Degrees Available at SIUE
• Bachelor of Arts, Theater and Dance
• Bachelor of Science, Theater and Dance (specialization is available in the following)
  • Dance
  • Design/Technical
  • History/Literature/Criticism
  • Performance
• Professional Educator Licensure (9-12) program

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 at SIUE. Theater is the study of literature, history and production of live theatrical performances. Students pursuing a degree in theater and dance from SIUE will complete an intense curriculum that will prepare 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 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. Each year, the department offers four theater productions, a dance concert, two student productions, a one-act festival, summer stock theater productions, an annual dance festival and a four-day experimental theater festival in the spring. The Department of Theater and Dance encourages a diverse mix of students and a well-rounded education with a solid liberal arts foundation.

Career Opportunities
Students with a degree in theater and dance find careers as actors, playwrights, screenwriters, directors, production designers, dancers, choreographers and critics. Theater and dance students obtain the skills to pursue a wide range of career paths within and outside the arts.

Admission Requirements
Students seeking admission to the Department of Theater and Dance must first be admitted to the University by contacting the Office of Admissions. 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. Students will be referred to a faculty advisor who will provide more information about the curricula and the Department, as well as help plan an academic program. Early advisement will enable students to complete their programs with minimal conflicts and within the shortest possible time.

In order to be admitted into the teacher licensure program, students must have:
• Received a grade of C or above in ENG 101 and ENG 102
• Completed 43 semester hours of course credit and have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher (this includes work at other institutions)

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 basic acting, character building and voice/movement techniques, as well as upper-level courses in multicultural and experimental performance, Suzuki and Viewpoints Technique, period styles and careers in acting. Core classes are supplemented by electives in dialects, comedy, combat and the Meisner technique.

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

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, as well as courses in 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.

Along with these experiences, our student chapter of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology attends the organization’s annual conference. Students participate in workshops, lectures, demonstrations, a tech expo and networking events. Students also explore job and graduate school opportunities.

Dance Specialization

At SIUE, the dance program 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 if they choose to do so. 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 and dance management.

Through the Department of Theater and Dance, students have the opportunity to participate in the annual dance intensive; two annual dance productions featuring a student choreographed and produced concert, as well as 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 Specialization

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 and dance, plus the required School of Education, Health and Human Behavior classes needed 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.

Contact Information

Department of Theater and Dance
College of Arts and Sciences
Phone: 618-650-2773

This information is concurrent with the 2020-2021 Academic Catalog. Courses are subject to change at any time.