

MUSICAL THEATRE - B.F.A.

College of the Arts

School of Theatre and Dance - Theatre Division
www.kent.edu/theatredance

About This Program

If you dream of performing on Broadway or in national tours, Kent State's Musical Theatre program can help make that a reality. This intensive program provides rigorous training in acting, singing and dancing, as well as opportunities to perform in front of live audiences. With a curriculum designed to prepare you for a career in musical theatre, this B.F.A. degree is the perfect choice for aspiring performers. Read more...

Contact Information

- **Terri Kent** | tkent@kent.edu | 330-672-0107
- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Actors

- 3.1% about as fast as the average
- 70,100 number of jobs
- \$N/A potential earnings

Art, drama, and music teachers, postsecondary

- 5.6% faster than the average
- 116,300 number of jobs
- \$69,690 potential earnings

Dancers

- 2.3% slower than the average
- 11,400 number of jobs
- \$N/A potential earnings

Miscellaneous entertainers and performers, sports and related workers

- 4.2% about as fast as the average
- 33,300 number of jobs
- \$N/A potential earnings

Music directors and composers

- 1.7% slower than the average
- 58,000 number of jobs
- \$52,250 potential earnings

Musicians and singers

- 0.9% little or no change
- 175,600 number of jobs
- \$N/A potential earnings

Producers and directors

- 10.0% much faster than the average
- 159,500 number of jobs
- \$76,400 potential earnings

Accreditation

National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

Admission to this major is selective. Applicants must pass an audition in each of the three performance areas — dance, singing and acting — to be admitted. Students who pass the audition are admitted directly into the major in the first semester of their first year at Kent State. In exceptional cases, students may be admitted to the program in the second semester of their first year.

International Students: All international students must provide proof of proficiency of the English language (unless they meet specific exceptions) through the submission of an English language proficiency test score or by completing English language classes at Kent State's English as a Second Language Center before entering their program. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
MUS 17111	PIANO CLASS I	1
MUS 17112	PIANO CLASS II	1
THEA 11002	MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE I	3
THEA 11100	MAKING THEATRE: CULTURE AND PRACTICE	2
THEA 11725	FUNDAMENTALS OF THEATRE DESIGN AND PRODUCTION	3
THEA 20102	MUSIC THEORY FOR MUSICAL THEATRE I	2
THEA 20103	MUSIC THEORY FOR MUSICAL THEATRE II	2

THEA 20204	EAR TRAINING AND SIGHT SINGING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE I	1
THEA 20205	EAR TRAINING AND SIGHT SINGING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE II	1
THEA 21002	MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE II	3
THEA 21303	ACTING PROCESS	3
THEA 31030	GLOBAL THEATRE HISTORIES	3
THEA 31200	APPLIED VOICE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE (taken six times)	12
THEA 31303	CHARACTER AND SCENE STUDY I	3
THEA 31304	CHARACTER AND SCENE STUDY II	3
THEA 32002	MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE III	3
THEA 41115 or THEA 41130	LGBTQ THEATRE (DIVD) THEATRE AND DRAMA IN AMERICA	3
THEA 41140	AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE HISTORY (WIC) ¹	3
THEA 42002	MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE IV	3
THEA 42092	PRACTICUM: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (ELR)	1
THEA 42999	PORTHOUSE PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE (ELR)	3
Dance Electives, choose from the following: ²		12
DAN 17001	INTRODUCTION TO MODERN	
DAN 17002	MODERN 1	
DAN 17004	INTRODUCTION TO JAZZ	
DAN 17005	JAZZ 1	
DAN 17007	TAP 1	
DAN 17008	TAP 2	
DAN 17009	TAP 3	
DAN 17010	INTRODUCTION TO BALLET	
DAN 17011	BALLET 1	
DAN 17013	AFRICAN DANCE 1	
DAN 17016	SWING DANCE 1	
DAN 17055	MEN'S BALLET	
DAN 17080	MUSICAL THEATRE RUDIMENTS OF JAZZ AND TAP	
DAN 27050	BALLET 2	
DAN 27051	MODERN 2	
DAN 27070	JAZZ 2	
DAN 27080	MUSICAL THEATRE JAZZ AND TAP I	
DAN 37051	MODERN 3	
DAN 37069	BALLET 3	
DAN 37080	MUSICAL THEATRE JAZZ AND TAP II	
DAN 37081	MUSICAL THEATRE JAZZ AND TAP III	
DAN 37092	KENT DANCE ENSEMBLE (ELR)	
DAN 37148	JAZZ 3	
DAN 47050	BALLET 4	
DAN 47051	MODERN 4	
DAN 47070	JAZZ 4	
DAN 47080	MUSICAL THEATRE DANCE STYLES I	
DAN 47081	MUSICAL THEATRE DANCE STYLES II	
DAN 47095	SPECIAL TOPICS IN DANCE	
THEA 41702	MOVEMENT AND DANCE FOR ACTORS	
Guided Upper-Division Electives, choose from the following:		8
DAN 47163	DANCE HISTORY II (WIC) ¹	
MUS 45131	KENT STATE OPERA THEATRE WORKSHOP	
THEA 31200	APPLIED VOICE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE	
THEA 41026	PLAYWRITING (WIC) ¹	
THEA 41095	SPECIAL TOPICS IN THEATRE	

THEA 41301	ACTING FOR THE CAMERA I	
THEA 41302	ACTING FOR THE CAMERA II	
THEA 41305	PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS: PERFORMANCE	
THEA 41308	MUSICAL THEATRE AUDITION ³	
THEA 41499	MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE (ELR)	
THEA 41620	HISTORY OF PERIOD STYLES FOR THEATRE DESIGNERS (WIC) ¹	
THEA 41702	MOVEMENT AND DANCE FOR ACTORS	
THEA 42192	PRACTICUM II: PERFORMANCE (ELR)	
Any Dance (DAN) Upper-Division course (30000 or 40000 level) ²		
Dance, Music and Theatre Electives, choose from the following:		4
DAN 47163	DANCE HISTORY II (WIC) ¹	
MUS 45131	KENT STATE OPERA THEATRE WORKSHOP	
THEA 21016	MAKEUP FOR STAGE AND SCREEN	
THEA 21700	MOVEMENT I	
THEA 21800	VOICE I	
THEA 31200	APPLIED VOICE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE	
THEA 41026	PLAYWRITING (WIC) ¹	
THEA 41095	SPECIAL TOPICS IN THEATRE	
THEA 41301	ACTING FOR THE CAMERA I	
THEA 41302	ACTING FOR THE CAMERA II	
THEA 41305	PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS: PERFORMANCE	
THEA 41308	MUSICAL THEATRE AUDITION ³	
THEA 41499	MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE (ELR)	
THEA 41620	HISTORY OF PERIOD STYLES FOR THEATRE DESIGNERS (WIC) ¹	
THEA 41702	MOVEMENT AND DANCE FOR ACTORS	
THEA 42192	PRACTICUM II: PERFORMANCE (ELR)	
Any Dance (DAN) course ²		
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each)		9
Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines)		6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory)		6-7
Kent Core Additional		6
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

¹ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

² Enrollment in many of the dance courses are by audition only.

³ THEA 41308 may be taken a maximum two times (maximum 6 credit hours) toward the program.

Progression Requirements

- In order to continue and graduate with the B.F.A. degree, students are expected develop skills equal to entry-level positions in the profession or as expected for admission into a M.F.A. degree program.
- Students on academic probation may not participate in School of Theatre and Dance productions.
- Students may be immediately dismissed from the program for failure to maintain a 2.500 major GPA. Students should strive to maintain a 3.000 overall GPA.
- Students are required to participate in biannual B.F.A. evaluations, interviews and/or meetings, and must must pass annual evaluation reviews to remain in the program.

- Students are required to participate in annual school screening auditions and, if qualifying, must participate in at least one unified audition.
- Students are required to audition for all main-stage theatre productions and accept roles as cast.
- Students may be subject to probation or dismissal for failing to audition for main-stage productions, for not accepting a role that is offered or for failure to demonstrate continuous skill development and growth in all areas of the program as defined by the Musical Theatre Student Handbook. Students placed on probation will be provided written information regarding specific areas for improvement.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.500	2.000

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
THEA 11002	MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE I	3
THEA 11100	MAKING THEATRE: CULTURE AND PRACTICE	2
THEA 21303	ACTING PROCESS	3
THEA 31200	APPLIED VOICE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE	2
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Dance Electives		2
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Two		
MUS 17111	PIANO CLASS I	1
THEA 11725	FUNDAMENTALS OF THEATRE DESIGN AND PRODUCTION	3
THEA 20102	MUSIC THEORY FOR MUSICAL THEATRE I	2
THEA 20204	EAR TRAINING AND SIGHT SINGING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE I	1
THEA 31200	APPLIED VOICE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE	2
Dance Elective		1
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Three		
MUS 17112	PIANO CLASS II	1
THEA 20103	MUSIC THEORY FOR MUSICAL THEATRE II	2
THEA 20205	EAR TRAINING AND SIGHT SINGING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE II	1
THEA 21002	MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE II	3
Dance Elective		1
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		14
Semester Four		
Progression Requirement: minimum 2.500 major GPA		
THEA 31200	APPLIED VOICE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE	2

!	THEA 31303	CHARACTER AND SCENE STUDY I	3
	THEA 42092	PRACTICUM: DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (ELR)	1
Dance Elective			1
Dance, Music and Theatre Electives			4
Kent Core Requirement			3
Kent Core Requirement			3
Credit Hours			17
Semester Five			
	THEA 31030	GLOBAL THEATRE HISTORIES	3
	or	or THEATRE AND DRAMA IN AMERICA	
	THEA 41130		
	THEA 31200	APPLIED VOICE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE	2
	THEA 32002	MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE III	3
Dance Elective			1
Kent Core Requirement			3
Kent Core Requirement			3
Credit Hours			15
Semester Six			
Progression Requirement: minimum 2.500 major GPA			
	THEA 31030	GLOBAL THEATRE HISTORIES	3
	or	or LGBTQ THEATRE (DIVD)	
	THEA 41115		
	THEA 31200	APPLIED VOICE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE	2
	THEA 31304	CHARACTER AND SCENE STUDY II	3
Dance Electives			2
Kent Core Requirement			3
Credit Hours			13
Semester Seven			
	THEA 42002	MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE IV	3
	THEA 42999	PORTRHOUSE PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE (ELR)	3
Dance Electives			2
Guided Upper-Division Elective			3
Kent Core Requirement			3
Credit Hours			14
Semester Eight			
	THEA 31200	APPLIED VOICE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE	2
	THEA 41140	AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE HISTORY (WIC)	3
Dance Electives			2
Guided Upper-Division Electives			5
Kent Core Requirement			3
Credit Hours			15
Minimum Total Credit Hours:			120

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

Flashes 101 (UC 10001)	1 credit hour
Course is not required for students with 30+ transfer credits (excluding College Credit Plus) or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG)	2 courses
Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.	
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies

Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37 credit hours
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 credit hours
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate.	
Total Credit Hour Requirement	120 credit hours

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCOMP)	6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)	3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)	9
Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional (KADL)	6
Total Credit Hours:	36-37

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Apply advanced processes and methods to build character in musical theatre repertoire.
2. Apply intermediate to advanced skills in dance for musical theatre.
3. Develop musical skills in voice performance, musicianship, music theory and sight singing.
4. Execute proficiency in audition technique as an actor/singer.
5. Articulate procedures and approaches to differentiate various theatrical styles and techniques.
6. Synthesize acting, singing, and dance techniques to systematically realize a role in a musical theatre play or performance.

Program Policies

Physical Activity and ROTC Courses

No more than 4 credit hours of Physical Activity, Wellness and Sport (PWS) courses or the first 16 credit hours of ROTC courses—Aerospace Studies (ASTU) and Military Studies (MSCI)—may apply to the 120 credit hours required for graduation.

Veterans who have completed a minimum of one year of active duty may receive PWS credit for military basic training according to branch of service, as follows:

- Army and Marine Corps, 3 credit hours;
- Navy and Coast Guard, 2 credit hours;
- Air Force, 1 credit hour.

Requirement Audit

Upon completion of 60 credit hours, each student is required to contact the College of the Arts Advising office to obtain a current evaluation of progress toward completion of the student's chosen degree program.

Requirement evaluations are not a substitute for meeting with a faculty advisor. Students may access GPS (Graduation Planning System) audit through their FlashLine account which provides them with information about their academic progress. Questions about GPS audits are answered in the College of the Arts Advising office.

Full Description

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre prepares students for life as working artists in the musical theatre field. Practical training and creative experiences are coupled with an interdisciplinary liberal arts curriculum and a foundation in theatre history, analysis and criticism.

Students are able to study and perform in the school's theatrical and dance productions. Kent State's Center for the Performing Arts houses three theatres, performance and rehearsal spaces, costume shop and laboratories for costumes, drafting, lighting and scenery. In addition, the School of Theatre and Dance oversees the outdoor venue Porthouse Theatre.

Students in their senior year may participate in the annual New York City Musical Theatre Showcase, which enables students to perform for prospective casting directors, talent managers and theatrical and commercial agents.