Theatre arts—acting, directing, playwriting, set design, literature, and costuming—enable us to explore the experiences of humans and the universe. Theatre arts studies human ideas, values, relationships, obsessions, and accomplishments. At University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, the theatre arts program offers students training in various aspects of theatre including technical theatre, acting, directing, dance, dramatic literature, playwriting, and arts management. The majors and minors offered by the Department of Theatre Arts include a comprehensive liberal arts major in theatre arts, a standard liberal arts major, a major in early adolescence/adolescence teaching, and minors in middle childhood/early adolescence teaching, early adolescence/adolescence teaching, and liberal arts.

Typical interests and values of theatre arts majors:
- Aesthetics
- Self-expression and fulfillment
- Creativity
- Physical stamina
- Sense of drama
- Determination
- Imagination
- Dedication
- Confidence

Knowledge and skills gained from studying theater arts:

Knowledge:
Students who choose to study theatre at UW–Eau Claire will receive a well-rounded theatre education by participating in a theatrical production and theatre arts courses. The UW–Eau Claire Department of Theatre Arts offers students training in various aspects of theatre including technical theatre, acting, directing, dance, dramatic literature, playwriting, and arts management.

Skills:
- Ability to concentrate and practice intensely for long periods
- Ability to speak articulately, listen introspectively, and observe keenly
- Good health, physical stamina, and body coordination
- Ability to communicate emotions and ideas creatively
- Proficiency in memorization
- Perceiving nonverbal messages
- Creating and Expressing ideas
- Managing groups
- Developing rapport
- Facilitating group discussion
- Persuading
- Defining needs and setting goals
- Representing others
- Conveying feelings
- Imagining alternatives

Related student and professional organizations:

Student:
- Concert Dance Company
- The United States Institute for Theatre Technology
- Players of UW–Eau Claire

Professional:
- Theatre Communications Group, Inc.
- Stage Managers Association
- American Dance Guild
- Educational Theatre Association
- American Association of Community Theatre

Career fields related to theater arts:

Potential Employers:
The theatre major helps prepare students for many career opportunities including careers in booking agencies, theater production or performance, as well as many related areas such as advertising, television, film, recreation, and academia.
Potential Job Titles:
- Costume Designer
- Film Editor
- Drama Therapist
- Casting Director
- Set Designer
- Stage Manager
- Talent Manager
- Playwright
- Teacher
- Stage Actor
- Director
- Literary Manager
- Arts Management
- Producer
- Arts Fundraiser
- Scenic Designer
- Lighting Engineer
- Dramaturge
- Costume Designer
- Booking Agent

Jobs You Might also Consider:
- Public Relations Specialist
- Fund-Raiser
- Special Effects Technician
- Theater Critic
- Radio/TV Announcer
- Event Planner
- Arts Administrator
- Advertising Specialist

Sample entry level jobs held by UW-Eau Claire theater arts majors:
- Scenic Shop Manager, UW-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI
- Magician, Self-Employed, Las Vegas, NV
- Unit Director, YMCA, Minneapolis, MN
- Drama Teacher, Monroe County, Madison, WI
- Children’s Theatre Director, City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI
- Tech Assistant, Eau Claire Regional Arts Center, Eau Claire, WI

Learn more about theater arts:
Department
- Contact UW-Eau Claire’s Department of Music and Theatre Arts, Haas Fine Arts 156, 836-4954

Getting started at Career Services:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

Resources at Career Services:
Yellow Section-
- Sigi 3 handouts:
  - Actor/Actress
  - Editor

Orange Section-
- “The Internship Series: The Media Internship Book”

Blue Section-
- Multiple resources on creating portfolios for a career in the theater industry

Opportunities to enhance skills in theater arts:
Participate in a Theatrical Production
Students who participate in on- and off-campus productions gain hands-on performance skills. At UW–Eau Claire, the Department of Theatre Arts puts on many different types of plays. For more information regarding opportunities in theatrical productions, see the callboard website.

Internships
Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in theater, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate. Contact your adviser or the Department of Theater Arts Chair about enrolling in THEA 498 to obtain academic credit for your internship.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser about enrolling in THEA 395, 399, or 499.

What you can do now:
- Volunteer at a local children’s theater.
- Participate in plays, not only at the university, but in the community as well.
- Volunteer at Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild or the Eau Claire Regional Arts Center.
- Job shadow a professional in your field of interest or conduct informational interviews.
- Join a local actors guild.