Theatre Arts

The arts of the theatre — acting, directing, playwriting, stagecraft, design, literature, costuming, makeup and lighting — enable students to explore the cosmic experience of man in the universe. At UW-Eau Claire you will enhance your ability to present the experience of human beings to audiences through practical experimentation and practice that will entertain and enlighten.

Majors
- Theatre Arts - Teaching
- Theatre Arts - Liberal Arts

Comprehensive major (no minor required)
- Theatre Arts - Liberal Arts

Minors
- Theatre Arts - Teaching
- Theatre Arts - Teaching, Middle Childhood / Early Adolescence

Certificate
- Fine Arts Administration

Where you'll find our grads
- Children’s Theatre Director, City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI
- Professional Acting, Freelance
- Actor, Climb Theatre, St. Paul, MN
- Drama Teacher, Monroe County, Madison, WI
- Comedic Magician, Las Vegas, NV

Prepared for Success

As a theatre arts major you will receive training in various aspects of theatre including technical theatre, acting, directing, dance, dramatic literature, playwriting, oral interpretation and arts management.

The department produces an active theatre season that includes four main-stage productions, a Theatre for Young Audiences touring production, student-directed Short Play Festivals and a dance concert — all produced in facilities with state-of-the-art equipment. Our comprehensive theatre seasons expose students to a full range of styles, genres and periods, including comedy, tragedy and musical theatre. Opportunities for involvement in productions are open to all UW-Eau Claire students.

We offer a theatre education major and minor toward Wisconsin state certification, grades PK-12. Each spring we tour a Theatre for Young Audiences production to elementary schools throughout Western Wisconsin, serving about 3,000 children in grades 1-5. Many UW-Eau Claire grads will either go into acting or continue onto graduate school to pursue their master of fine arts degree.

Why UW-Eau Claire

Hands-On Experience

In addition to course offerings, students actively participate in production work in areas such as acting, directing, designing, stage managing, play writing, theatre promotion and technical theatre. Practical experience is supported by a dynamic faculty who work closely with students and are active in their fields.

Student theatre technicians work in two fully equipped scene shops and a costume shop and the department maintains an extensive costume design collection.

“"My most indelible memories of my time at UWEC are all connected in some way to the fine arts building.”
— Barry Anderson, ‘00, music education, Broadway performer and composer

Typical positions held by theatre arts graduates include actor/actress in theatre, film or television; theatre teacher; scriptwriter; casting agent; costume designer; set, lighting or prop designer; director; technical director; or stage manager.

The Power of University of Wisconsin Eau Claire
Theatre Arts (continued)

Innovative Facilities

Students have access to outstanding theatre facilities including Kjer Theatre, a 400-seat proscenium theatre; Riverside Theatre, a 200-seat thrust stage; and Gantner Hall, a 600-seat concert hall.

Course Work / Pre-Professional Courses

Study in the department advances the student’s development and practical application of knowledge, theory and skills. Courses explore areas such as:

- Stagecraft and play production
- Stage lighting
- Voice and diction
- Theatre history
- Stage makeup
- Costume history and design
- Acting and directing
- Historical and modern drama and theatre

Special Admission Guidelines

Students planning to enroll in theatre programs are encouraged to complete courses in English composition and public speaking during high school. They should also be involved in school or community theatre productions — on stage or behind the scenes.