

Outcomes Assessment Plan
Department of Theatre
Submitted Spring 2002

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre (Anticipated Fall 2002)
Master of Arts in Theatre

Mission Statement

The mission of the Oklahoma State University Theatre Department is to provide a foundation of professional quality theatre training within the context of a broad liberal arts education by:

- Encouraging a broad practical and theoretical study of the theatre as a fine art and as one of the humanities.
- Fostering the development of skills and attitudes conducive to a lifetime of enlightenment.
- Providing options for specialized undergraduate training in performance or design and technology for those talented students seeking a career in the art form.
- Encouraging and facilitating serious scholarly and artistic study of theatre at the graduate level.
- Providing opportunities for students to participate in quality theatre productions that challenge artistic skills and enrich student artists and audiences.

Expected Student Outcomes

All theatre students at Oklahoma State University are, as the result of their theatre studies, expected to:

- Synthesize a comprehensive understanding of theatre as a fine art and a humanistic expression through coursework in performance, design/technology, and history/theory.
- Develop and hone practical skill sets consistent with those required by professional theatre performers, designers and theatre technicians.
- Develop a thorough understanding of the complex processes, communications, and collaboration systems associated with the production of a live theatrical event.
- Assess their own work and the contribution and relationship of it to the work of others as a part of the collaborative process of creating the live theatre event.
- Initiate and pursue thorough and original research by investigation of scene study, character analysis, visual imagery, and a structural and thematic understanding of any play.

Assessment Methods

In addition to normal assessment methods typical of all classroom situations, the Theatre Department specifically employs the following annual methods of student assessment:

- Biannual Portfolio and Jury Reviews:
 - At the end of each semester, all upper classmen and many lower classmen are required to participate in a performance jury or a portfolio review. These reviews, employing outside adjudicators, provide the same type of performance assessment that is used by directors and producers in the hiring process. Overall artistic development is measured and individual skill sets that require additional attention are identified in both oral and written critiques of the students. (BA and MA)
 - For students accepted into the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (anticipated to begin in Fall 2002), participation in portfolio reviews or performance juries will be required. Students will be expected to successfully complete four semesters of TH 4990 BFA Jury. (BFA)
- American College Theatre Festival
 - With recent changes in the way Associate entries are handled in the American College Theatre Festival, the department will begin entering all main-stage productions as associate entries in ACTF. Associate entries are now given a verbal and written critique by an outside reviewer provided by ACTF. Because our production program serves as the primary teaching lab and allows direct application of coursework to real production situations, external evaluations will serve as a strong indicator for individual student achievement. As part of the ongoing growth of each student performer, technician, and designer, regular evaluation (both formal and informal) of actual production work is extremely important. (BA, BFA and MA)
- Internship and Graduate Student Placement
 - As a natural outgrowth of the jury and portfolio review process student placement in internships and post baccalaureate training programs are an excellent measure of artistic growth. An annual departmental survey is taken to identify the overall increase in placement rate from the undergraduate and graduate students as well as the overall quality of the institution in which the student has gained placement. (BA, BFA and MA)

- Student Surveys
 - The department regularly utilizes alumni graduate and undergraduate surveys as an indicator of long-term success of the students, current student satisfaction with the program including production opportunities, curriculum, equipment financial assistance, and other assessment instruments, as they are available through the university. (BA, BFA, and MA)
- Creative Components and Thesis
 - For students in the graduate program, the overall quality of creative components and theses serve as an important benchmark for the overall rigor and quality of the graduate experience. (MA)

Integration of Assessment Results

Because the faculty organizes and participates in most of the assessment activities, the incorporation of assessment results into curriculum planning is direct and immediate. External reviewers are often asked to provide written feedback or are asked to give verbal critique directly to students with faculty in attendance. Survey results are provided directly to the faculty and often form the basis for regular reviews of current practices in the department. In particular, this information is used regularly in our accreditation reviews and self-studies.