The Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Management

The mission of the Master of Fine Arts Theatre Management program is to profoundly impact the arts around the world by providing leaders with the skills to succeed, the strength to lead, and the character to make a difference in the arts.

“Practical training and real world experience”: Students are provided a considered education through practical training and hands-on experiences in a working theatre environment. Our goal is to graduate individuals with a solid base of knowledge in all aspects of producing theatre, as well as an understanding of management principles, finance, marketing, fund raising, event planning and extensive knowledge of computer applications to arts and cultural management.

The course work covers areas of communications, financial management, fund raising, proposal development, contracts, project management, research, managing and leading personnel, working with Boards and donors, marketing, audience development, public relations and campaigns, and how to make effective public presentations. Many of the seminar classes enroll arts administration students from other FSU programs in music, opera, visual arts and dance, arts education and museum management. Classes include a broad perspective on the arts in America as well as the basics of operating an arts organization in today’s business environment.

Theatre Management Opportunities

Assistantships (20 hours per week)
Assistantships include a tuition waiver for 9 hours per semester plus a stipend of approximately $12,000 for the year. Students must acquire in-state resident status after their first year.

An essential element in the training program is a tracked graduate assistantship in one of five areas: Marketing and Public Relations, Ticket Office, Development, Fundraising, Facility Management.

Practicum (10 hours per week earning 3 credit hours)
A unique feature of our MFA degree is the practicum program. The practicum acknowledges the legitimacy of production-oriented work not normally equaled with course work. The practicum for Theatre Management students includes Marketing, House Management, Ticket Office, Fiscal Office, and Production Management.

The 3rd Year Experience - Leadership
The third year of the MFA Theatre Management program centers on full-time intensive hands-on work that allows students to actively integrate experience and classroom learning into comprehensive working practices.

Students serve as full-time members of the School of Theatre marketing, development or fine arts ticket management team; work with The Florida State University presenting series Opening Nights Performing Arts.

Students assume key leadership responsibilities and are accountable for excellence as they move beyond management into leadership. Beyond the work experience, students participate in advanced seminars constructed to complete the MFA degree experience.

The School of Theatre at Florida State
For additional information about the program, the faculty, and how to apply, please visit: http://theatre.fsu.edu/graduate.
**MFA Theatre Management Program Details**

**Course Work**
The eight primary management courses include:
- Communication Theory & Practice
- Digital Design & Publishing
- Audience Development & Arts Management
- Project Management
- Leadership in the Arts
- Business and Legal Issues in the Arts
- Dramaturgy
- Fundraising Strategies & Practices in the Arts
- Resource Management in the Arts
- Leading Change in the 21st Century
- Professional Practises for the Emerging Leader

Additional course work includes two graduate classes in history and/or literature, and the theatre practicum course (3 hours per semester - each semester), along with special topics seminars and guest artist sessions.

**Qualifying Exams and Final Defense**
Each semester, students undergo extensive evaluation of their work by the MFA Review Committee. Materials covered in the Qualifying Exam include the student’s evaluations from their assistantship and practicum and evidence of commitment to program agreement. Students failing to successfully sustain the standards required by the MFA Qualifying Exam may be placed on probation or may be dismissed from the program.

Each student is required to present an MFA Degree Defense at the end of their program of study. The Defense includes a cumulative portfolio and a written and oral response to questions posed by the MFA Defense Committee.

The MFA Theatre Management program boasts a 100% professional placement rate of its graduates in arts organizations across the country.

---

**Application and Admission**
The following criteria must be met for consideration of acceptance into the program:

Applicants applying for the program must have a Bachelor’s Degree from an accredited college or university. Students who do not hold a Theatre degree must show evidence of substantial course work and/or experience in theatre to indicate probability of achieving success in advanced theatre studies.

**Applicants must satisfy ONE of the following requirements...**

1. Have a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) during the last two years of study for a bachelor’s degree, or of 3.0 on a master’s degree from an accredited institution;

   OR

2. Have acceptable scores on the verbal and quantitative portions of the GRE taken within the past 5 years.

Admission is dependent on the specific approval of the MFA program leadership team from the School of Theatre.

Applicants must submit a completed School of Theatre application, three current letters of recommendation, a current resume and a statement of purpose.

Prospective students will go through a two-step interview process. Preliminary interviews are held at U/RTA, either in person or by phone. All final candidates will then interview again with the MFA program leadership team in Tallahassee.

If accepted to the program, applicants should be aware that they must also apply and be admitted to the University independently.

---

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Cameron Jackson
Executive Director, The School of Theatre
239 Fine Arts Building
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1160

Office: 850-644-7257
E-mail: ccjackson@admin.fsu.edu

---

The School of Theatre at Florida State
For additional information about the program, the faculty, and how to apply, please visit: http://theatre.fsu.edu/graduate.