

UNDERGRADUATE

## Theater and Dance

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Theater and Dance

SIUE



[siue.edu/theater-dance](https://siue.edu/theater-dance)

### Theater and Dance at SIUE

Students who like solving problems creatively and expressing their point of view should think about pursuing a degree in theater and dance.

Theater is the study of literature, history and production of live theatrical performances. Our students complete an intense curriculum that prepares them to take the next step in their professional careers or go on to graduate school. Students explore and build on their artistic talents—not only as actors and dancers, but as casting agents, box office managers, choreographers, set, costume, and lighting designers, and theater managers.

The theater and dance program at SIUE is known for its small class sizes and the artistic freedom afforded to its students. Faculty members encourage students to take risks to discover their creativity, and performance opportunities are ample. Opportunities include:

- Four Mainstage theater productions
- A Mainstage dance concert
- Black Theater Workshop
- Two student theater productions
- A student one-act festival
- Summer theater productions
- A student dance concert
- A four-day Experimental Theater Festival every fall

### Degrees Available at SIUE

- Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, Theater and Dance (specializations available in the following)
  - Dance
  - Design/Technical
  - Performance
- Professional Educator Licensure (9-12) program

### What can I do with a degree in theater and dance?

Theater and dance students obtain the skills to pursue a wide range of career paths within and outside the arts. Career options include:

- Actor
- Playwright
- Director
- Designer
- Technician
- Stage Manager
- Production Manager
- Dancer
- Choreographer

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**EDWARDSVILLE**  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to the Theater and Dance Department must first be admitted to the University by contacting the Admissions Office. Students who are considering theater and dance as a major should call or visit the department in Dunham Hall, room 1031, or call 618-650-2773 as early as possible. They will be referred to a faculty advisor who will provide them more information about the curricula and the department, as well as help them plan an academic program. Early advisement will enable students to complete their program with minimal conflicts and within the shortest possible time.

Admittance to the dance and performance specializations requires successful audition.

## Graduation Requirements

- Complete all specific program requirements
- Complete all University requirements including:
  - All general education requirements
  - A minimum of 120 credit hours
    - At least 30 of which must be completed at SIUE
    - At least 60 of which must be completed at a regionally accredited four-year institution
  - A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0
- File an application for graduation by the first day of the term in which you plan to graduate

## Performance Specialization

Through the performance specialization, a diverse ensemble of faculty and students are dedicated to building a dynamic learning environment and creating exciting and evocative works of theater. Our program includes foundation classes in:

- Foundations in Naturalism/Stanslavsky Technique
- Script Analysis for the Actor
- Vocal Production (Lessac Technique) and Movement Fundamentals

Upper-level courses include:

- Multicultural Theater and Dance in America-Seminar
- Experimental Performance and Devising Technique
- Suzuki Method and Viewpoints Technique
- "Shakespearean" and Heightened Language
- Careers in Acting.
- Advanced Scene Study/Meisner Technique

Core classes are supplemented by electives in:

- Camera Technique
- Audition Technique
- Stage Dialects
- Comic Styles
- Stage Combat

Annual performance opportunities include four faculty-directed productions, two student-directed productions and the Black Theater Workshop. Performance faculty bring passion to the classroom every day, and maintain active professional profiles, including work in New York, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Chicago, Berlin and Prague.

## Design/Technical Specialization

The specialization in design and technology offers a curriculum that enables students to develop skills as designers, technicians and craftspeople, as well as the visual communication skills necessary in the collaborative world of the theater. While students

are enrolled in introductory courses, they are also working backstage and in the shops putting learned skills to practical use as technicians and crew on departmental productions.

Design and technology students also take classes in scenery, costume and lighting design, and related crafts. Students have opportunities to work as assistants to faculty designers and to further explore their areas of interest with independent studies. Former students have concentrated on costume patterning and draping, advanced make-up and tech direction.

## Dance Specialization

At SIUE, the dance specialization cultivates artistry, creativity and critical thinking in a supportive learning environment. Using a liberal arts approach, students are provided with professional development skills that lead to lifelong careers within the field of dance. Students also complete the necessary coursework to pursue a graduate degree. Our program is known for its small class sizes, individual artistic freedom and emphasis on injury prevention. Along with courses in dance techniques, students can explore courses in:

- Choreography
- Dance pedagogy
- Dance science
- Dance history
- Dance management

Our students have the opportunity to participate in the annual dance intensive; two annual dance productions featuring a student choreographed and produced concert; a faculty, guest artist, and alumni dance concert; a summer musical theater production; and a four-day experimental theater and dance festival in the fall.

The University Dance Company offers students the opportunity of professional performing experience, which most recently includes performances at the Grand Dance Fest, National Dance Week, COMMUNITY Arts Festival and the Midwest Dance Festival. This group also attends the American College Dance Association's regional conference each year.

## Theater Education

The theater education specialization develops skilled practitioners who are committed to excellence in theater arts education. Our teacher candidates recognize that theater is essential for every child's complete educational development and strive to help their students discover how the theater arts can also enhance their lives.

Theater education students take courses in all areas of theater:

- Performance
- History and literature
- Design
- Dance
- School of Education, Health and Human Behavior classes required for state certification

Graduates of the theater education program have been successful in securing positions in the region, including positions at Mehlville Senior High School, Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, and Parkway South Middle School in St. Louis, as well as Edwardsville High School and Nevada High School.

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### Contact Information

Department of Theater and Dance  
Phone: 618-650-2773