

THEATRE DESIGN (MFAT)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract

The School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies offers a three-year Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Design, with concentrations in costume, scenic, lighting and multimedia. The degree offers superior students advanced training in design with on-campus and off-campus opportunities for creative activity. The program prepares the student to enter the professional theatre or to teach in the creative areas at colleges or universities. The School also offers MA and PhD degrees in theatre history and performance studies, and MFA degree in Dance. For more information visit the School website at <http://tdps.umd.edu> (<http://tdps.umd.edu/>).

Financial Assistance

The School nominates outstanding applicants for competitive University fellowships. Teaching assistantships are available to a limited number of students. The Graduate program head will discuss these with accepted students at the time of acceptance.

The School provides Graduate Assistantships to students. The Assistantships include full tuition remission and a salary for 9.5 months every year of enrollment for three years.

Contact

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Website: <http://tdps.umd.edu/programs/mfa-design> (<http://tdps.umd.edu/programs/mfa-design/>)

Courses: THET (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/thet/>)

ADMISSIONS

General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)

- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/education/z069/>))

Program-Specific Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Portfolio PDF Upload: A sample of work submitted through a professional website, or via a file uploaded.
- Applicants interested in multimedia design: Should select lighting design as their area of interest on the online application.

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	May 14, 2026
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants.	February 13, 2026

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: <http://tdps.umd.edu/programs/mfa-design> (<http://tdps.umd.edu/programs/mfa-design/>)

Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- Theatre Design, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/theatre-design-mfat/theatre-design-mfa/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

The School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies is housed in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at Maryland. This state-of-the-art facility includes the 650-seat Ina and Jack Kay Theatre, the 200-seat Robert and Arlene Kogod Theatre and the 100-seat Cafritz Theatre.

The campus is within a few miles of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Arena Stage, the National Theatre, Ford's Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre at the Lansburgh, and the Olney Theatre Center, which are among more than 80 professional area theatres. Two of the greatest libraries in the world, the Library of Congress and the Folger Shakespeare Library, are in close proximity to campus. Students also make regular use of the Smithsonian Institution, the Federal Theatre Project Archives, the National Archives, and more than 50 specialized libraries and institutions in the Washington metropolitan area.