Recommended Theater and Dance Major Course Sequence:
Planning your academic career at Macalester

Please note that the course sequence suggested here is a recommendation—Macalester students will organize their academic careers differently; some will declare the major early on, others much later. Feel free to contact the Theater and Dance Department chair and/or your advising faculty if you are considering the major or need academic advice. We are here to answer your questions and will examine each case before making specific recommendations.

The Department's recommendation is that you focus on completing required courses before enrolling in electives. Completing required courses early in your academic career will provide you with a foundation and breadth in the field, and allow you ample time in your junior and senior years to plan, conceptualize, and realize an honors or capstone project. This academic strategy will also grant you flexibility to pursue internships and other off-campus projects with arts organizations in the Twin Cities after your sophomore year, as well as summer opportunities.

In combination, major or minor requirements and elective courses invite you to explore a range of areas of study—acting, dance composition and technique, design, playwriting, performance studies criticism and theory, technical theater, and so forth—and prepare you for upper level courses and/or an honors project in these areas.

Theater and Dance requirements are the minimum that dance and theater undergraduate students must complete; ideally, you should plan your academic schedule in a manner that leaves room for additional courses in your fields of interest. Also, note that Honors requirements include courses other than THDA major requirements—please consult the link "Capstones and Honors" in the Theater and Dance Department website.

Finally, keep in mind that students can transfer only one course from a study abroad program toward the completion of the Theater and Dance major; these will likely transfer as electives. Please consult with your advisor before making course selections and submit the syllabus of the course you wish to transfer to the THDA faculty and staff for consideration.

First Year Students should enroll in two or three of the THDA major four gateway courses. These are:

THDA105, Seeing Performance in the Twin Cities or THDA110, Reading Plays or THDA113, The Power of the Dancing Body;
 THDA235, Fundamentals of Scenography; and
THDA350, Directing for the Stage or THDA221, Dance Composition

The faculty recommends that first-year students who plan to double major or to pursue Honors in Theater and Dance enroll in an elective course at the introductory level in one of the Department's many areas of study.

By the end of their **Sophomore Year** at Macalester, THDA majors and students interested in taking upper level theater and dance courses should have completed all three gateway courses and taken THDA245, Performance Histories and Theories. It would be positive if they have also taken one or more elective courses; and THDA80, Performance Practice or THDA81, Technical Practice.

Students interested in pursuing Honors in acting, choreography, dance, design, or directing should complete one advanced course in that respective area.

Junior Year, Theater and Dance majors:

*Completion or near completion of all Theater and Dance major requirements;
*Completion of courses relevant to the student's main field of interest
*Study abroad semester.

Required or recommended courses for students interested in pursuing an Honors project in **Acting**, **Dance Composition**, **Design and Technical Theater**, **Directing**, **Playwriting and Dramaturgy**, or **Theater Criticism**: please refer to the "Capstone and Honors" guidelines available on the Theater and Dance Department's website.

Senior Year, Theater and Dance majors:

*Completion of all major requirements in the fall semester, at the latest;
*Electives from list of advanced courses in relevant field of interest;
*Capstone and Honors project.