

FSU MFA Directing Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the School of Theatre committed to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion? Yes, the School of Theatre is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion in all facets of academics and productions. The School of Theatre has a strategic action plan in place to strengthen and adhere to goals set forth to increase accountability and responsibility regarding EDI. We have a strong commitment to serving our diverse student body and community, encouraging the students' growth as collaborative artists and artist-citizens. We also serve to emulate best practices in the professional industry.
2. Will FSU help me to find a job upon graduation? We will guide and mentor you in your job search, help you make contacts, and write letters of recommendation. We cannot guarantee placement with any organization.
3. Are internships available through the program? No, directing internships are not provided through FSU directly. You are encouraged to seek internships and fellowships on your own and with the guidance of the program head.
4. Will I be able to teach? Yes, most of our graduate students teach as a part of their assistantships. Graduate students typically serve as teaching assistants to the BA program in their first two years and teach Directing I to undergraduates in their third year. Graduate students often teach master classes in their additional fields of expertise.
5. Is there any flexibility in course selection? While there is a structured course of study, the program can be flexible to meet the individual needs of the student. Previous professional and educational experience of the student is taken into consideration when planning alternative course work. Three electives are also a part of the curriculum, which can be School of Theatre offerings or from other Departments on campus with program head approval and approval from those individual professors.
6. May I engage in extra-curricular work or be employed while fulfilling degree requirements? No. The demands of the program and the responsibilities of the student are such that any extra-curricular activity or employment outside the program during the academic calendar cannot be allowed. The program head must approve additional assignments the student may wish to engage in, other than assistantship requirements, within the School of Theatre.
7. Are there summer work requirements that I must fulfill? No. We hope you pursue work during the summer related to your field that will strengthen your progress and resume.
8. Am I able to choose the plays that I direct? The Working Title Committee selects the plays to be produced in the subscription season. As a part of the selection process, the graduate directors submit play suggestions for plays they wish to direct for their second year

practicum and thesis shows. All programs in the School of Theatre must be considered when selecting the subscription season of plays. Other assigned directing projects are selected at the discretion of the student and program head, or professor of the correlating class to which the project is required.

9. Will I be able to direct musicals during my candidacy? Yes, if you are proficient in your progress as a director in the program, you may be assigned a musical. Possible project opportunities include musicals, classical, modern, and contemporary plays, as well as devised work and theatre for youth plays.

10. Who is on the production team of the plays that I direct? The production and design teams consist of a combination of MFA students, guest artists, and professional staff members. Undergraduate students serve as stage managers on all productions as well as possible assistants in a variety of positions.

11. How is my progress in the program determined? At the end of each semester, each student sits for a qualifying exam with the directing committee to review the progress of that student and their strengths and weaknesses. At that time, it is determined whether a student continues in the program, is placed on probation, or is dismissed from the program. Students receive individualized instruction and mentorship to aid their success in the program.

12. How do I apply?

Graduate FSU Application: <https://admissions.fsu.edu/gradapp/>

Updated 1/20/22

