors I (x2, 1 credit each)	2
DRA 218	Vocal Techniques for Musical Theater Majors II (x2, 1 credit each)	2
DRA 318	Vocal Techniques for Musical Theater Majors III (x2, 1 credit each)	2
DRA 418	Vocal Techniques for Musical Theater Majors IV (x2, 1 credit each)	1
PNO 120	Piano Instruction (x2, 1 credit each)	2
<b>Theatre Laboratory</b>		
DRA 090	Theater Lab	0
Seven Required Semesters of Theater Lab (total of zero credits)		0
<b>University Requirements</b>		
FYS 101	First Year Seminar	1
WRT 105	Studio 1: Practices of Academic Writing	3
WRT 205	Studio 2: Critical Research and Writing	3
<b>Academic Electives</b>		

Academic electives are courses that involve critical thinking and theoretical understanding as opposed to practical application, mostly in the Liberal Arts. These academic courses usually have non-art-related content, such as math, natural sciences, astronomy, global history, political science, psychology, entrepreneurship, and languages, among others. A maximum of 9 credits out of 23 can be from the Department of Drama.

You can find a comprehensive list of courses that count here. (<https://vpa.syr.edu/student-services/advising/>)

**Drama Electives**

Drama electives (also known as drama support) are courses that are not required specifically for the student’s program of study, but which are meant to enhance their understanding of their major field or their overall undergraduate experience.

**Total Credits** 128

**Note**

Students may only have a combined total of 12 credits from Independent Study, Experience Credit, or Internships.

**Degree Awarded: BFA in Musical Theater**

**Undergraduate University Requirements**

The following requirements and experiences apply to all Syracuse University Undergraduate matriculated degree programs.

- IDEA Course Requirement (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/idea-course-requirement/>)
- First Year Seminar (<https://coursecatalog.syracuse.edu/undergraduate/courses/fys/>)