

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting - Minor in Liturgical Dance Production

HBI University

Course Duration: 4 years

Credit Hours: 135



Program Description

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Acting is an intensive, conservatory-style program designed to equip students with the comprehensive skills and knowledge necessary for a professional career in theatre, film, and television. This four-year degree emphasizes both the artistic and technical aspects of performance, fostering a deep understanding of the craft and preparing graduates to navigate the dynamic landscape of the performing arts industry.

Curriculum Structure

The BFA in Acting curriculum is meticulously crafted to balance foundational studies, general education, and specialized major coursework. While specific course offerings may vary by institution, the program typically encompasses the following components:

- **Foundation Studies:** These courses lay the groundwork for artistic expression and visual literacy, often including subjects such as Design Elements and Organization, Color Theory and Application, and 3D Form in Space.
- **General Education:** A broad spectrum of courses aimed at developing critical thinking and communication skills. Subjects may cover Public Speaking, Business Fundamentals, Visual Culture in Context, Academic Writing, Digital Communication, Economic Principles, and the History of Cinema.

- **Major Curriculum:** Focused training in acting techniques and performance. Courses may include:
 - **Acting Techniques:** Exploration of various acting methods to develop authenticity and emotional depth in performance.
 - **Improvisation:** Training to enhance spontaneity, creativity, and adaptability on stage and screen.
 - **Voice and Speech:** Development of vocal strength, clarity, and expressiveness.
 - **Movement:** Instruction in physical expressiveness and body awareness to support character development.
 - **Acting for the Camera:** Techniques tailored for on-screen performance, acknowledging the nuances between stage and film acting.
 - **Audition Techniques:** Strategies to prepare for and excel in auditions, an essential skill for professional advancement.
 - **Period Styles:** Study of historical contexts and performance styles to accurately portray characters from various eras.
 - **Voice-over Work:** Training for voice acting in mediums such as animation, video games, and commercials.
 - **Capstone Project:** A culminating experience that synthesizes learning, often involving a significant performance or production project.

Additionally, students may have opportunities to select electives that align with their interests, such as musical theatre, stage combat, or playwriting, allowing for a tailored educational experience.

Practical Experience and Performance Opportunities

A hallmark of the BFA in Acting program is the emphasis on experiential learning. Students engage in numerous performance opportunities, ranging from workshop productions to mainstage performances. This hands-on approach enables students to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, honing their craft under the guidance of experienced faculty and industry professionals. Participation in productions also fosters collaboration, adaptability, and a professional work ethic, all of which are vital attributes in the performing arts sector.

Faculty and Mentorship

Students benefit from mentorship by faculty members who are seasoned professionals with extensive experience in theatre, film, and television. This mentorship provides invaluable

insights into industry trends, professional practices, and personalized guidance to support each student's artistic and career development.

Career Preparation and Outcomes

Graduates of the BFA in Acting program are well-prepared to pursue diverse roles within the performing arts industry. Potential career paths include:

- **Stage Actor:** Performing in theatrical productions ranging from classical plays to contemporary works.
- **Film and Television Actor:** Engaging in roles across various genres in film and TV productions.
- **Voice Actor:** Providing voice work for animations, video games, audiobooks, and commercials.
- **Theatre Educator:** Teaching acting and performance techniques at educational institutions or private studios.
- **Arts Administrator:** Managing operations within theatre companies, arts organizations, or cultural institutions.

The program's comprehensive training ensures that graduates possess the versatility and resilience required to adapt to the evolving demands of the entertainment industry.

Conclusion

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting is a rigorous and immersive program that cultivates the artistic, intellectual, and professional growth of aspiring actors. Through a blend of theoretical instruction, practical application, and performance experience, students emerge as well-rounded artists equipped to make meaningful contributions to the world of performing arts.

Admissions Requirements

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Minimum GPA of 2.5
- Personal statement outlining career goals in music production and faith-based media
- Two letters of recommendation
- Portfolio or Demo (for production-based applicants)
- Resume (if applicable)
- SAT/ACT scores (if applicable)

Foundation Studies: 20 hours

- ART 100: Design I: Elements and Organization
- ART 101: Color: Theory and Application
- ART 102: Design II: 3D Form in Space
- ART 204: Design III: Time

General Education: 55 hours

- COMM 105: Speaking of Ideas
- BUS 110: Business I: Fundamentals
- ARH 121: Visual Culture in Context: Pre-Modern Global Perspectives
- ARH 122: Visual Culture in Context: Making Modernities
- ENG 123: Ideas to Ink: Critical Concepts in Academic Writing
- DIG 130: Digital Communication
- ENG 142: Foundations of Story
- BUS 220: Business II: Economic Principles
- FIL 275: History of Cinema
- GEN ED: General Education Elective
- MATH/SCI: Mathematics/Natural Sciences Elective

Major Curriculum: 85 hours

- THEA 170: Truth in Acting: The Methods
- THEA 187: Improvisation for the Actor
- THEA 199: Acting for the Camera: Fundamentals
- THEA 201: Survey of Performance

Select one of the following:

- THEA 206: Conditioning for the Body and Mind
- DANC 211: Jazz Dance Techniques
- DANC 350: Musical Theater Dance Technique
- THEA 235: Vocal Training for the Actor
- THEA 260: The Art of the Audition: From Stage to Screen
- THEA 270: Truth in Acting: Stage to Screen
- THEA 280: Period Acting: Fundamentals and Techniques

Select one of the following:

- THEA 335: Voice-over for Game Design, Animation, and Commercials
- THEA 380: Period Acting: Stage and Screen
- THEA 387: Improvisation for Web Content and Sketch Comedy
- THEA 360: The Art of the Audition: Film and TV
- THEA 370: Advanced Acting: Film and TV Drama
- THEA 470: Advanced Acting: Film and TV Comedy and Commercials
- THEA 495: Building the Actor's Reel
- THEA 498: Branding the Actor

Minor in Liturgical Dance Production

The 15-credit hour Minor in Liturgical Dance Production involves integrating courses that combine dance technique, choreography, production, and the study of dance within religious contexts. Below is a sample curriculum with course codes and descriptions:

1. LDP 101: Introduction to Liturgical Dance (3 credits)

Description: This course explores the history and significance of dance in worship across various cultures and religious traditions. Students will study the theological foundations of liturgical dance and its role in enhancing spiritual experiences.

2. LDP 210: Dance Technique I – Ballet and Modern (3 credits)

Description: Students will develop foundational skills in ballet and modern dance techniques, focusing on alignment, flexibility, and expression. Emphasis will be placed on adapting these techniques for liturgical settings.

3. LDP 220: Choreography for Worship (3 credits)

Description: This course introduces students to the art of choreography with a focus on creating pieces suitable for worship services. Topics include thematic development, music selection, and collaboration with worship leaders.

4. LDP 310: Dance Production and Stagecraft (3 credits)

Description: Students will learn the essentials of producing a dance performance, including stage management, lighting, costuming, and audio considerations. The course will culminate in a student-led liturgical dance presentation.

5. LDP 330: Sacred Dance Practicum (3 credits)

Description: This practicum provides hands-on experience in planning and executing dance within a worship context. Students will collaborate with local congregations to design and implement dance elements in live services.

Total Credits: 15

Note: This curriculum ensures a comprehensive understanding of both the artistic and spiritual dimensions of liturgical dance production, preparing students to effectively integrate dance into worship settings.

Capstone Project (15 Credit Hours)

A capstone project for a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Acting serves as a culminating experience, allowing students to synthesize and showcase the skills, techniques, and knowledge acquired throughout their academic journey. Typically accounting for 15 credit hours, this comprehensive project should reflect a high level of artistic and academic proficiency. Below is a structured framework for such a capstone project:

1. Project Proposal

- **Objective:** Articulate a clear vision for the capstone project, detailing the chosen area of focus within acting.

- **Components:**

- **Title:** Concise and descriptive.
- **Project Type:** Performance, research, directing, playwriting, etc.
- **Semester Timeline:** Projected start and completion dates.
- **Description:** Brief overview of the project.
- **Learning Objectives:** Specific skills and knowledge to be developed.
- **Timeline:** Detailed schedule of activities and milestones.
- **Resources Needed:** Facilities, funding, personnel, etc.
- **Personal Significance:** Explanation of the project's importance to the student's artistic growth.
- **Integration:** How the project synthesizes prior learning experiences.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** Metrics for assessing the project's success.

Reference: For a comprehensive proposal template, see HBIU guidelines.

 Senior Capstone Project:

2. Project Options

- **Solo Performance:** Develop and perform a one-person show, demonstrating range and depth in acting.
- **Directing Project:** Direct a play or scene, showcasing leadership and interpretative skills.
- **Playwriting and Performance:** Write and perform an original piece, integrating creative writing with acting prowess.
- **Research Thesis:** Conduct in-depth research on a specific aspect of acting or theater, culminating in a scholarly paper.
- **Community Engagement:** Collaborate with local organizations to create performances that address community issues.

3. Execution Phase

- **Rehearsals and Workshops:** Engage in regular practice sessions, seeking feedback from peers and mentors.
- **Documentation:** Maintain a detailed journal or portfolio documenting the creative process, challenges faced, and solutions implemented.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** If applicable, work with students from other disciplines (e.g., music, dance, design) to enrich the project.

4. Final Presentation

- **Performance/Exhibition:** Publicly present the completed work, demonstrating the culmination of the student's training and artistic vision.
- **Q&A Session:** Engage with the audience to discuss the project's process, insights, and outcomes.

5. Evaluation and Reflection

- **Faculty Assessment:** Receive evaluations based on predefined criteria aligned with the project's objectives.
Self-Assessment: Reflect on personal growth, challenges overcome, and areas for future development.
- **Peer Review:** Gather feedback from classmates to gain diverse perspectives on the work presented.

This capstone project not only serves as a bridge between academic training and professional practice but also empowers students to make meaningful contributions to the field of acting and the broader community.

Program Outcomes

A Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Acting is an intensive program designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary for a professional career in the performing arts. Below is an overview of the program outcomes, potential career paths, and associated salary expectations.

Graduates of a BFA in Acting can anticipate achieving the following competencies:

- **Advanced Performance Skills:** Develop the ability to perform truthfully under imagined circumstances, effectively listening and responding to fellow actors.
- **Vocal and Physical Proficiency:** Attain mastery in vocal techniques and physical movements, including specialized skills such as stage combat, voice modulation, makeup artistry, movement, and understanding of period styles.
- **Comprehensive Theatrical Knowledge:** Gain a well-rounded understanding of the history, literature, and various genres of theater and musical theater, enabling informed performance practices.
- **Professional Preparedness:** Achieve entry-level competence in acting, demonstrating technical mastery and the ability to independently address professional challenges.

Career Outcomes

A BFA in Acting opens doors to diverse career opportunities within the performing arts and related fields, including:

- **Professional Actor:** Engage in performances across theater, film, television, radio, and new media platforms.
- **Acting Coach:** Provide guidance and training to aspiring actors, sharing expertise in performance techniques.
- **Arts Educator:** Teach drama and theater arts at various educational levels, from primary schools to universities.
- **Arts Administrator:** Manage operations within theaters, museums, or community arts organizations, overseeing budgets, schedules, and staff.
- **Drama Therapist:** Utilize theater techniques to support personal growth and mental health in clinical settings.

Potential Pay Scale

Earnings for individuals with a BFA in Acting can vary widely based on factors such as specific job roles, experience, location, and the nature of employment. Here are some general insights:

- **Actors:** The median hourly wage for actors was \$20.50 as of May 2023. However, earnings can fluctuate significantly, with top earners making approximately \$62,449 annually, while the bottom 20% earn around \$21,816.
- **Arts Educators:** Salaries vary based on educational level and institution. For instance, private school teachers earn an average of \$34,885 per year, public school teachers average \$42,837, and college professors approximately \$58,468 annually.
- **Arts Administrators:** The average salary for an arts administrator is around \$46,045 per year. [Backstage](#)
- **Drama Therapists:** Professionals in this field have an average salary of \$64,865 per year. [Backstage](#)

It's important to note that careers in the performing arts often involve variability in income, with factors such as freelance work, contract duration, and project-based employment influencing overall earnings. Additionally, the competitive nature of the industry means that consistent employment may require versatility and adaptability across various roles within the arts sector.