

THEATRE AND DANCE

Mission

The Department of Theatre and Dance at West Chester University prepares students for the professional and academic worlds of theatre and dance, while raising student awareness of civility, diversity, creativity, problem solving, and social responsibility.

Students gain skills in communication, management, performance, design, technology, and research through classroom and production responsibilities. Through knowledgeable faculty and state-of-the-art facilities, the department promotes a program that combines a challenging academic environment with academic integrity and a production schedule of artistic freedom that supports and strengthens the cultural, moral, and social fabric of the University and the society it serves.

The department strives for the following student learning outcomes:

- Educating students in the content knowledge required in the disciplines of theatre and dance in order to provide a strong foundation of academic and professional development
- Providing students with the appropriate skill sets required to translate theory into practical application
- Fostering an awareness of civility, diversity, and social responsibility

Career Opportunities

The bachelor of arts degree, with its liberal arts base and production emphasis, prepares you for a variety of entry-level positions in the professional theatre; for related careers in which communications skills, self-confidence, and presentation of self are held in high esteem; and for graduate studies.

The following schools have admitted West Chester Theatre and dance graduates for advanced studies in theatre:

American University
Boston University
Brandeis University
California Institute of the Arts
Catholic University
Florida State University
Ohio State University
University of California at Irvine

University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Minnesota
University of North Carolina
University of Texas
UCLA

West Chester Theatre and Dance graduates have been employed by numerous regional and national theatre and dance production companies and with the following organizations:

Alabama Shakespeare Company
Arden Theatre Company
Arena Theatre
Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company
Guthrie Theatre
Headlong Dance Company
Indianapolis Civic Center
McCarter Theatre
New York City Opera
Peoples Light and Theatre Company
Pig Iron
QVC Productions
Radio City Music Hall
Virginia Stage Company
Walnut Street Theatre
Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. This program offers three areas of concentration: performance, musical theatre, and technical production/design. In addition, the department offers you the opportunity for a general course of study in theatre without an area of specialization. This is a liberal arts degree that provides a breadth of training in all phases of theatre and the choice of one of the concentrations for specialization.

Minors

Minor in Dance
Minor in Theatre Arts
Special Study Opportunities
Apprenticeships with professional theatre companies are provided if you qualify. You may earn up to 15 semester hours of credit through this structured and supervised work experience.

UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

Typical Courses

Acting (beginning through advanced)
Audition Techniques
Career Preparation
Costume Construction
Dance Composition
Dance Pedagogy
Dialects
Directing
Fundamentals of Design
History of Dance
History of Theatre and Drama I and II
Movement for Performance
Musical Theatre Repertoire I and II
Physical Traditions in Performance
Race and Gender in American Theatre
Scene Design
Scene into Song
Script Analysis
Stage Lighting
Stage Management
Voice for the Performer

Facilities

The Department of Theatre and Dance is housed in the Elsie O. Bull Center for the Arts, which contains, in addition to administrative offices, a fully equipped mainstage theatre, the J. Peter Adler Studio Theatre, costume studio, two dance studios, scenic design studio, and light lab. The department also has a scenery construction facility as well as rehearsal studios and performance labs.

Related Student Activities

American College Dance Festival
American College Theatre Festival
United States Institute of Theatre Technicians
WCU Theatre (All students at the University may audition for University Theatre productions.)
WCU University Dance Company (All students at the University may audition for University Dance Company productions.)

Faculty

A complete listing of faculty and their academic qualifications for this program can be obtained from the contact person listed below.

For More Information

Dr. Harvey Rovine, Chairperson
Department of Theatre and Dance
Elsie O. Bull Center for the Arts, Room 119
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383
610-436-3463
E-mail: hrovine@wcupa.edu
Web page: www.wcupa.edu/cvpa/theatredance/
Undergraduate Catalog: http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification and certificate programs. As one of the largest members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition. More than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the picturesque, 406-acre campus. Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Information on Admission

Office of Admissions

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.
West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383
610-436-3411 • Toll-free: 1-877-315-2165
E-mail: ugadmiss@wcupa.edu
WCU home page: www.wcupa.edu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcupa

