“The mission of the theater, after all, is to change, to raise the consciousness of people to their human possibilities.”
- Arthur Miller

Theatre arts is a liberal art that prepares students for life beyond college, whether in graduate study, professional activity or a career path outside the arts.

Program Overview
- Bachelor of Arts
- Major, Minor

At Stetson University, we approach theatre arts for career training and as an overall rehearsal for life. Through applied study and hands-on experience, students learn about the world around them. This training for the “real world” will prepare you for a variety of careers in our ever-changing world.

Theatre arts plays a unique role in emphasizing creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and cross-disciplinary approaches. Our focus on the practice strikes a balance between study and application, between academic and professional opportunities and between performance and technology—with all students collaborating on an equal footing, whether as actors, technicians, designers and directors. Your learning experience will be enhanced by one-on-one faculty mentoring as well as the development of relationships with outside arts organizations.

Our challenging curriculum will provide you with the advanced knowledge necessary to excel in theatre arts and open the doors you seek to a fulfilling and rewarding career.

Program Highlights

Theatre Arts Productions
With a major in theatre arts, you will take on a rigorous and rewarding curriculum that produces at least four mainstage shows each year. These shows are devoted to training the whole artist, both on and off the stage.

Campus-wide Involvement
Participation in our program is open to all Stetson students, and we offer plentiful opportunities to participate on and off the stage. You do not need to have a theatre arts major to participate in our productions.

Career Significance

There are many career paths you can take after graduating from our program, including:

- Actor/Actress
- Theatre artist: set designer, lighting designer, sound designer
- Theatre professional: artistic director, stage manager
- Entertainment industries
- Freelance professional

Graduates from the Theatre Arts program have stage and screen credits and experience that include:

- Bubba the Redneck Werewolf
- Star Trek Into Darkness
- Magnet Theater
- Tyler Perry’s The Haves and the Have Nots
- NCIS
- Wicked

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Currently, the theatre arts program is housed in a performance complex inside DeLand’s Museum of Art that includes a 225-seat modified proscenium/studio theater with a scene shop, a design studio/computer lab and a costume shop.

**Faculty**
Excellence in teaching and a focus on student development are hallmarks of Stetson University and this program. Highly professional and dedicated to their programs, our faculty members take a personal interest in their students and their progress. They stay in touch with their field through research and performance.

**Krista Franco**, M.F.A., Florida State University
**Kenneth W. McCoy**, Ph.D., Bowling Green State University
**Julie Schmitt**, Ph.D., Bowling Green State University

**Success Stories**

**Grace Aguda ‘17**
The best thing I have learned at Stetson University is to be open-minded. I learned to give people, professors, classes and the community an open mind, ear and heart, and I am walking away with deep support, thought and love having had opened myself up to it.

**Ellen Smittle ‘16**
During my time at Stetson, my professors gave me a lot of advice about my graduate school options and how I could make my dream a reality. I have learned so much from my experience at Stetson that it’s hard to choose one thing. I feel that I have not only grown as a student, but also as a person as a result of my experiences in college. I learned so much about myself during college, just by being involved, meeting new people and trying new things.

I guess that one of the best things that I learned is that no challenge is too great. Your professors and peers all want you to succeed, so they will push you to exceed the expectations that you have for yourself. And while that can be overwhelming and stressful, it is good for you and you will succeed eventually.

**Kara Turner ‘07**
Through trial and error, I learned to manage my time and set personal priorities. Theatre arts is demanding on your schedule and as a student, it can be challenging to juggle memorizing lines, working part-time and writing papers for classes outside of your major. Theatre arts students realize that when you are not prepared, you let down your entire cast and crew. Setting personal deadlines and goals helped me stay focused at Stetson, and developed skills that I continue to use today.